

something for **EVERYONE**



2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

**ALASKA
JUNIOR THEATER**
2015-2016 PROFESSIONAL FAMILY THEATRE



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alaska Junior Theater (AJT) has successfully closed our 34th Season. We opened in October 2015 with a special Halloween afternoon performance of *Click, Clack, Moo*, a “mooo-ving” musical about farm animals finding their voice. In December, we presented Ludwig Bemelman’s iconic book, *Madeline and the Bad Hat*, brought to life onstage with engaging songs, creative sets and a charming message for mother and daughters, and fathers and sons alike. We tumbled down the rabbit hole with *Alice in Wonderland* and met many peculiar characters such as the Mad Hatter, the Chesire Cat and the Queen of Hearts. In March, Lightwire Theater returned to Anchorage with *DINO-LIGHT: A Glow-in-the-Dark Adventure* that has been praised for its cutting edge blend of puppetry, technology and dance by audiences all over the world. We ended the season with *Scrap Arts Music*, the percussive precision of five hyper-kinetic performers with instruments transformed from salvaged and recycled scrap. In all, we had a good mixture of music, stories and life lessons for children to take away from these performances.



Students from Madeline workshop

During 2015-2016, we had three school shows that exceeded our goals. We moved shows to the larger Atwood Concert Hall or added additional days to accommodate the demand. Our Annual Benefit Dinner featured an action-packed performance from Scrap Arts Music, and we raised a \$37,000 for our education programs. With the success in fundraising and amazing sponsors and advertisers, we ended the year with a positive balance.

This fiscal year, AJT continued to make progress toward reaching our strategic goals through programming and outreach by accomplishing the following:

- 41,612 students and teachers attended our school performances with 8,394 of those attending from a Title I (low-income) school. The school performances achieved 102% of the revenue goal.
- *Click, Clack, Moo*, *Scrap Arts Music* and *Dino-Light: A Glow-in-the-Dark Adventure* all exceeded expectations for school attendance.
- In partnership with 21st Century Community Schools, AJT hosted artist workshops in Title I After-School programs at Muldoon, Nunaka Valley, Ptarmigan and Wonder Park Elementary Schools with a focus on musical theatre and storytelling.
- At the Halloween night performance of *Click, Clack, Moo*, AJT partnered with 18 organizations to provide AJT’s fourth community Trick-or-Treat Party after the public show; continuing a successful AJT Halloween Tradition.
- Acted as an anchor for *Scrap Arts Music* to travel to Seward & Fairbanks, Alaska where school shows and public performances were all filled to capacity in those communities as well!
- 277 volunteers helped make this season a success with 1,092 hours. This helped AJT raise the curtain on 45 performances, host 24 outreach events and change the lives of over 52,000 individuals in Anchorage and the surrounding communities.
- AJT’s Board held a wine tasting event, welcome dinners, Super Bowl party, a garage sale and participated in the Visit Anchorage Charity Walk raising nearly \$9,000 towards our Education Programs.

As part of our mission of bringing the best performing arts from around the world to Alaska’s young audiences, AJT continues to offer subsidized tickets to age-appropriate school shows with direct ties to Alaska Content Standards, study guides and bus transportation for students. Reaching nearly 40,000 students and teachers and providing 2,300 full scholarships throughout the year, AJT is ensuring every child has access to the wonderful world of LIVE performance.

AJT could not fulfill our mission without the generosity of our patrons, our volunteers, our sponsors and donors! Thank you for your continued support. By being involved with Alaska Junior Theater, you enrich the lives of young people and families in our community through the performing arts.

Sincerely,



Michael Buzinski

Michael Buzinski
Board President



Lainie Dreas

Lainie Dreas
Executive Director

[It is] wonderful to have students in the community seeing live arts. This is very valuable and makes a lasting impression.

– Kindergarten Teacher, Ursa Major Elementary.

ABOUT ALASKA JUNIOR THEATER

Alaska Junior Theater (AJT) is a nonprofit organization that has been bringing the best in professional theater from around the world to Alaska's youth and family audiences for 34 years. Each year, nearly 40,000 students attend a variety of live performances, which share the common educational goal of "bringing learning to life." For many students, AJT's school-time presentations are their only exposure to the performing arts.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION

Each show we present has a strong educational theme. Our shows are often able to inspire many students who cannot be reached in a more traditional classroom setting. Teachers also rely on our study guides to prepare their students for what they will see and to create classroom projects in history, social studies, geography, science and other fields. To augment our performances, we offer teacher and student performing arts workshops and master classes whenever they are available.

BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

AJT is committed to building a stronger community by presenting programs that offer different cultural perspectives to Alaska's children - thereby expanding their horizons, opening new worlds of insight into other cultures and inspiring them to work towards overcoming barriers. We also offer a public family series, allowing all members of the family to enjoy high-quality entertainment together.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS THROUGHOUT ALASKA

AJT continues to work on strengthening partnerships to bring theatre, music and dance performances to young people and families in smaller Alaskan communities. For the 2015-2016 Season, AJT built upon its relationships with cultural and community organizations with our Halloween Trick-or-Treat Party. AJT anchored a tour to Seward and Fairbanks with **Scrap Arts Music**.

