



THE 5TH AVENUE THEATRE FUELS THE LOCAL ECONOMY



For every **\$1** spent on a ticket, the average 5th Avenue Theatre patron spends an additional **\$0.73** on goods and services in King County.

TOP 5 REASONS PEOPLE LOVE THE 5TH:

- 1 Date night
- 2 Beautiful theater
- 3 World-class musicals
- 4 New works
- 5 Great local actors

EACH YEAR:

220 live musical theater performances

300,000+ Patrons

Largest arts employer in the Pacific Northwest
(800+ staff, actors and creative artists)

17 New Works
9 to Broadway
15 Tonys



Every year, The 5th provides artists with time, space, and the freedom to generate new changes in a supportive environment. **Most of this work takes place behind the scenes** to process-based development, allowing each project to take the unique path needed. This may mean giving writers the chance to develop drafts, experiment with stage with a creative team and company of performers, present their work to industry full production of a new show for live audiences. It also includes giving actors creative roles. This season, one of our 5th Avenue Theatre favorites, Billie White Theatre directorial debut with our production of *Annie*. Providing opportunities skills and discover new creative outlets is a fundamental part of cultivating

We have supported the artistic growth of creative teams and produced musicals at every stage of their journey from seed to Seattle's premier venue of *Come From Away*—a return to Seattle as part of our New Musical Development program. And full production and sending shows to keep the

The 5th Avenue Theatre:



In this glorious retelling of Victor Hugo's epic masterpiece, a powerful tale of love, faith, and prejudice will leave you utterly spellbound. *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* features songs from the Disney animated feature with new music from legendary composers Alan Menken (*The Little Mermaid*, *Aladdin*, and *Newsies*) and Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Godspell*, and *Pippin*). The musical explores the story of Quasimodo, a deaf bell ringer in Notre Dame Cathedral in the 15th century. Quasimodo sneaks out of his bell tower to join the Festival of Fools, where he is ridiculed by everyone except one woman—Esmeralda. The story goes on to expose universal human struggles: dishonesty, bullying of those who are perceived to be different, and the transformative power of kindness and love.

Our production will include a full company of **21 actors** and **15 orchestra musicians**. In addition, the Pacific Lutheran University choir will sing alongside our cast. With support from our donors, we can expand our service to the Deaf community and maintain the level of artistic excellence our patrons expect and deserve.



The 5th Avenue Theatre's Rising Star Project

We all want a community of theater professionals that is as diverse as our society. We all want theater that is increasingly relevant and inspiring to our surrounding communities and next generations. Through Rising Star Project, The 5th embraces the idea of proactively laying the foundations for a robust and inclusive future—by literally welcoming a cohort of teenagers into the theater to run the show. Rising Star Project offers students the chance to develop professional skills through the process of producing and performing a musical on The 5th Avenue Theatre's mainstage.

Beyond an entirely student cast and orchestra, Rising Star Project West Side Story will be run by a student technical crew and supported by a team of students who take on roles in the marketing, development, producing, casting, stage management, hair & makeup, costumes & wardrobe, lighting, automation, and sound departments, as well as leadership roles in direction and choreography. Each participant receives 100 to 300 hours of hands-on, skill-based training and mentorship from The 5th's dedicated theater professionals. After eight years, the successful results are unequivocal: Rising Star Project ignites a passion for the arts, boosts self confidence, builds performance and workplace skills, teaches 21st century skills, and encourages participants to follow their passion.

Motivated by our desire for **all** youth to benefit from this program, we offer Rising Star Project **entirely tuition free** so cost is not a barrier. We actively recruit Washington teens from high-needs public schools, communities historically impacted by racism and oppression, and areas where there is less access to the arts. **In 2017/2018, we expanded Rising Star Project into a two-year structure to create a more diverse and inclusive program. We are dreaming big with our Year Two Plans!**

YEAR ONE HIGHLIGHTS

Our education staff and professional teaching artists focused on outreach, recruitment, and tuition-free skill-based classes for teens who have fewer arts opportunities. Our 2017/18 activities included:

- 10-Minute Musicals, where 47 Washington teens from 31 schools—including two Deaf actors—created and performed their six original new musicals for 775 youth and adults; and
- four in-school classroom residencies for 200 youth that built their theater skills and strengthened our relationships with schools to help recruit participants for Rising Star Project: West Side Story.

