

Adventures in Youth Theater

Self Awareness

The founders and those who support “**New Artists Productions**” volunteer their time to encourage young people to enjoy the theater experience. Sponsors assist in the funding of the program which affords us the opportunities to offer the program at **no cost** to the participants.



In small town America, young people are struggling to find their identity and find meaningful things to do. Many school districts, particularly in rural communities, are cutting courses to meet tighter budgets. These cuts tend to occur where children most often find their identity: drama, art, music, choir, speech, dance, etc. There is an old saying, “Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic is what we do; ‘The Arts’ is what

we do it for.” And, this is the story behind “**New Artists Productions.**”

“**New Artists Productions**” is a non-profit, 501(C)(3) tax-exempt organization dedicated to the introduction of new young people to the fields of the performing arts. The existence of this organization is found on the premise that “there abounds considerable young talent needing an opportunity to be recognized.” “**New Artists Productions**” seeks to encourage young talent in their pursuit of theater arts while developing self-awareness, self-esteem, and self-confidence.

Self Esteem

The adventure of youth theater provides the student an opportunity to become aware of their own personality characteristics. This self-awareness is the discovery of their strengths and weaknesses. As they conquer the challenges of performing, each student gains a new level of self-esteem. Recognizing their new found personal value is the catalyst that builds self-confidence. It is the individual assurance of self-confidence that provides the power from which many

Self Confidence

future successes will stem.

As a year-round program “**New Artists Productions**” produces a varied schedule of activities for those who participate: workshops, plays,

“**New Artists Productions**” was founded in 1995 by Dan and Anita Almich of Bandon, Oregon. It began as an audio recording organization helping young people and youth organizations make audition tapes and CDs. In 2000, when the Sprague Community Theater was completed, “**New Artists Productions**” produced its first live



The Importance of Being Earnest

stage production to stimulate interest in youth theater. In 2002, the organization was granted its non-profit, tax-exempt status.

Initial productions were primarily musical recitals. However, in the Spring of 2002, “**New Artists Productions**” joined forces with the “Bandon Playhouse” to produce a musical comedy entitled “No Wrinkles, New Wrinkles.”

This two-part story required a youth company in the first half and an adult company in the second half. **“New Artists Productions”** participated in the development of the youth cast and provided musical leadership. The production had a successful run and upon completion, the young actor cast were eager to start another stage production.

And so, in the Fall of 2002, rehearsals began in earnest on “The Importance of Being Earnest,” a period piece written by Oscar Wilde and first



performed in 1895. Recognized by the experienced producers to be a difficult piece for experienced adult actors only served to prove that ignorance can often be the fore bearer of success. The little cast of six, with some

playing more than one role, proceeded into rehearsals for an opening in the Spring of 2003. It was a credit to this stalwart cast of dedicated actors that they had a very successful run.

Since its modest beginning, more than 800 performers have participated in **“New Artists Productions”** offerings. Students ages of 6 to 19 characterize the performers. By 2020, over 80 theatrical productions including such features as “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown,” “Guys and Dolls, Jr,” “Disney’s Aladdin Jr,” “Dracula,” and “Fiddler on the Roof, Jr,” and “Disney’s Mary Poppins, Jr.” to name a few. In addition, several

original pieces created by the founders have been performed: “Dream, a Salute to Fred Astaire,” “Monday at Noon,” “Chelsea and Friends,” “Granny’s Big Bad Bakery,” and “The Magic of Music.”

A typical production involves a cast of 20 – 30 performers with a stage crew of 4 – 6, and a sound crew. Some young participants assist in front of the house duties: ticket takers, passing out programs, and working in the snack bar.

Dan and Anita believe in the premise that all children are born with certain gifts from their creator – gifts of talent and skill. They were also given a predisposition to a host of emotions, such as, fear, love, temperament, and inspiration. How a child develops these gifts in the environment of their individual emotions will establish the ultimate outcome of that individual’s self-esteem and self-confidence.

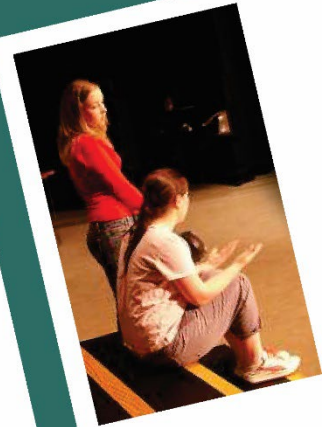
Those who have the providence to nurture and encourage these children are blessed with the opportunity to help mold their character. Those involved with **“New Artists Productions”** are especially aware of this opportunity and their responsibility. The recognition of this premise is the hallmark of their relationship with all children who pass through their program.



Disney’s, Mary Poppins Jr.



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“New Artists Productions, Inc.”

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