

PUSHCART PLAYERS' DRAMA WORKSHOPS, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Development Through Drama - Creative Drama Workshops that allow the student to explore the artistic self in a variety of ways. These workshops increase an understanding of the art form and nurture creativity and self-expression. Comprised of theatre games, story telling and improvisation this "*process*" rather than "*product*" oriented program provides an excellent foundation for sequential learning in the arts. Inclusion in the curriculum in early grades sets the stage for the ability to act and interact in dramatic and other arts activities with full involvement

The Informance - This workshop is in conjunction with a Pushcart performance. Following the performance, the actors and technical crew provide an in-depth overview of the creation of theatre. Students are involved in "hands-on" exploration of the elements of a musical play. Improvisation, demo-discussion and interactive dialogue offer an overview of The Artist: playwright, composer, lyricist, designer, director, choreographer, actor, technician; The Medium: scenery, costumes, light and sound; and The Career: mechanics of touring, training, rehearsal, talent, commitment. [45 minutes. \$750 in addition to performance fee]

Teacher Training Workshops -These workshops in creative drama and other exercises, guide teachers in exploring the many ways that theatre can be used in the traditional classroom setting to amplify and enhance any curriculum. [45 minutes to 1 hour; \$425 per workshop]

Kids Do Broadway After School Program Kids learn all about theatre by doing it! Condensed versions of familiar Broadway favorites (i.e. "Annie," "The Music Man," "Fiddler On The Roof" etc.) are cast, rehearsed, designed, costumed, and presented with the help of parents, teachers and Pushcart staff. Dazzling performances are scheduled at the end of twelve weeks. A marvelous school-wide and community activity! [One afternoon per week over 12 - 14 weeks; \$8,500; Includes scripts, technical support (costumes, lights, sound) and instructor/director each week]

Symposia/Workshops arranged in conjunction with a performance offers innovative and inspirational post performance discussion and opportunity to bring in guest speakers and moderators (In the past: -Honorable Lonna Hooks on Ethnic Diversity, Anita Hollander on Physical Challenges, Peppy Margolis on Holocaust Education, Denise Thomas facilitating Cross Generation Discussion of the Immigrant Experience).

Internships / Apprenticeships offer high school and college students an opportunity to spend 6-12 weeks on-site and on-tour to gain a well-rounded overview of all

aspects of theatre from administration to production and performance. College credit course for Montclair State University students.

The need for such programming is best articulated by Educator Ernest L. Boyer who said, “During the past quarter century, literally thousands of school based programs have demonstrated beyond question that the arts can bring not only coherence to our fragmented academic world, but through the arts, students’ performance in other academic disciplines can be enhanced as well.” The need is validated by the mandate, *Goals 2000*, to include the arts in the curriculum in NJ schools and to test for proficiency in designated areas in the 4th, 8th and 12th grade. Students who have experienced a Pushcart performance and study guide material in connection with that performance will gain competency and understanding of the theatre arts component of the curriculum standards.

The need is further supported by many studies in recent years that demonstrate positive gains for students whose curriculum included the arts. Howard Gardner’s groundbreaking theory of “multiple intelligences” has led to an understanding that the arts can play a crucial role in the improvement of students’ ability to learn because an arts-based curriculum appeals to a range of intelligences and learning styles. Furthermore, students whose studies are rich in the arts tend to score higher on standardized tests. For example, in 1995, SAT scores were 59 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on math for students who had studied the arts more than four years and high-risk elementary school students gained significant percentile points on standardized language arts tests after participating in arts programming.

Research findings for the “Educate America Act” provide extensive evidence that drama techniques are effective in promoting facility in English as a second language among young children; and that positive self-perceptions, repeatedly shown to aid the development of skills and learning, have been effectively enhanced with arts education.
-Ruth Fost/Founder, Pushcart Players

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