

2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT

ARTISTICALLY BOLD
WILDLY ENTERTAINING



PLAY IN THE PARK
CINCINNATI HOUSE



REFLECTIONS FROM THE PLAYHOUSE BOARD

On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, thank you for your unwavering support of Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

As I look back on my final year as President of the Playhouse Board, I can honestly say that it was one of the most exciting years this institution has experienced. Your Playhouse has experienced tremendous overall growth, from artistic programming to the long-awaited capital campaign to renovate our iconic Eden Park facility.

The institution's long-held banner of fiscal responsibility continues, boasting 26 consecutive seasons of completion in the black. Very few other arts organizations in this region — let alone in the country — can claim such an accomplishment. But none of this would be possible without your support and guidance.

As Woody Taft takes over as the new President of the Board of Trustees, I am confident in the future of this iconic Cincinnati institution. I hope you will join my wife, Moe, and me in our support of our region's world-class theatre, year after year. Thank you for everything you have done and will do for your Playhouse.



Debra Walton in *Mr. Joy*.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Rouse".

Jack Rouse
Board President



REFLECTIONS FROM BLAKE AND BUZZ

We are thrilled to share the results of yet another artistically and financially successful season. From exceptional education and outreach programs to mainstage productions that rival the stages of New York and London, the region can be proud of the recognition that Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park brings to our community. With the support of thousands of subscribers, donors, corporations, foundations and, of course, ArtsWave, your Playhouse has accomplished so many wonderful things in the past year, and we could not be prouder.



John Michael Presney, Sean McGibbon, Ari McKay Wilford and Sky Seals in *Million Dollar Quartet*.

The coming seasons will bring exciting change to the institution that you have come to know and cherish. With your support, the Playhouse will enter the 21st century with a capital project that will make our Eden Park facility one of the jewels of the Cincinnati arts crown. In the coming months, more information will be shared with you, and we hope we can count on your support and enthusiasm as we move forward with this once-in-a-generation project.

We look forward to continuing this journey with everyone in our community. The stories we tell will entertain, engage, inspire, challenge and connect our audiences. Thank you for your dedication, your joy and your love for live theatre. The Playhouse family would not be the same without you!



Blake Robison
Artistic Director



Buzz Ward
Managing Director



2017-18 SEASON

ROBERT S. MARX THEATRE

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

Based on the screenplay by MARC NORMAN and TOM STOPPARD
Adapted for the stage by LEE HALL
Music by PADDY CUNNEEN

SEPT. 2 – 30, 2017

"What a glorious way to start the season."
— *Cincinnati Enquirer*



THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

By SIMON STEPHENS | Adapted from the novel by MARK HADDON

OCT. 14 – NOV. 11, 2017

"Searing, painful and frank insight into a perspective you have likely never considered or experienced ... well deserving of a Critic's Pick." — *CityBeat*



MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

Book by COLIN ESCOTT and FLOYD MUTRUX

JAN. 20 - FEB. 18, 2018

"*Million Dollar Quartet* is worth every cent." — *CityBeat*



LEADING Ladies presents

MARIE AND ROSETTA

By GEORGE BRANT
Directed by NEIL PEPE

MARCH 3 – 31, 2018

"Raw and gripping and heartfelt and shouldn't be missed." — *Cincinnati Enquirer*



KEN LUDWIG'S TREASURE ISLAND

Adapted from the novel by ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

APRIL 21 – MAY 19, 2018

"Full of swashbuckling adventure."
— *ArtsWave Guide*



SEASON EXTRA!

FIRST first financial bank presents A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By CHARLES DICKENS | Adapted by HOWARD DALLIN

NOV. 22 - DEC. 30, 2017

"If you haven't seen it, give yourself a present and do so." — *CityBeat*



SHELTERHOUSE THEATRE

MR. JOY

By DANIEL BEATY

SEPT. 23 – OCT. 22, 2017

"An acting tour de force."
— *Cincinnati Enquirer*



FRANK FERRANTE in AN EVENING WITH GROUCHO

NOV. 4 – DEC. 17, 2017

"It's like stepping back in time ... a hilarious entertainment." — *CityBeat*



BE HERE NOW

By DEBORAH ZOE LAUFER

FEB. 9 – MARCH 11, 2018

"A lovely production that will leave you with a new appreciation for life." — *CityBeat*



SOONER/LATER

By ALLYSON CURRIN

MARCH 24 – APRIL 21, 2018

"A play of the heart. And of the brain."
— *Cincinnati Enquirer*



MURDER FOR TWO

Book and music by JOE KINOSIAN
Book and lyrics by KELLEN BLAIR

MAY 5 – JUNE 10, 2018

"Spectacularly impressive." — *CityBeat*



Season presented by SCHUELER GROUP and HEIDELBERG DISTRIBUTING CO.

Season Sponsor of New Work: THE ROSENTHAL FAMILY FOUNDATION

Emily Trask as *Shakespeare in Love's* Viola by Tony Arrasmith/Arrasmith & Associates. Photo of Frank Ferrante as Groucho Marx by Michael Doucett. The cast of *A Christmas Carol* by Mikki Schaffner. All other show visuals by Tony Arrasmith/Arrasmith & Associates.

IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Each year, ArtsWave raises over \$12 million to support more than 100 arts and community organizations that make our region an amazing place to live. In recent years, they developed and released their Blueprint for Collective Action — a strategic plan for creating community through the arts across five focus areas. As a recipient of ArtsWave funding and a partner in actualizing the Blueprint for Collective Action, we work to deepen this investment in our community.