CREATING ACCESSIBILITY

AJT is committed to keeping ticket prices low, allowing children of all financial levels to have a professional theatre experience. Our low educational ticket price of \$8 in Anchorage includes not only a performance, but also bus transportation for students and teachers to and from the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. This price covers half our costs of presenting the shows. To subsidize the remaining \$8 of each ticket, we actively fundraise and rely on the support of corporations, foundations and individuals with a strong community spirit to provide scholarship support. In addition, we fundraise to offer full scholarships, at a cost of \$15 each, to students with financial need. Since our inception, we have presented the best in the performing arts to over 1 million children and parents!

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Michael Cross, Technical Director
Rod Mehrtens, Set Rebuilder
Lorrie & Morris Horning, Founders



The cast of *Click, Clack, Moo* reading to the community at the Loussac Library.



The cast of *Alice in Wonderland* posing with our Cake Walk Winners of the stuffed pony donated by Wells Fargo.



Parents learn about upcoming shows as kids spin the wheel of prizes at AJT's Reading Rendezvous booth at Loussac Library.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The mission of Alaska Junior Theater is to bring the best performing arts from around the world to Alaska's youth and family audiences, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

Highlights of AJT's 2015-2016 Season:

- Provided 1,811 student scholarships to school shows.
- Raised the curtain on 45 performances.
- Reached 52,336 community members through educational performances and outreach activities.
- Partnered with 277 volunteers who contributed 1,092 of hours to ensure youth have access to the performing arts.
- Conducted 24 master classes, lectures or outreach events.
- Allocated 506 complimentary tickets to public shows.
- Distributed pre-performance study guides to teachers in the Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Borough School district teachers.

Click, Clack, Moo – AJT's annual Halloween Trick-or-Treat Party was held after the public show on all four floors of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, giving community businesses a chance to participate in a safe environment to hand out candy to kids.

“The students loved it. They were comparing it with the books we read in the classroom. They were all engaged and enjoyed themselves” - Grade 1, College Gate Elementary.

Madeline and the Bad Hat – While show attendance was below goals, those who came truly enjoyed the experience.

“It was our first play so they were thrilled. We had read the book along with a few other Madeline books so they were excited!” - Kindergarten, Ursa Minor Elementary.

Alice in Wonderland – The Pushcart Players return with another charming classic.

“I loooove AJT! Always an amazing experience for my students that may not otherwise be exposed to the arts!” - Kindergarten, Baxter Elementary.

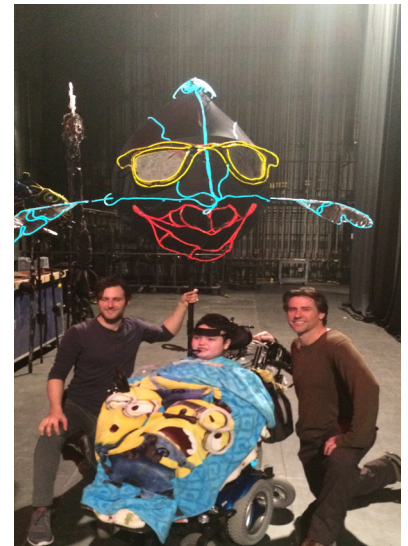
DINO-LIGHT: A Glow-in-the-Dark Adventure! – The highly anticipated Lightwire Theatre returns and received a 92% approval rating from teachers.

“I love programs that expose children to classical music! The students really expressed how they really understood the actions through the music and the emotions the music evoked” - Grade 1, 2, 3, Denali Montessori.

AJT's Annual Benefit – Scrap Arts Music performed as we celebrated 34 years of bringing the best in professional family theatre to Alaska during our annual benefit and raised more than \$37,000.00 for our Education Programs.

Scrap Arts Music – These artists returned to Anchorage and reach 12,734 people with their shows and residency.

“Gregory talking about the instruments, how they were made, and how they were played was really seamless and well presented. The humor was great, the show had a good pace and lots of energy. Gregory's message about being green encourages recycling and creativity in meaningful ways” - Orion Elementary.



Backstage with Lightwire Theatre - performers of *DINO-LIGHT!*



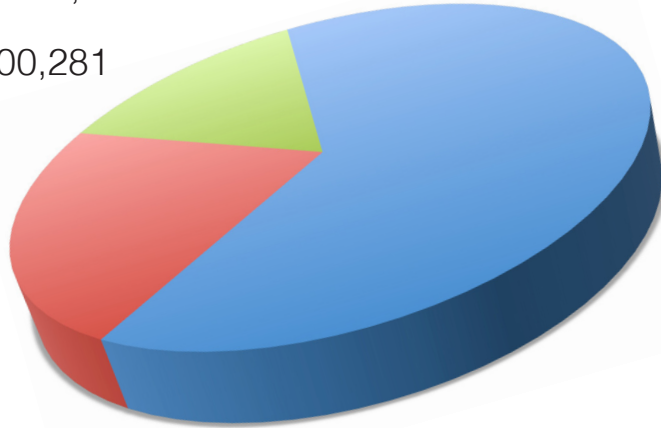
Scrap Arts Music Workshop



Children getting excited and ready to see *Click, Clack, Moo*.

