

The Theater Experience

The following is an overview of our upcoming theater schedule. This calendar will be added to regularly. Please watch your mail for our invitations. We look forward to seeing you at the theater!

RESERVING TICKETS: For each play offered, you will receive a formal invitation sent by mail. Each student/family may receive up to **4 FREE TICKETS** and each school staff member may receive up to **2 FREE TICKETS**. To reserve tickets to a performance, please call us at **612-874-7710**. Tickets are provided through our theater partners' education funds and sponsored by our generous supporters.

TRANSPORTATION AND CHILDCARE: We are able to provide transportation and childcare for those who need it and chaperones for those students not accompanied by an adult. If you are in need of transportation or childcare, please let us know when you reserve your tickets. Also, if you have transportation and would like to help by driving another family, please let us know when you reserve your tickets.

Date	Time	Event	Theater	Location	Schools
Friday, October 16, 2009	7:30pm	<i>Buddy! The Buddy Holly Story</i>	History Theatre	History Theatre	HU, WA, BC, HP
Friday, October 30, 2009	7:30pm	<i>Tortured Cinema – Great Works of Lon Chaney</i>	Fitzgerald	Fitzgerald	TBD
Sunday, November 1, 2009	3:00pm	<i>Hanuman & the Girl Prince</i>	SteppingStone Theatre	SteppingStone	H, WA, BC, HP
Saturday, November 7, 2009	3:00pm	<i>Hanuman & the Girl Prince</i>	SteppingStone Theatre	SteppingStone	H, WA, BC, HP
Thursday, November 12, 2009	7:30pm	<i>Martha Graham Dance Company</i>	Northrop	Northrop	HU, WA, BC, HP
Friday, November 20, 2009	11:00am	<i>Tu Dance-field trip</i>	O'Shaughnessy	O'Shaughnessy	TBD
Saturday, November 21, 2009	7:30pm	<i>Casanova's Homecoming</i>	MN Opera	Ordway	TBD

Next to each play are letters that represent the schools that the play is being offered to:
BC = Battle Creek; HP = Hazel Park; HU = Humboldt; WA = Washington

This schedule is subject to changes and additions.
Please make sure to regularly check our web site at www.projectsucces.org for updates.

Project SUCCESS is a youth-development organization that works with students over a six-year period, from middle school through high school, to help them develop life skills and inspire them to act on their dreams. Through in-school goal-setting workshops, an innovative theater program, and after-school individual services, students learn to make informed choices and plan for meaningful futures.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adrienne Diercks
Founder and Executive Director
Project SUCCESS

Fawn Bernhardt-Norvell
Deputy Executive Director
Wellstone Action!

Cheryl Creecy
Education Relations Consultant

Karla Ekdahl
Community Leader

Patty Jones
Vice President,
Human Resources
Lifetouch Inc.

Ted L. Koenecke
Senior Vice President,
Corporate Administration
Lifetouch Inc.

Elise Linehan
Managing Director
Julia Knight, Inc.

Sheila Livingston
Director of Artistic Relations
Guthrie Theater

Todd Macgregor
Vice President,
Merchandise Manager
Target

JoAnn Neau
Vice President,
Director of Marketing
RBC Wealth Management

Darryle Owens
Community Leader

John Pershing
Executive Vice President,
Human Capital
Best Buy, Inc.

Trudy Richter
President
Richardson, Richter
and Associates, Inc.

Paula Schlottfeldt
Vice President,
Business Insurance Operations
The Travelers, Inc.

Jan Spencer de Gutiérrez
Supervisor,
Visual and Performing Arts
Saint Paul Public Schools

Julie Zelle
Community Leader

THEATER PARTNERS

Cedar Cultural Center, Minnesota Public Radio's Fitzgerald Theater, Guthrie Theater,* Hennepin Theatre Trust (State, Orpheum and Pantages), History Theatre, Illusion Theater, Interact Center – Performing Arts Program, Jungle Theater, Minnesota Dance Theatre, Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company, Minnesota Opera, Mixed Blood Theatre, Mu Performing Arts, Northrop Auditorium University of Minnesota, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Park Square Theatre, Penumbra Theatre, Southern Theater, Stages Theatre Company, SteppingStone Theatre, Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater, Theater Latte Da, The University of Minnesota Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, Vocalessence, Walker Art Center, and Xelias.