In the 2017-18 season, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park served **187,265** residents through our mainstage productions, and education and outreach programs. Thank you for your support and loyalty — your contributions and subscriptions help make our impact stronger and more vibrant each season.

ARTS PUT CINCINNATI ON THE MAP

11 extraordinary theatre productions with a total mainstage attendance of **129,249** audience members

12,672 subscribers — the largest subscriber base of any resident theatre in the Tristate

2 world premiere plays, both written by female playwrights, bringing the number of world premieres produced since 1960 to **77**

26 licensed subsequent productions across the country of our 2016 world premiere *Native Gardens*

ARTS DEEPEN ROOTS

844 young professionals served through participatory arts experiences, including a sold-out **Fright Night** partnership with the Cincinnati Art Museum

271 community members engaged through free Playhouse Perspectives panel discussions and audience engagement events

9 young theatre professionals recruited to Cincinnati through the Bruce E. Coyle Internship Program

32,372 residents of all ages engaged through family-friendly, multigenerational shows



ARTS BRIDGE CULTURAL DIVIDES

28,778 audience members experienced new and diverse works, including *Mr. Joy*, *Marie and Rosetta* and two world premieres

Continued to emphasize diversity and representation in professional acting intern casting, hiring a company that had **80%** artists of color

225 audience members attended talkback sessions with the actress from *Mr. Joy* following **4** performances

ARTS ENLIVEN NEIGHBORHOODS

55 community partners across the region, including public libraries, retirement homes, community arts centers and halfway houses

5,948 residents engaged through **51** Off the Hill performances

15 counties connected through the arts in the Greater Cincinnati region

ARTS FUEL CREATIVITY AND LEARNING

8,690 children and teens attended regular performances of mainstage productions

14 student matinee performances for a total attendance of **7,361** students, teachers and chaperones

43,923 students impacted through in-school programs and workshops

3 Title I schools and **1,389** students reached through immersive theatre arts residencies

WORLD CLASS ARTISTRY

Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park is our region's preeminent professional theatre and is committed to producing and presenting the broadest range of theatre for diverse audiences in an inviting theatrical environment.

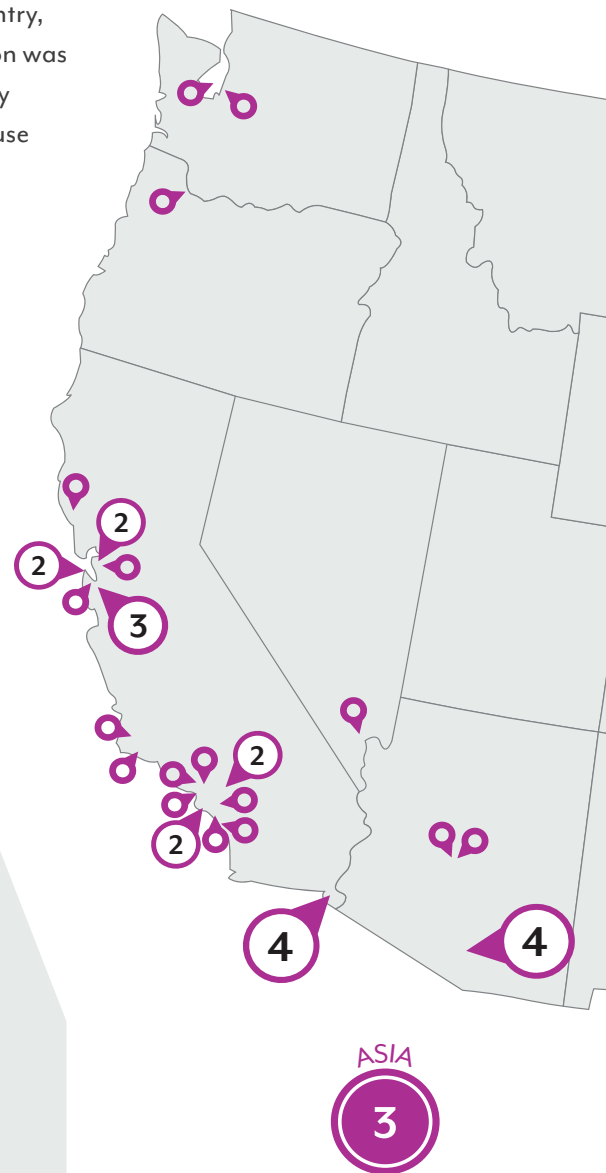
Winner of two Tony® Awards, the Playhouse continued its tradition of excellence in its 58th season — producing 11 mainstage productions of unmatched variety and unequalled artistry — and shared the magic of live theatre with a total audience of more than 129,000.

Playhouse productions feature the finest actors, directors and designers in the country, many of whom have Broadway and international credits to their names. This season was no exception, as Tony®-nominated director Marcia Milgrom Dodge (who previously directed our productions of *Cabaret* and *The Secret Garden*) returned to the Playhouse to direct the remarkable story of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*; Tony®-nominated actor Hunter Foster directed an exceptionally talented team of Broadway and off-Broadway musicians and actors in *Million Dollar Quartet*; and award-winning performer Frank Ferrante brought us *An Evening With Groucho*, which has been performed over 2,500 times in more than 400 cities. In addition, 40 people who have worked on a Playhouse production in the past worked on shows that were nominated for the 2018 Tony Awards®, including *Once On This Island*'s Kenita R. Miller (Marianne Angelle, *The Revolutionists*) and Dane Laffrey (Set Designer, *All The Roads Home*).

MULTIGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMING

When Blake Robison began his tenure at the Playhouse at the start of the 2012-13 season, he brought with him a new programmatic initiative: to include more multigenerational productions. These are mainstage plays that appeal to regular, adult audiences and are also enjoyed by young people and teens. The Playhouse has prioritized artistic efforts that introduce up-and-coming theatre lovers to top-notch, mainstage productions featuring the nation's leading artists. In addition to the annual favorite, *A Christmas Carol*, the Playhouse has performed additional multigenerational shows on the main stage each season since 2012. Among others in our 2017-18 season, we thrilled multigenerational audiences with Ken Ludwig's swashbuckling adventure, *Treasure Island*.

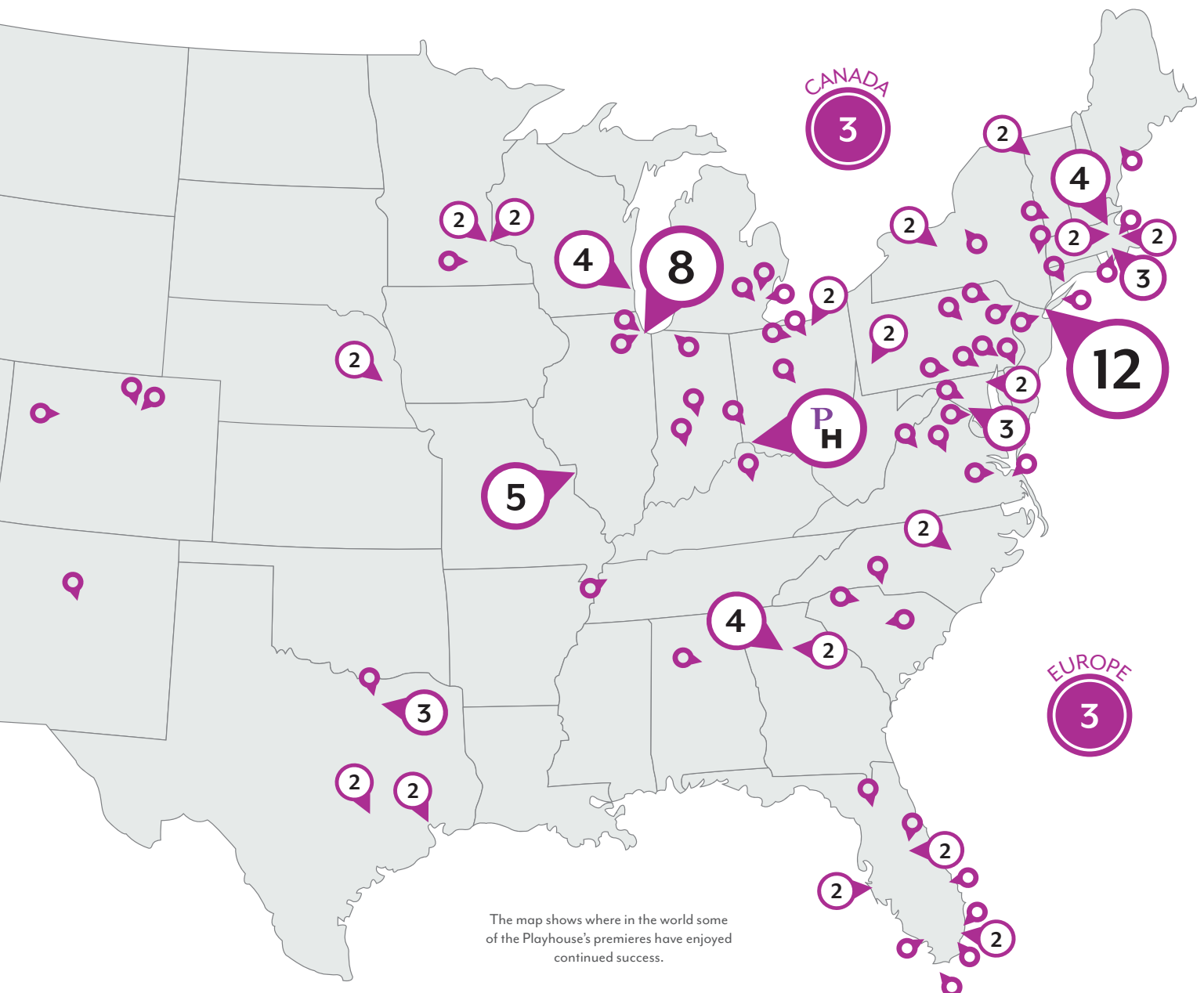
"It's a family-friendly, adventure-packed production, high-energy from start to finish ... The action spills off the stage, up and down the theater aisles, so you're often within arm's length of what's happening." — Rick Pender's *Theater Stages & Scenes*



WORLD PREMIERES

The Playhouse garners national attention for its programming, world premieres and commissioned works, quality of craftsmanship, and artistic excellence. We believe that well-written and compelling new plays bring fresh and diverse voices to the national theatre landscape and are crucial to the evolution of American theatre. We devote resources to identifying, developing and producing new work. Many of the productions we have commissioned and premiered have gone on to receive national and international acclaim and success. The Playhouse has a 50-plus-year track record of success in identifying and producing outstanding new works of theatre; in total, the Playhouse has staged 77 world premieres. This past mainstage season featured new works including our commission of *Be Here Now* by Deborah Zoe Lauffer and *Sooner/Later* by Allyson Currin. We also stage second productions, which are essential to broadening the reach of new works of American theatre, and we help develop new work through commissions and workshops.