Total Revenue: \$554,065

- Earned Income: \$370,009
- Contributions: \$100,281
- Grants: \$83,775



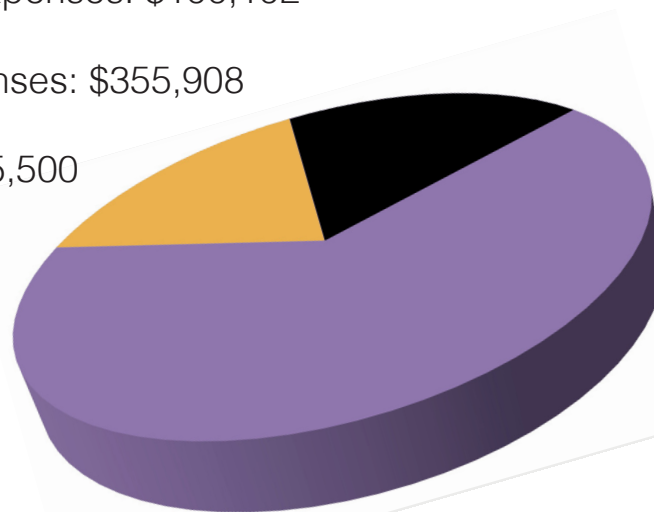
Click, Clack, Moo



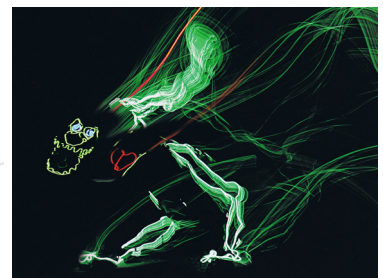
Madeline and the Bad Hat

Total Expenses: \$551,510

- Administrative Expenses: \$100,102
- Production Expenses: \$355,908
- Troupe Fees: \$95,500



Alice in Wonderland



DINO-LITE!

Alaska Junior Theater's performances would not be possible without the generous support of our donors. Thank you!



ATWOOD
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National
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Scrap Arts Music

2015-2016 COMMUNITY SUPPORT



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**Jacqueline Holzman,
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Emily Blahous
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Body Piercing Unlimited
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Bouncin Bears

Brenda Boyden
Boys & Girls Club
Anna Brawley
Patty Brown
Vee & Franklin Bruno
Buffalo Wild Wings
Jason Butler
Michael Buzinski*
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Cabin Fever
Caffé D'arte
Cake Studio
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Casa Centinela
Castle on O'Malley
Connie Chambers
William Chambers
Tyrone & Yvonne Charles*
Lucian Childs
CIRI Alaska Tourism
Classic Toys
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Color Me Mine Anchorage
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Copper Whale Inn
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David's Jewelers
Jacob Delgado
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
Denali Media
KTVA Channel 11
Denali Raft National Park
Denali Zipline Tours
Dessert First
Dimond Center Recreational
Mary Knox Dodge
Dollhouse Pottery
Sheryl Douglas
Al Dreas & Toni LaChappelle
Lainie Dreas+
Barbara & Richard Edwards
ELBY Charters
Laura & Ross Emerson
Mary Epperson
Far North Yarn
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Fire Island Rustic Bakeshop
FireTap
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Great Harvest Bread Co.

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Gypsum Rose of The North
H2Oasis Indoor Water Park
Hard Rock Café
Harp by Skookum
Harry J. McDonald Memorial
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Hilton Anchorage Hotel
Holiday Stationstores
Lorrie & Morris Horning
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Oil & Vinegar - 5th Ave Mal
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Jazlyn O'Neill-Pascua
Over the Rainbow Toys

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Kris Palmatier*
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Pandora
Lisa Parker, Nick & Steve Horn
Pendleton Arts
Henry & Juna Penney
Perfectly Posh
Piece of Cake
Carl Propes
Rapture Yoga & Arts
Real Estate Unlimited
Red Robin
Joe Romanosky*
Round Table Pizza
Heather & Lucas Saltzman*
Salon Ivy
Santa Ana Zoo in California
Scan Home
Scoop Trooper, LLC
Sea Galley
Seward Fishing Club
Lauren Sharrock
Sheraton Anch. Hotel & Ice Spa
ShuzyQ
Side Street Espresso
Silver Bullet Kenai River Guide
Jill & Brian Singleton*
SKHOOP Scandinavian Wear
Darcy Skinner
Skinny Raven Sports
Sleep Comfort by Nerlands
Alexander & Susan Slivka
Smokin' Fine Cigars & Tobacco
Soroptimist International
South Restaurant
Spensard Roadhouse
Staples Business Advantage
SteamDot Coffee
Stoney Creek Canopy Adventures
Studio 49
Subway of Alaska
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