SCHOOL PARTNERS

Minneapolis: Anne Sullivan Communication Center, Anwatin Middle School, Emerson Spanish Immersion Learning Center, Jefferson Community School, Marcy Open, Northeast Middle School, North Community High School, Olson Middle School, Patrick Henry High School, Sanford Middle School, South High School, Southwest High School and Washburn High School. **Saint Paul:** Battle Creek Middle School, Hazel Park Middle School, Humboldt Junior High and Washington Technology Magnet Middle School.

*Founding Partner

CONTACT US

Project SUCCESS
2124 Dupont Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55405

612-874-7710
info@projectsuccess.org

www.projectsuccess.org



2124 DUPONT AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55405

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
27568
MINNEAPOLIS MN

A Newsletter for FAMILIES

SAINT PAUL
FALL 2009



Fall is in the air.

Fall is in the air. The school year has begun and all of us at Project SUCCESS are ready and excited for our seventh year serving Saint Paul students and families. Every day we work to inspire young people to dream about their future, and help them take steps to make their dreams reality. Our passion and belief in all children does not falter or change – and it is with this steadfast mission that we step into this new school year.

I look back at this past summer with amazement and gratitude. There were many highlights! Our staff of 18 took nearly 100 middle school students to the Boundary Water Canoe Area Wilderness for seven days. Project SUCCESS also held our annual Teacher and Staff celebration night with the Guthrie Theater where over 250 of us brought in the new school year. We also did a lot of planning, training, and reflecting as we looked towards 2009-2010.

If you are new to Project SUCCESS – welcome. This will be the beginning of many years together. If you are familiar to us – we can't wait for another year to serve you and your family. For all of you, we are so grateful for the opportunity to work alongside of you to support and inspire your student. In this newsletter you will find lots of information and facts about our program and this upcoming year. As you read through it, I invite you to see all the possibilities that lie ahead for your student, and for your family as well. We come together with all of our partners – our theaters, schools, donors, and volunteers – to truly make a difference in the lives of young people, and therefore in our community at large. Together, we imagine our dreams, achieve goals, and are inspired each day!

Adrienne

Project SUCCESS: how the program works

WE REALIZE THE TEENAGE YEARS ARE CRITICAL ONES FOR EVERY YOUNG PERSON. That is why our program is designed to serve each student for six years — from middle school through high school. The program is comprised of these components: Goal-Setting Workshops in the Classroom, Theater Experiences, One-on-One Assistance, College Tours and Special Programming. All components work within the Project SUCCESS philosophy, which is to provide a non-judgmental, supportive setting where students can speak out and be heard, and where they learn to assess themselves and their options regarding their future. All program components are designed to help students gain confidence in creative thinking, decision making, goal setting and resourcefulness while developing the skills to plan their future.

GOAL-SETTING WORKSHOPS Our staff of professional facilitators lead workshops based on specifically designed curricula developed for each grade level. Last year, we delivered 2,644 workshops to 10,000 students in 17 Minneapolis/Saint Paul middle and high schools. Working together with teachers and school administrators, our curriculum has become an integral part of English/Language Arts classes, ensuring that our program reaches each child in every school. Students participate in a workshop once a month for a total of eight workshop experiences per student, per year. The curriculum guides young people through a variety of unique exercises, experiences and discussions to help them look at their interests, their strengths and desires for the future. We then work with them to set specific goals and take particular steps toward those goals. We call this process “dreaming with your eyes open,” and 90% of participating students report taking a positive step toward achieving their goals.

THEATER EXPERIENCES We believe in the power of theater to illuminate the world. We use professional theater as a springboard to inspire students and to help them look at the real issues they face. With the help of our 26 professional theater partners, we offer students and their families the opportunity to attend between six and twelve theater experiences a year. These are not school field trips, but tickets to evening and weekend performances. We work with theaters to choose the appropriate plays; we coordinate every element of the experience including providing transportation and childcare, and often facilitate post-play discussions with the performers and directors.

ONE-ON-ONE ASSISTANCE, COLLEGE TOURS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMING High school students need attention and assistance planning for their future. So we offer a one-on-one guidance in after-school sessions. Our facilitators help students with reviewing and filling out applications for college or financial aid, finding job opportunities and seeking the resources necessary to make life after high school a positive, productive experience. State and national college tours are an important part of this one-on-one assistance. In the 2008-2009 school year, Project SUCCESS staff took 378 high school students on 34 college tours in Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa.

Other specialized programming we offer includes 1) Project SUCCESS-produced musicals and performances; 2) summer trips to the BWCA; and 3) all-school field trips to the theater.

HELPING KIDS DREAM WITH THEIR EYES OPEN.