The Playhouse's 2016 world premieres of *Native Gardens* and *The Revolutionists* were extraordinarily successful, each with dozens of productions all over the country during the 2017-18 season. Playhouse Artistic Director Blake Robison followed up on our world premiere of *Native Gardens* by directing a co-production of the hit comedy at the Guthrie Theater and Arena Stage.



INCLUSION

Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park is committed to serving all citizens of Greater Cincinnati through inclusive, diverse and celebratory work that reflects our entire community. This commitment to diversity and inclusion extends beyond mainstage representation and into our artistic leadership model and community activities. It particularly emphasizes women and artists of color, whose voices are generally underrepresented on American regional theatre stages.

DIVERSE VOICES

We believe that diverse voices result in stronger seasons, better art and a more welcoming and productive workplace. Therefore, plays by and about diverse people are cornerstones of every Playhouse season. In the 2017-18 season, diverse productions included *Mr. Joy* and *Marie and Rosetta*, as well as our multi-racial ensemble for *Shakespeare in Love*. People of color represented 47 percent of single ticket buyers for *Mr. Joy* and *Marie and Rosetta*. As part of its Sampler Series, ArtsWave sponsored a free performance of *Marie and Rosetta* — it was a huge success, welcoming 471 people to the performance that day.

LEADERSHIP

In 2013, Artistic Director Blake Robison instituted our Associate Artist model to bring diverse voices into the Playhouse's leadership circle. Currently, KJ Sanchez, Timothy Douglas and Wendy Goldberg serve as the Playhouse's Associate Artists, bringing their unique talents, backgrounds and perspectives to the table as artists who identify as Latinx, female, African-American and LGBTQ.

BRIDGING CULTURAL DIVIDES

The Playhouse strives to bridge cultural divides among its patrons by facilitating ongoing interaction and dialogue through audience engagement events. In September of 2017, one year after our production of *Disgraced* — the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by Ayad Akhtar about race, class and Islamophobia in America — we gathered a group of patrons to reflect on how the play impacted them, altered their worldview or changed their perspective. During this deeply personal discussion, one couple shared that they were so moved by the production's portrayal of different cultures that they had decided to welcome a Syrian refugee family that was relocating to Cincinnati by bringing them temporarily into their home and assisting them as they furnished their new apartment.



Debra Walton in *Mr. Joy*.



Miche Braden in *Marie and Rosetta*.



Barzin Akhavan and Bethany Jillard in *Disgraced*.

AMPLIFYING WOMEN'S VOICES

The Playhouse has an ongoing commitment to supporting women's voices in the theatre. Female playwrights have been underrepresented historically on our stages, so in recent seasons we have prioritized gender equity in our programming. In the 2017-18 season, both world premieres — Deborah Zoe Laufer's *Be Here Now* and Allyson Currin's *Sooner/Later* — were written by women. Through the Jerome Fey Endowment for New Plays, the Playhouse has commissioned six new plays from women playwrights since 2007. Recipients of Jerome Fey commissions include Cincinnati native Theresa Rebeck, Michele Lowe, Kia Corthron, Karen Zacarías, Deborah Zoe Laufer and Carson Kreitzer.



Instagram photo of Playhouse acting intern Psacoya Guinn (*Rapunzel*) with a young fan at a performance of *Rapunzel*.

INCLUSION OFF THE HILL

Our commitment to diversity, representation and inclusion is reflected in our Off the Hill program. Since acting interns from our Bruce E. Coyle Acting Intern Program (who perform in our Off the Hill series) often serve as the public face of the Playhouse, we are committed to hiring a multicultural group of performers that is comprised of at least 50 percent artists of color. This approach has had a tremendous impact. For example, the final outreach show of our 2017-18 season was a charming adaptation of *Rapunzel*. The script, written by award-winning playwright Mike Kenny, stayed faithful to its fairy tale setting while offering a nuanced perspective of independence, friendship and family relationships. An actor of color was cast in the lead role, and the costumes included fabric hair crowns (inspired by traditional, Mexican ballet folklorico headdresses) that were specifically designed to break away from the European imagery that's often associated with the story. For some children in attendance, it was their first time experiencing fairy tales with actors who looked like them.

PLAYHOUSE PRIDE

In June 2018, we hosted our fourth annual Playhouse Pride Night in conjunction with ArtsWave Connects Pride. More than 120 guests were treated to pre- and post-show festivities and enjoyed a performance of *Murder for Two* in the Shelterhouse Theatre. A portion of the proceeds was donated to the Transgender Health Clinic at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.



Board Members Jim Conway and Julia Wesselkamper (center) and *Murder for Two* cast members Eric van Tielen (left) and Eric Shorey (right) at the 2018 Playhouse Pride event.

OFF THE GRID

In our 2015-16 season, the Playhouse began to develop a series of one-of-a-kind events that are specifically designed to engage young professionals (YPs) who value unique, creative and participatory arts experiences. These artistic collaborations expanded the Playhouse's reach beyond its traditional audience base. Off the Grid activities are participatory in nature, engage the audience in the art itself and occur in non-traditional theatre locations. The program evolved and grew during the 2017-18 season. We engaged 844 participants and expanded our partnerships to include Rhinegeist, The Video Archive and the galleries at Cincinnati Art Museum.



Patrons experience an exhibit at Fright Night at Cincinnati Art Museum.

