

Hennepin Theatre Trust 2010-2011 Education and Community Engagement Programs

- ***SpotLight Musical Theatre Program***

SpotLight, Hennepin Theatre Trust's flagship educational initiative, recognizes and celebrates high school musical theatre students and schools. Working with commissioned evaluators from theatre education and the local theatre community, schools and students are provided with professional instruction and critical feedback. The program includes a mid-year *SpotLight Musical Theatre Conference*, inviting students from participating schools to attend workshops taught by arts professionals. Each spring culminates with the *SpotLight Showcase*, a professionally produced ceremony showcasing performances by outstanding *SpotLight* high school artists.

- ***Critical View***

The *Critical View* student reviewer program offers Minneapolis high school students the opportunity to improve their critical thinking and journalism skills by attending and reviewing touring Broadway productions. Students learn from guest speakers including local theatre critics and directors who discuss topics ranging from lighting design to choreography to differences in journalistic writing, thereby providing students with a foundation on which to draw in reviewing stage productions.

- ***Kids' Night***

Through *Kids' Night* events, Hennepin Theatre Trust introduces young audiences and their families to the magic of live theatre on a night designed for them. For selected performances, when an adult buys a regularly priced ticket, they get a children's ticket free! This popular promotion has also featured activities including kid-friendly menus at Trust restaurant partners, a *Kids' Night* Playbill program and giveaways.

- ***Teen Usher Program***

High school students can develop valuable work skills by ushering at professional theatres. Young people can interact with theatre professionals, find out more about careers in the entertainment industry, earn money and see performances free of charge. Students 16 years and older are eligible to apply.

- ***Access Program***

Through our *Access Program*, Hennepin Theatre Trust provides dozens of Twin Cities' educational, cultural and human service providers event tickets at no charge. Through this initiative, thousands of underserved community members may get the chance to experience live events including Broadway theatre, music, speakers and dance.

- ***Historic Theatre Tours***

The public is invited to join walking tours of Hennepin Theatre Trust's historic State, Orpheum and Pantages Theatres to get an up-close look at the architecture, decorative details and other elements of the buildings plus get an overview of the buildings' history. Tours are given each month on the second Saturday at 10 a.m. and the final Monday at 1 p.m. and last approximately one hour. The tours meet in front of the State Theatre Box Office and cost \$5 per person. Advance reservations are recommended. Group tours can be scheduled upon request.

- ***Volunteer Program***

Volunteers help Hennepin Theatre Trust reach more people in our community through administrative help, special event assistance, in-theatre ambassadorship or getting the word on the street. Benefits for Hennepin Theatre Trust volunteers include opportunities to take complimentary guided tours of the theatres, earn merchandise and attend shows.

- ***Broadway Confidential***

Broadway Confidential is a new series designed by Hennepin Theatre Trust to provide a deeper understanding of the material patrons see on stage and offer a glimpse into history and culture. These programs are available the Monday before opening night of each show for \$15 and include a talk led by a local expert on a selected topic, complimentary appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages.

For more information on these programs, please visit www.HennepinTheatreTrust.org or contact Melissa Koch, Director of Education and Community Engagement, at melissa.koch@hennepintheatretrust.org or 612.373.5696.