In early October, The Travelers, Inc., hosted an evening of food and friendship to celebrate the work Project SUCCESS does in the Saint Paul schools. Students, alumni and teachers from our Saint Paul schools spoke at the event about the impact of Project SUCCESS. Many of our community partners, from theaters to school administrators, celebrated with us; we couldn't do the work we do without all of them. The event began with a shortened version of one of our classroom workshops and ended with a beautiful song from the Saint Paul Central High School Choir.



Our staff is always happy to hear your questions/concerns/praise/ or whatever else you'd like to tell us! Feel free to contact us via email, or to call us at **612.874.7710**.

Adrienne Diercks
Founder and Executive Director
adrienned@projectsuccess.org

Jenny Batten
Program Manager
jennyb@projectsuccess.org

Liz Bedard Halberg
Development and
Communications Director
lizb@projectsuccess.org

Alex Brooks
Facilitator at South
alex@projectsuccess.org

Jason Brown
Program Manager,
Facilitator at Anwatin
jasonb@projectsuccess.org

Harleigh Gabrielson
Facilitator at
Southwest and Washburn
harleighg@projectsuccess.org

Laura Garcia
Facilitator at Patrick Henry,
Olson & North
laurag@projectsuccess.org

Emily Heagle
Development and
Communications Director
emilyh@projectsuccess.org

Naheeda Hirji-Walji
Facilitator at Southwest
and Washburn
naheedah@projectsuccess.org

Julia Hutchinson
Facilitator at North and Northeast
juliah@projectsuccess.org

Cassie Karan
Theater Coordinator
theater@projectsuccess.org

Jeffrey Lusiak
Facilitator at Southwest
and Northeast
jeffryl@projectsuccess.org

Ricardo McCurley
Facilitator at Humboldt (SP),
Washington (SP),
Jefferson and Emerson
ricardom@projectsuccess.org

Elise Ogden
Theater & Event Coordinator
eliseo@projectsuccess.org

Pierangelo Rossi
Facilitator at Anne Sullivan,
Marcy & Sanford
pierangelor@projectsuccess.org

Ginny Snow
Facilitator at Battle Creek (SP)
and Hazel Park (SP)
ginny@projectsuccess.org

Paige Ware
Theater Partnerships Associate/
Volunteer Coordinator
paigew@projectsuccess.org

Liz Welsh
Administrative Manager
lizw@projectsuccess.org

Introducing our new staff

Harleigh Gabrielson, Facilitator. Harleigh is a graduate of Minneapolis Public Schools and a beneficiary of Project SUCCESS's work in her middle and high school. After studying history and community development at the Evergreen State College in Olympia Washington, she's returned to the Midwest to participate in the continuing growth and development of her beloved Twin Cities community. In college, Harleigh interned with two youth development organizations, Gateways for Incarcerated Youth, a co-education partnership between Evergreen and the Washington Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration, and a farm-based community and youth development organization, Garden Raised Bounty. Harleigh believes that inspired, supported youth are integral to the vibrancy of communities and this guides her work at Project SUCCESS.

Julia Hutchinson, Facilitator and Special Projects Coordinator. Julia joins the Project SUCCESS staff after being involved with the program, in many capacities, over the past 13 years. A Minnesota native, Julia was introduced to Project SUCCESS when she was a student, first at Anwatin Middle School and then at Southwest High School. Julia received a B.A. in both Sociology and Religious Studies from Colby College in Maine. She spent a year traveling, working, and studying abroad after graduating in 2007. She is passionate about community and the idea of being a global citizen. A dancer at heart and a closeted singer, Julia is thrilled to be back in the vibrant Twin Cities working for an organization in which she believes in so deeply.

Elise Ogden, Theater and Event Coordinator. Elise just graduated from Bates College in Maine with a degree in Rhetoric and Spanish. She is extremely happy to return to her home town of Minneapolis where she has been reconnected with Project SUCCESS. Elise is a Project SUCCESS alum; she started at Anwatin Middle School in '98 and continued on through Southwest High School. More than anything, Elise is excited to be working with a program that is so involved with the community and that has personally helped her get to where she is today. In addition to working with Project SUCCESS, she loves rugby, photography, reading, and of course, the Vikings!

Interested in helping out?

Want to make a difference in the lives of young people? Check out our fabulous volunteer opportunities! As you may know, part of our mission is to provide free transportation to students and families who wouldn't otherwise be able to get to the theaters. This is where our need for volunteers is the greatest. It's simple and fun—and everyone wins! If you or someone you know would like to find out more, please contact Paige, our volunteer coordinator, at **612.870.1486**. Thank you!