FRIGHT NIGHT

In our 2017-18 season, the Playhouse education staff worked alongside the Cincinnati Art Museum (CAM) staff and docents to integrate theatrical storytelling techniques with the museum's collections. At the sold-out Fright Night event in October 2017, Playhouse acting interns led participants on interactive "haunted tours" of the museum. Following the success of Fright Night, we expanded our collaboration to include multiple Art After Dark programs at CAM throughout the year.

ACCESSIBILITY

Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park is committed to ensuring that all residents in Greater Cincinnati have access to the arts, regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic status or physical abilities.

MACY'S STUDENT MATINEE | DEC. 13, 2017

Each year, Macy's, Inc. sponsors a student matinee performance of *A Christmas Carol* to provide a meaningful, high-quality arts experience for disadvantaged students in under-resourced schools and communities. The grant includes the cost of tickets, transportation and lunch. In our 2017-18 season, 502 students were bussed to the Playhouse from different schools across the Greater Cincinnati region, and after the performance, each of them received a brown-bag lunch and met the cast in person.



Bruce Cromer (as Ebenezer Scrooge) with a student at the Macy's student matinee of *A Christmas Carol*.



Students at the Macy's student matinee of *A Christmas Carol*.

SENSORY-FRIENDLY STUDENT MATINEE | DEC. 5, 2017

Live arts performances can be disorienting for students with sensory challenges. As a result, families with children on the autism spectrum are often unable to attend live theatre together, if at all. To directly address this need, the Playhouse makes live theatre more accessible through a special, sensory-friendly student matinee of *A Christmas Carol*. Adjustments include separate quiet rooms, sunglasses, fidget spinners, noise-reducing headsets, extra empty seats for each group of students to give them necessary space, technical adjustments to the performance itself, and an onstage staff member who gives a warning whenever a bright light or loud moment is approaching. In 2016, we hosted our first sensory-friendly student matinee of *A Christmas Carol*, and we were able to serve 159 students and 87 chaperones. In 2017, we hosted 184 students and 91 chaperones. Thanks to the generosity of The Daniel and Susan Pfau Foundation, the Playhouse will be growing these efforts in the upcoming seasons.

"Your staff was organized, engaged and ready for us ... The performers were brilliant, absorbing the special energy of the audience and playing it back for them — especially my son. Thank you for making us feel welcome and celebrated."

— Audience member and father of a child with autism

"The calming items/fidgets truly helped; the quiet rooms were utilized and were essential; and the ability to move to the upper level during the performance to provide some kids needed space from the stage proved helpful."

— A teacher from Williamsburg Elementary School



Most Valuable Kids program members attend a performance *A Christmas Carol*.

SUBSIDIZED TICKETS FOR AREA RESIDENTS (STAR)

Over the past 17 years, the Playhouse has provided free tickets and access to the arts for more than 5,000 low-income adults and children who may not otherwise have been able to experience the magic of live theatre. Several local organizations — including homeless shelters, treatment programs and organizations serving individuals with disabilities — administer tickets. Recipients in our 2017-18 season included Corryville Recreation Center, Goodwill Industries, Mayo Home for Youth Development, Most Valuable Kids, Prospect House and others.

OFF THE HILL

During the 2017-18 season, our Off the Hill touring series provided access to live theatre experiences for 5,948 residents of all ages across the Tristate. We partnered with 55 community organizations — including public libraries, retirement homes, community arts centers and halfway houses — to bring shows to Greater Cincinnati residents. These touring plays address important, relevant topics for families to help foster rich discussions at home, while helping neighborhood organizations place live arts experiences at the center of their communities.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Each year, the Playhouse brings touring productions to the Ronald McDonald House for children who range from 2 to 15 years old. During the 2017-18 season, we were able to bring the joy of live theatre to 26 youth and 28 adults, including kids, parents, family members and Ronald McDonald House staff. To accommodate patients who were unable to be in the general population due to the severity of their illness, we placed the entire set of the play in the main lobby.

“Thank you for the wonderful evening!! The kids and I loved it. Without your generous donation, we would never have been able to afford tickets to such an amazing event!”

— Most Valuable Kids program recipient

“Your institution has done us a real service in allowing some of our men to experience this play’s amazing richness and depth of character portrayal, and vivid, clear, inspired storytelling ... This was an evening that nourished the spirit, and authentically, organically stimulated the imagination (with art and beauty, not with chemicals), both much needed components in early recovery.”

— David Logan, Executive Director, Prospect House, on *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*



Taha Mandviwala as Pinocchio for the Off the Hill show *Pinocchio*.



The cast of the Off the Hill show *Pinocchio* with Ohio State Senator Cecil L. Thomas.



EMPOWERING LEARNING



Students attend a performance *A Christmas Carol*.

Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park is committed to providing quality, professional theatre experiences for residents across Greater Cincinnati. For area students, these activities supplement — and, in many cases, replace — vanishing school arts programs. For area theatre-lovers, these activities bring the backstage magic of the theatre to life and provide insights into the work behind the art's creation.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Playhouse arts-in-education programs address the need for arts activities at all grade levels from pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade through comprehensive education programs. In the 2017-18 season, we were able to serve 50,890 young people through our education programming — 48 percent of whom were students of color, many at Title I schools. Here is a brief overview of these programs:

- **School Outreach Tours** brought three productions to schools across Greater Cincinnati. All plays were performed by professional actors and featured professionally designed sets, costumes and sound. Each performance included a comprehensive study guide with curriculum connections and a post-show talkback session.