YEAR TWO PLANS

Our 2018/19 plans provide immersive arts programming for 800 youth and 10,900 audience members:

- in-school classroom residency for 400 teens from four Kent public high schools to create an MLK celebration with seven performances (January 17-18, 2019) for 7,500 youth and adults;
- unique 5th Avenue-school-police collaborative program for 80 teens at 3 public high schools teaching successful West Side Story Project curriculum that breaks down prejudice and builds understanding between law enforcement and youth with the ultimate goal of preventing gang violence;
- Rising Star Project: West Side Story brings 95 teens to The 5th for 100-300 hours as they create and present a full-length musical on our stage (July 11-13, 2019) for 3,400 youth and adults; and
- joint 5th Avenue-City of Seattle service leadership day at The 5th for 225 youth that includes Rising Star Project: West Side Story performance, speakers, and workshops on theater and social change.

Please join with us to create the next generation of theater artists and audiences!

NEW STORIES, NEW SONGS...

A LOOK BACK ON THE 5TH'S 2017/18 EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

This season more than ever, The 5th continued to seek new ways to empower and unite our community through musical theater. We work to offer meaningful opportunities for young people – especially opportunities that exist where theater, arts education and social justice intersect. And we strive to inspire the next generation of skilled, compassionate and confident leaders—both for the future of musical theater and for our world. To learn more, please visit www.5thavenue.org/education.

THIS SEASON 72,000 YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN:

10-Minute Musicals
Musical Theater Workshops and
Master Classes at The 5th
In-School Classroom Residencies

The 5th Avenue Awards:
Honoring High School Musical Theater
Adventure Musical Theater Touring
Company's *Rosie The Riveter*

ANOTHER 8,000 YOUTH & ADULTS ENJOYED:

Engaging Show Talks and Community Events
Free Tickets to a Performance

Theater Tours

In the weeks leading up to Martin Luther King Jr. Day, local performer Shaunyce Omar and other Rising Star Project teaching artists worked with more than 100 STUDENTS from Kentridge and Kent-Meridian High Schools to help them create a community-oriented rally emphasizing Dr. King's messages of love, unity and service. The 5th was honored to partner with these schools to empower students to share their stories and raise their voices in song—challenging their peers to take action toward healing the world's divisions.



ISING STAR PROJECT

Katera Howard

- Katera and her Rainier Beach High School peers had a strong interest in theater arts, but no drama program at their school.
- From 2011-2015, as the 5th worked with the school to rebuild their program.
- Drama classes rebounded from zero to three or four periods per week.
- The 5th helped Rainier Beach students produce their first full-scale one-act musical.
- Katera participated in a songwriting workshop that The 5th offered at her school.
- Katera won a leading role in an all-student, mainstage production of *The Pajama Game* at The 5th.
- Katera and her peers at Rainier Beach High School inspired executives of the NBC show *Rise* to select them as the only school in the state to receive a \$10,000 R.I.S.E. America grant.



THE 5TH AVENUE THEATRE

WHERE GREAT MUSICALS ARE BORN



NOW NOT LATER, TOMORROW IS TODAY

Because of your support, The 5th Avenue Theatre has partnered with high schools in Kent for the last three years to support students as they write and produce a rally sharing the message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The residency began at Kentridge High School in 2017 and expanded last year to include Kent Meridian High School.

This year marked an unprecedented collaboration between all four high schools in the Kent School District. In the fall, thirteen students representing the four schools came to The 5th for a daylong workshop to build the foundations of the script. We provide students with this kind of artistic support at the professional level—and it was so thrilling to see these young people rising to that level of expectation as they talked about the messages they wanted to convey. After a long group brainstorming session, they zeroed in on one theme: we cannot wait until tomorrow to take action. We cannot wait until we are older, or until we are given power. Tomorrow is today. The time to take action is today.