

Valley Youth Theatre Announces

2006-2007 Season

(Phoenix) Valley Youth Theatre announces the 2006-2007 season offering Valley theatre enthusiasts a mix of musical favorites, classic tales and a Valley holiday tradition for the entire family. Valley Youth Theatre begins and ends each season with shows at the Herberger Theater Center, 222 E Monroe in Copper Square. All other performances are on the Valley Youth Theatre Mainstage at 525 N. 1st St (at Fillmore).

CATS

August 11-27, 2006

Herberger Theater Center

Arizona's non-equity Premiere!

Broadway's longest-running musical springs to life through imaginative dance, costumes and songs.

NARNIA: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, The Musical

October 13-29, 2006

Follow four adventurous children into a magical world beyond imagination in the C.S. Lewis epic

A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Tail

December 1-23, 2006

A VYT tradition celebrating friendship and holiday spirit, now in its 11th season.

Romeo and Juliet

February 2-18, 2007

An original work combining ballet and drama based on Shakespeare's classic love story by Valley Youth Theatre's own Bobb Cooper and Marcos D.Voss

Little Women, The Musical

March 30-April 15, 2007

The Arizona premiere of the new Broadway hit musical
A new slant on the classic story of four sisters growing up in Civil War America.

Oliver!

June 8-24, 2007

Herberger Theater Center

Dickens' colorful characters come to life in this musical adaptation of a literary classic.

Valley Youth Theatre is a non-profit organization that targets young people age 7 – 19 for participation in and attendance at quality live theatre productions. Its positive impact on youth provides them with lifelong lessons through a wide range of performing arts opportunities. VYT is an award-winning theatre company most recently winning 31 arizOni Awards for theatrical excellence in the 2004-2005 season. Valley Youth Theatre is supported in part by the Arizona Commission on the Arts with funding from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts. Partial funding also is provided by the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture through appropriations from the Phoenix City Council.

About Valley Youth Theatre

Established in 1989, Valley Youth Theatre (VYT) is dedicated to having a positive impact on the community's children through a wide variety of performing arts opportunities. Every Valley Youth Theatre program offers unique educational and cultural opportunities to virtually thousands of the community's future leaders. It is our mission that through these experiences, children

will learn life lessons that will serve them well as adults; that they will develop a lasting interest in the arts; and that they will take with them the inspiration to be the very best they can be!

VYT produces seven mainstage shows each season. We believe children deserve the opportunity to be treated as serious individuals and the same standards of excellence that apply to adult theatre apply in our programming. We hire professional directors, choreographers, and technicians to train the cast and crew of each show. Participation in our shows is fee-free, opening the door to all young people who have an interest. Almost 900 children, representing all socio-economic backgrounds and almost every community in the Valley, audition for our mainstage shows each season. More than 350 young people participate as actors, technicians and musicians. This high standard of excellence has led to Valley Youth Theatre's inclusion in Theatre Communications Group. In addition, VYT hosts Performance Troupes, Fall, spring and summer Workshops, and VYTeens, a community service group.

Each season, more than 4,600 inner-city students attend a VYT mainstage performance and are given free books through our highly successful "**Literacy and The Arts**" outreach program. The **VYT After School Playhouse**, held at a Phoenix inner-city school, is a 36-week after school program bringing the complete theatre arts experience to at-risk children grades 4 through 8. Six hundred or more children, representing numerous social service organizations throughout the Valley, attend a free performance and are given a complimentary lunch through our annual "**Sponsor-A-Seat**" program.

The **VYT Performance Troupes** outreach the importance of theatre to the community and bring another performance experience to children at VYT. Young people, ages 8-18, audition for the three Troupes consisting of 15-20 children each, and they participate - fee-free - for the entire season. The Troupes perform on our stages throughout the year. The touring company of the Troupes performs in schools Valley-wide.

Fall, spring and summer **Workshops** at VYT offer children ages 5 and up a myriad of opportunities to develop and expand upon their theatrical talents and creativity. From improvisation to developing technical skills, VYT's workshops are designed to again complement our mission of helping children be the very best they can be. At least one-needs based scholarship is offered to each workshop. Our "**VYT For Free**" program provides a fee-free workshop every December to a minimum of 45 children, ages 7-18.

In 2003, **VYTeens** was created. This group is made up of students who are 12 years of age and older who have been active in Valley Youth Theatre. They are our most experienced students, so if you have any questions about how Valley Youth Theatre works, you can always ask a VYTeen member! They work on several special projects each year, and produce their own shows.

Valley Youth Theatre offers their performance space at no cost to other companies who reach out to children; e.g. Essential Theatre, which serves as a Phoenix drop-in center and youth outreach program; and Opera-tunity, which brings the magic of opera to children in need.

For each VYT performance, our theatre walls are hung with artwork created by children through a partnership with Young Arts Arizona, an organization which helps disadvantaged and abused children express and respect themselves through the exhibition of their artwork.

Looking Toward the Future

As part of a voter-approved 2001 bond issue, our theatre and the property on which it sits at 525 North First Street is in the process of being purchased by the City of Phoenix, giving VYT its first permanent home ever. In the spring of 2001, VYT purchased the old Playwright's Theatre at 1121 North First Street. In the fall of 2002, VYT purchased an office building at 807 North Third Street to house its administrative offices, further investing in the future of Valley Youth Theatre.

Valley Youth Theatre's long-range plans include expansion of our theatre site to create a youth performing arts complex in the heart of downtown Phoenix. The proposed development not only addresses the long-term facility needs of Valley Youth Theatre, but presents an expanded economic and cultural opportunity to downtown Phoenix and its redevelopment efforts. Discussions have taken place with other youth-focused arts groups regarding collaborations in this endeavor. This unique center would make Phoenix a benchmark in the nation as a city dedicated to the future of its youth and in its support of the performing arts.

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