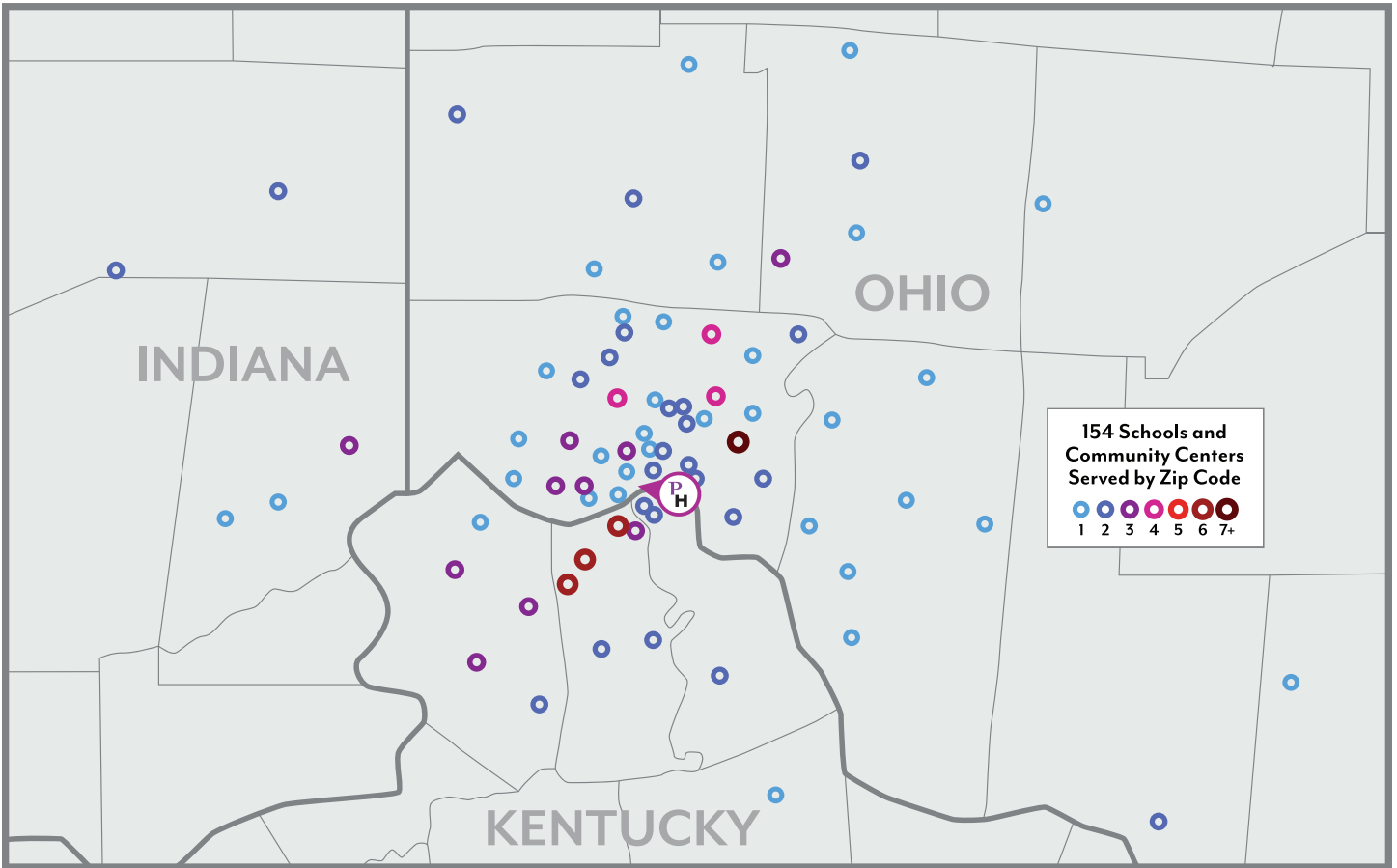
- **Student Matinees** brought students to the Playhouse to see matinees of our mainstage productions. Students saw plays in their entirety and participated in a question-and-answer session with the actors afterwards. Teachers received additional support materials, including study guides for the production, that enhanced the experience and drew connections to their curriculum.
- **Class Act!** pre- and post-performance classroom workshops reached students in tandem with our School Outreach Tour and Student Matinees. These workshops utilized drama education techniques to tie the themes of the productions to core curriculum.
- **School Workshops** engaged students through week-long, in-depth residencies that ranged from one to five days. Integration workshops examined reading and social studies topics through the lens of theatre, allowing students to deepen their relationship to Common Core material with a unique and engaging experience.



Playhouse Education Associate Kelsie Rae Buchanan leads a classroom workshop.

We worked directly with local teachers and administrators to bring an interactive experience to their classroom, based on their specific needs. This purposeful strategy and dedicated personalization has brought about noticeable differences for the participating students and helped us build strong relationships with the schools.

Playhouse programs impact more than **66,000** youth and students each year



Enrichment workshops brought theatre skills directly to the classroom, where students immersed themselves in the world of acting, playwriting, designing and more.

- **Playhouse Education Partnership (PEP)** brought students at three under-resourced Cincinnati public schools a year-long residency that provided frequent classroom and performance experiences. Silverton Paideia Academy, Rothenberg Preparatory Academy and Midway Elementary received two Outreach Tour productions, field trips to student matinees, Class Act! pre- and post-performance workshops, and week-long School Workshops, along with flexible options that included after-school clubs, school play support and professional development workshops for teachers. Playhouse staff members worked closely with teachers throughout the year to explore curriculum connections, plan activities and evaluate the program's progress.
- **Summer Camp** welcomed young people entering grades one through 12 in 2017-18. Inspired by unique, book-based themes, programs were designed to build confidence, strengthen communication skills and develop

a sense of ensemble and community. There was a 37 percent increase in campers compared to 2016-17, and we were able to provide 48 scholarships to students who otherwise would not have been able to participate.

