

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 reserve 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	Location	School
Friday, March 24, 2006	8:00pm	Magic Moments	Actor Th @ Showboat	H, WA
Sunday, April 2, 2006	2:00pm	Magic Moments	Actor Th @ Showboat	H, WA
Saturday, April 8, 2006	8:00pm	Magic Moments	Actor Th @ Showboat	H, WA
Sunday, March 12, 2006	1:00pm	Hamlet - ppd	Guthrie	N, S, SW, AC, AW, AS, NE
Tuesday, March 14, 2006	7:30pm	Hamlet - ppd	Guthrie	N, S, SW, AC, AW, AS, NE
Wednesday, March 15, 2006	7:30pm	Hamlet	Guthrie	N, S, SW, AC, AW, AS, NE
Thursday, March 16, 2006	7:30pm	Hamlet	Guthrie	N, S, SW, AC, AW, AS, NE
Friday, March 17, 2006	7:30pm	Hamlet	Guthrie	N, S, SW, AC, AW, AS, NE
Sunday, March 26, 2006	1:00pm	Hamlet - ppd	Guthrie	N, S, SW, AC, AW, AS, NE, H, WA
Tuesday, March 28, 2006	7:30pm	Hamlet	Guthrie	N, S, SW, AC, AW, AS, NE, H, WA
Wednesday, March 29, 2006	7:30pm	Hamlet	Guthrie	N, S, SW, AC, AW, AS, NE
Saturday, April 1, 2006	1:00pm	Hamlet - ppd	Guthrie	N, S, SW, AC, AW, AS, NE
Tuesday, April 4, 2006	7:30pm	Hamlet	Guthrie	N, S, SW, AC, AW, AS, NE
Friday, April 14, 2006	7:30pm	Hamlet - ASL	Guthrie	N, S, SW, AC, AW, AS, NE
Tuesday, April 11, 2006	7:30pm	House of Blue Leaves	Jungle	S, SW - 11,12
Sunday, April 23, 2006	2:00pm	House of Blue Leaves	Jungle	S, SW - 11,12
Sunday, April 23, 2006	7:30pm	House of Blue Leaves	Jungle	S, SW - 11,12
Thursday, April 6, 2006	7:30pm	Sez She	Illusion	S, SW - 11, 12
Thursday, April 13, 2006	8:00pm	Floyd Collins	Latté Da (at Loring Playhouse)	S, SW - 11,12
Friday, April 14, 2006	7:30pm	Constant Star	Park Square	N, AC
Saturday, April 15, 2006	7:30pm	Constant Star	Park Square	N, AC
Wednesday, April 19, 2006	7:30pm	Cabaret	U of M	N, 9th & 10th at S, SW
Wednesday, April 26, 2006	7:30pm	Cabaret	U of M	N, 9th & 10th at S, SW
Friday, April 21, 2006	8:00pm	Friday Ordway Series	St. Paul Chamber Orchestra (donated by St. Paul Travelers)	TBD
Sunday, April 30, 2006	2:00pm	Bakken Trio	Southern	TBD
Tuesday, May 2, 2006	7:10pm	Twins Event- <i>Fielding Dreams</i>	MetroDome	N, S, SW, AC, AW, AS, NE, H, WA
Thursday, May 4, 2006	8:00pm	The Enchantment: Twelve Dancing Princesses	MN Dance Theatre at Pantages	TBD
Thursday, May 11, 2006	8:00pm	Midsummer	Theater Mu at Southern	TBD
Friday, May 12, 2006	8:00pm	Midsummer	Theater Mu at Southern	TBD
Saturday, May 20, 2006	2:00pm	Young Dance	Young Dance	TBD
Monday, June 12, 2006	8:00pm	Forty-Five Minutes From Broadway	UofM on the Showboat	TBD

Next to each play are letters that represent the schools that the play is being offered to:

AW=Anwatin NE=Northeast SW=Southwest
AS=Anne Sullivan N=North H=Humboldt
AC=Afrocentric S=South 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.

*ppd=post-play discussion

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School Partners

Minneapolis: Afrocentric Educational Academy, Anne Sullivan Middle School, Anwatin Middle School, Northeast Middle School, North Community High School*, South High School and Southwest High School. St. Paul: Humboldt Junior High and Washington Technology Magnet Middle School.

Theater Partners

Actors Theater of Minnesota, Alchemy Theatre, Great American History Theatre, Guthrie Theater,* Hennepin Theatre Trust (State, Orpheum and Pantages), Illusion Theatre, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, The Jungle Theater, Theater Latté Da, Minnesota Dance Theatre, Minnesota Opera, Mixed Blood Theatre, Mu Performing Arts, Open Eye Figure Theatre, Park Square Theatre, Penumbra Theatre, The Southern Theater, Stages Theatre Company, and The University of Minnesota Department of Theatre Arts and Dance.

* Founding Partners

New Mission Statement

Project SUCCESS is a youth-development organization that works with students over a six year period to help them develop life-skills that can transform their lives. Through in-school goal-setting workshops, an innovative theater program, after-school one-on-one services and additional programming, students learn to make choices and plan for their future.



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SPRING 2006

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A Newsletter for Families

To be, or not to be...

To be, or not to be: that is the question.

