



Alliance Theatre - Education and Community Outreach Programs/Activities

The Alliance Theatre offers **School Day Performances**, a series of weekday performances of Alliance productions specifically for school groups. The productions teach students the collaborative nature of theatre and the importance of working as part of a team. The plays not only allow students to experience live theatre, but also tell stories that have important lessons, such as family values, honesty and the importance of friendship. Teachers receive curriculum-based study guides before bringing their classes to the performance, and there is a special low ticket price for student accessibility (\$6.50). More than 40,000 students (from 49 counties and 420 schools from all over the state of Georgia) attend school day performances at the Alliance Theatre.

Before Play and After Words are pre- and post-show discussions with the audience. These open dialogues offer the audience the opportunity to explore and discuss various aspects of the play with staff and/or the creative and production teams. There are approximately 50 Before Play and After Words discussion each season.

The Alliance Theatre Institute for Educators and Teaching Artists provides teacher seminars, classroom field trips to the Alliance Theatre, and curriculum-based classroom workshops. Through the Institute for Educators and Teaching Artists, the Alliance partners with 45 schools (approximately 180 classrooms and 4,000 students, grades pre-K through 12) in the metro-Atlanta area each year, more than half of which are underserved. In the Summer Seminar, teachers along with teaching artists prepare play-related units of study for the classroom, which are based on the Georgia Performance Standards and the National Standards in Arts Education. During the follow-up classroom residency period, students from our partner schools attend Alliance productions appropriate to their grade level. Alliance Theatre Teaching Artists then go into our partner schools from 10 classroom workshops, supported by four planning sessions between artists and teachers. These artist residencies engage students in writing, responding, thinking, acting, and exploring the themes and ideas in the plays. During the workshops, teachers learn through our teaching artists how to integrate theatrical elements across the curriculum and learn to use theatre as a catalyst for learning. By training teachers, the Alliance ensures a sustained impact; we empower teachers to use the arts as a tool to engage students, year after year, and independent of the Alliance Theatre's education staff.

To respond to the recent loss of arts education services in Fulton County and to address the needs of their low-income students at risk for academic failure, the Alliance Theatre has partnered with Fulton County Schools and expanded the Institute for Educators and Teaching Artists to further enhance arts education programming in Fulton County kindergarten classrooms. **The Alliance Theatre Institute for Educators and Teaching Artists/Georgia Wolf Trap Program** enhances the current Institute for Educators and Teaching Artists by expanding professional development opportunities for kindergarten teachers and administrators. It provides accessible programming for kindergarten classes through fully subsidized tickets and transportation to see productions at the Alliance Theatre. It creates longer residencies with more chances for collaboration between classroom teachers and teaching artists and more arts-integrated learning experiences for students. The project is contracting with Georgia State University to provide educational psychologists to conduct a scientific assessment of the

program's effectiveness, and will contract with Georgia Public Broadcasting to produce digital video examples of our program delivery. The results will be disseminated through conference presentations, publication, and posting documents and streaming video at strategic websites. This enriched model can guide other theatres for young people, arts agencies, school systems and other Wolf Trap Early Learning sites in the country that wish to serve young children through programs that significantly affect child development and academic achievement.

Collision Project is a teen playwriting program in which approximately 20 Georgia students study a classic play and use it as a model to make their own play about their contemporary experience. The students work with a professional playwright for three weeks each summer. The project concludes with a public presentation of the work in progress by the students. The playwright then takes the material and turns it into a production-ready script, which then tours to high schools the following season.

The Acting Program provides the opportunity to train with theatre education specialists and professional theatre and film artists. Designed for all ages and levels of experience from beginner to seasoned performer, the acting program consists of a selection of 50 classes creating opportunities for adults and children to learn acting for stage, film and television. More than 1,700 youth and adults participate each season.

In the summer of 2005, the Alliance installed a new hearing assistance system as well as a new system for audio description in order to better serve our audience members with visual and hearing disabilities. Since 1977, the Alliance has provided access to theatre patrons who are deaf or visually impaired. The program has grown to two shadow-interpreted performances, four sign-interpreted performances, and 13 audio-described performances each season. In September 2001, VSA awarded the Alliance the first "Arts Access Award" for its commitment to special services.

The Alliance provides discounts for educators, military personnel, students, and seniors. We give more than 23,000 free tickets each year to area teachers, arts leaders and low-income groups such as the Atlanta Urban Ministry, the Study Hall at Emmaus House, Atlanta Boys and Girls Clubs, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Secarus House, VSA Arts of Georgia, and Friendship Baptist Church, among others. In addition, the Alliance gives more than 500 tickets to local nonprofit organizations to be used in their fundraising efforts each season.

Each year, the Alliance Theatre partners with community organizations for FAMILIES Centerstage, a festival of activities for children and families. In the fall of 2005, the Alliance presented Avner the Eccentric along with Jewish Theatre of the South as a benefit for Habitat for Humanity. Following the Tsunami, the work and needs of CARE was featured during the January 2005 production *The Little Baby Snoogle-Fleejer*. During the run of the fall 2004 production, *The Fourth Wall*, the Alliance recognized 30 nonprofit organizations. Each organization received performance tickets, signage recognizing their work, and brochure distribution. In 2003 and 2004, the Alliance collaborated with nine local arts organizations with the City Series and City Series II.