- **Classes**, both in-school and on-site at the Playhouse, taught students how to band together as an ensemble and use their voices, bodies and imaginations to create complex tales and characters and develop their skills and confidence.



Students in rehearsal at the Playhouse's summer camp.



A performance at *The Impact of Sister Rosetta: A Celebration of Gospel, Blues, Rock and Jazz*.

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

The Playhouse organizes activities that deepen conversations throughout each season to enhance the audience's experience with the shows and to draw connections with the material to foster rich discussions. Events include panels, book clubs and lectures. Here are a few audience engagement events from the 2017-18 season:

- **Shakespeare Across the Arts | Sept. 25, 2017**

Panelists from local arts organizations discussed interpreting the Bard across different artistic mediums at Cincinnati Shakespeare Company's brand new, Over-the-Rhine Otto M. Budig Theater. Featured panelists included Blake Robison (Artistic Director, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park), Brian Isaac Phillips (Producing Artistic Director, Cincinnati Shakespeare Company), Victoria Morgan (Artistic Director, Cincinnati Ballet), D. Lynn Meyers (Producing Artistic Director, Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati) and Whitney Owens (Chief Learning Officer, Cincinnati Museum Center).

- **Playhouse Perspectives: Autism in Greater Cincinnati | Oct. 30, 2017**

Active members of Greater Cincinnati's autism community led a discussion to help audiences of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* gain a deeper understanding of the story's implied representation of autism. The actor who played Christopher (the show's protagonist) also joined to discuss the delicate nature of playing this character respectfully.

- **The Impact of Sister Rosetta: A Celebration of Gospel, Blues, Rock and Jazz | March 12, 2018**

More than 80 theatre- and music-lovers packed the Music Resource Center in Walnut Hills for a raucous and enlightening evening of songs and stories by local artists to enhance the experience of our production of *Marie and Rosetta*.

- **Page-to-Stage Book Clubs at Joseph-Beth Booksellers**

Participants joined Playhouse staff in discussions about *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and *Treasure Island*. Discussions focused on each piece of literature (the plot and characters, the overarching themes, how one might imagine it translates to a theatrical setting) and their interpretation of the show.

LEADING LADIES

The Leading Ladies program was founded on the idea that when women join forces, great things happen. In our 2017-18 season, the Leading Ladies program celebrated its fifth year with a record-breaking 171 members. Throughout the season, women came together from across the region for insider peeks into the behind-the-scenes world of the Playhouse. At four events, members learned what it takes to bring theatre to life and met the incredible professionals who accomplish this first-hand. Together, these remarkable and dedicated ladies raised \$104,000 to be the above-title production sponsor of *Marie and Rosetta*.



Leading Ladies at an exclusive event in 2018.



Leading Ladies members Patti Myers and Cathy Hogan at Leading Ladies: A Night on Broadway.



Leading Ladies and guests at the final dress rehearsal for *Marie and Rosetta*.

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2017-18 FISCAL YEAR

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

This list includes all non-Endowment gifts to the Playhouse received during the 2017-18 season.

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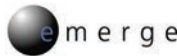