As many of you know, the Guthrie Theater will be closing its current doors this year—moving on to their amazing new space on the river. But before the final curtain falls, they are once again staging Shakespeare's most famous play, *Hamlet*. As you likely know, we at Project SUCCESS love inviting students and families to come see theater. We believe it's an insightful window through which to view ourselves and the world. We find there is so much power in using theater to explore our own lives, our own dreams.

In Project SUCCESS classroom workshops this spring, many students have been asked to ponder this famous line: To be, or not to be: that is the question. We've explored what this might mean as a middle school student, or a high school student—or really, at any life stage. Another way to phrase the question might be: To take action, or not to act? To live life fully, or let it pass you by?

Much of what we strive to foster in the lives and minds of the amazing young people we get to work with is the idea that we ALL have the potential to lead meaningful, productive, great lives. We all have the opportunity to create a life we feel really good about. Yes, there are circumstances to deal with all the time—and there is also choice. In every moment there is the opportunity to choose. Or not to choose. That is the question.

May your spring be one of new beginnings, fresh ideas, and choices that bring you peace and fulfillment.

Sincerely,

Adrienne

Adrienne Diercks,
Founder and Executive Director, 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 your student gain confidence in creative thinking, decision making, goal setting and resourcefulness while developing the skills to plan their future.

School-based Workshops

Our staff of professional facilitators lead workshops based on specifically-designed curricula developed for each grade level. Last year, we delivered 2,936 workshops to more than 8,000 young people in eight Minneapolis/St. Paul middle and high schools.

Working together with teachers and school administrators, our curriculum has become an integral part of English/Language Arts classes. 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 towards 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 19 professional theater partners, we offer you and your student 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 facilitate post-play discussions with the performers and directors. Please see our theater schedule included in this newsletter.

One-on-One Assistance, College Tours and Special Programming

High school students need attention and assistance planning for their future. So we offer one-on-one programming 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 past 2 school years, Project SUCCESS staff took over 800 high school students on college tours in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Georgia, Washington D.C., and California.

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.

Annual Report



We are very pleased and proud to announce our first ever Project SUCCESS Annual Report. It is a privilege for us to serve the students and families of the Twin Cities Public Schools, and to work with the fabulous staff and administration of our school and theater partners. Thank you to everybody who has participated in or helped out with our program in any way! If you wish to see our Annual Report, please visit our website at www.projectsuccess.org, or call Liz Bedard at 612.874.0776 and we will happily send you a copy.



Little Shop of...Magic!

That's right folks! We are currently gearing up for what is always a magical theater experience—the Project SUCCESS/Anwatin Middle School Musical!

Mark your calendars for Friday June 9th and Saturday June 10th to come out and see a remarkable cast perform *Little Shop of Horrors*. Come support these fine young actors and actresses as they explore the issues of choices and consequences in a fun, crazy tale. After 8 years of amazing shows at Anwatin, we think we can safely say: You won't be disappointed!

If anyone is interested in helping out with the play in any way, we would love to have you! In order to ensure that everyone is able participate, we provide transportation to any cast member who needs it. If you'd like to help drive, or volunteer in any other way, please contact Jenny B at 612.874.1277. Thanks a lot!

The Project SUCCESS Staff

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.

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Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Mark your calendars everyone, because we want to take YOU out to a ball game! Not just any ball game, but a Minnesota Twins vs. Seattle Mariners game at the Metrodome! We at Project SUCCESS are thrilled to announce our 2nd Annual *Fielding Dreams* event. *Fielding Dreams* came about from a remarkable partnership between Project SUCCESS, the Pohlad Family Foundation, and the Minnesota Twins—organizations committed to making a difference in kids' lives. Last years exciting success has fueled our drive to make this year just as spectacular. We will again offer free t-shirts, as well as—of course—free tickets for you and your family to enjoy a night of baseball while supporting the dreams of our community's young people! Be on the lookout for your official *Fielding Dreams* invitation, but in the meantime—save the date of Tuesday evening, May 2nd!

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! Please contact Megan, our volunteer coordinator, to find out more—612.874.3288.

Please note: We especially need volunteers to help drive our St. Paul families!

There's No Place Like Home...Well, Except Maybe Vegas!

Glinda the good witch gives Dorothy a pair of red Chuck Taylors instead of ruby slippers, and the bad witch gets killed by little stuffed bunnies it turns out she's allergic to—not your average version of the Wizard of Oz, right? This was the laugh-out-loud version that was written and performed by an amazing cast of Anne Sullivan Middle School students in the 2nd Annual Project SUCCESS/Anne Sullivan Play!

Led by Project SUCCESS theater specialist Jeffrey Lusiak and Anne Sullivan/ Project SUCCESS facilitator Jenny Charo, this fabulous ensemble rehearsed for four weeks every day after school. In the third week the students completed this hilarious, clever re-write of the classic tale. (The bulk of the writing credit goes to Nina and Annie. Congratulations, girls!) With one more week left to practice, the cast masterfully pulled it all together and wowed their teachers, classmates, and families in a show so great they were asked to perform it again the following week so the rest of the school could attend!

And for those of you who may be wondering—yes, in the end, the scarecrow got his brain, the lion got his courage, and the tin man got his heart. And of course, Dorothy and her red Chucks made it back to Kansas.

Congratulations Cast! Excellent work!

A special thanks to the Anne Sullivan staff for working with us to create such a successful experience for the students!