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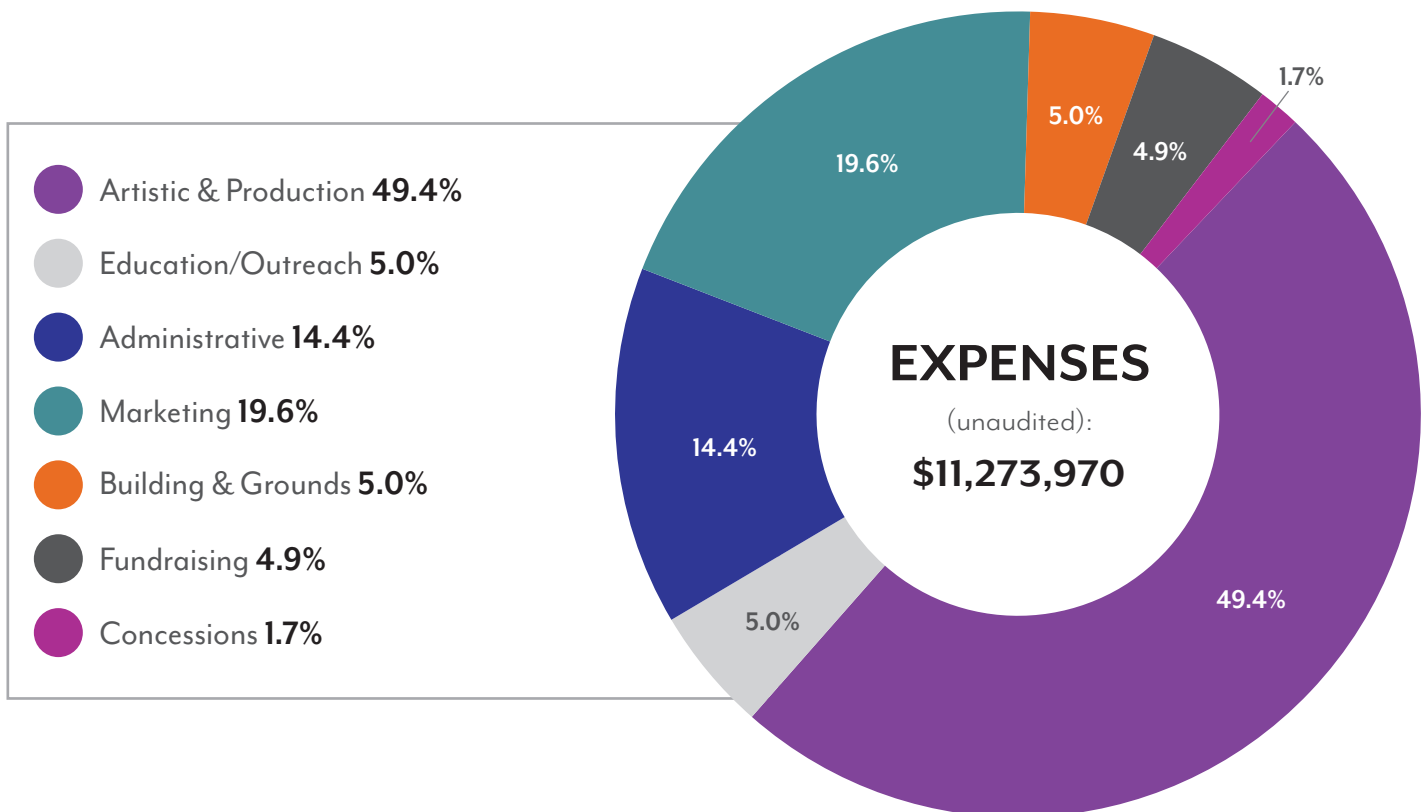
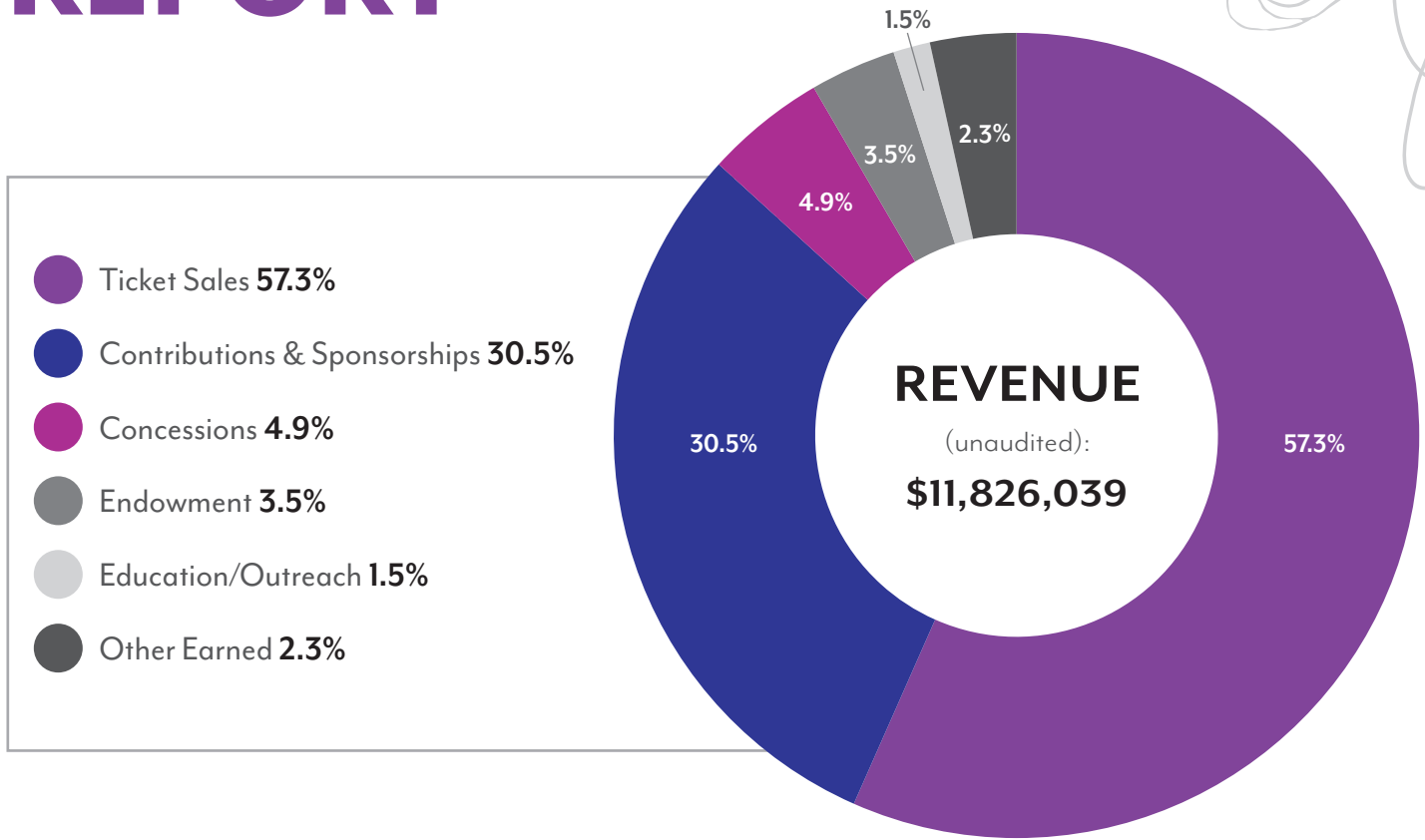
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