



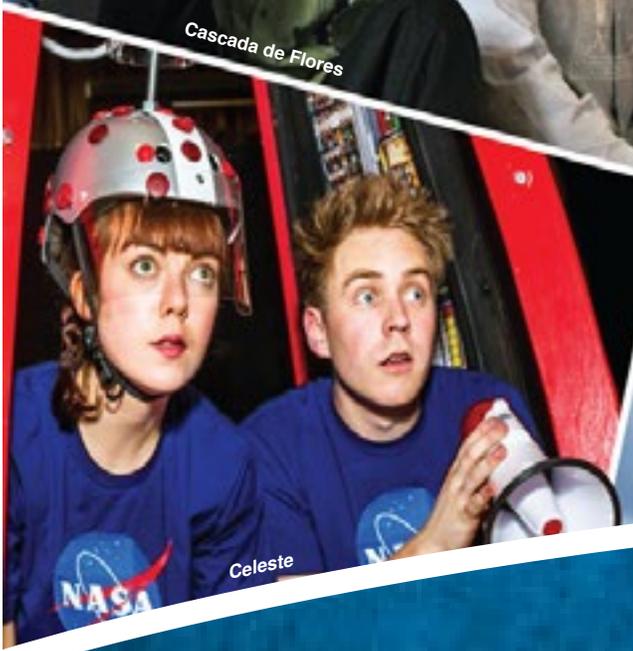
360 ALLSTARS



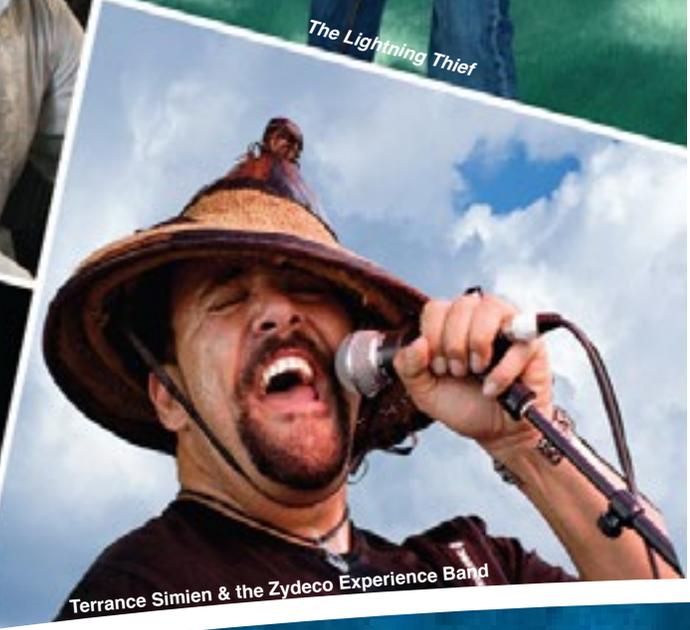
The Lightning Thief



Cascada de Flores



Celeste



Terrance Simien & the Zydeco Experience Band

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

ALASKA JUNIOR THEATER

2016-2017 PROFESSIONAL FAMILY THEATRE



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alaska Junior Theater (AJT) has successfully closed our 35th Season. We opened in October 2016 with a special Pre-Halloween performance of *The Lightning Thief*, a wonderfully imaginative musical adapted from the book by Rick Riordan. In December, we presented an exhilarating performance by **360 ALLSTARS** filled with break-dancing, BMX, Cyr-Wheel and so much more that really inspired the audience that with enough practice you can be good at anything. We blasted off into space with *Celeste* and learned that seeing things differently can be a wonderful gift. In March, **Terrance Simien & the Zydeco Experience Band** returned to Anchorage with their exotic blend of sounds and cultural influences from Louisiana. We ended the season with **Cascada de Flores** and listened to the achingly beautiful songs from Latin America's Golden Age spiced with creative Mexican humor. In all, we had a good mixture of music, stories and life lessons for children to take away from these performances.



Students playing rubboards during Terrance Simien & the Zydeco Experience Band.

During 2016-2017, the December show **360 Allstars**, exceeded our school show field trip expectations by 20%. Our Annual Benefit Dinner featured the return of **Terrance Simien and the Zydeco Experience Band**, and we raised \$34,000 for our education programs. This fiscal year, AJT continued to make progress toward reaching our strategic goals through programming and outreach by accomplishing the following:

- 35,667 students and teachers attended our school performances with 7,755 of those attending from a Title I (low-income) school. The school performances achieved 102% of the revenue goal.
- In partnership with 21st Century Community Schools, AJT hosted artist workshops in Title I After-School programs at Fairview, Muldoon, North Star, Nunaka Valley, Ptarmigan, Mountain View, Wonder Park Elementary Schools and Begich Middle School with a focus on dance, theatre and music.
- At the Halloween night performance of *The Lightning Thief*, AJT partnered with 19 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 **Cascada de Flores** to travel to Seward, Alaska where school shows and public performances were all filled to capacity in those communities as well!
- 244 volunteers helped make this season a success with 1,090 hours. This helped AJT raise the curtain on 35 performances, host 28 outreach events and change the lives of over 43,000 individuals in Anchorage and the surrounding communities.
- AJT's Board held a wine tasting event, welcome dinners, Super Bowl party, a garage sale, a Beer Tasting BBQ and participated in the Visit Anchorage Charity Walk raising \$12,460 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 36,000 students and teachers and providing 1,743 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,



Karen Gasque
Board President



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 35 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 2016-2017 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 **Cascada de Flores**.

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!



The cast of *The Lightning Thief* posing with children at the Halloween party.



Rhys Miller of 360 ALLSTARS and child during a circus workshop!



The cast of *Celeste* with children at a library workshop where they made cute little rockets.

2016-2017 Board of Directors

Karen Gasque, President
Yvonne Charles, 1st Vice President
Mary Jackson, 2nd Vice President
Kris Palmatier, Treasurer
Deanna James, Secretary

DIRECTORS

Jake Armstrong
Michael "Buzz" Buzinkski
Zobia Kennedy
Jim Kostka

Sheila Lomboy
Joe Romanosky
Brian Singleton
Cameron Reitmeirer
Karen Worthington

TRUSTEES

Brenda Arthur
Rob German
Donna Williams

Staff

Lainie Dreas, Executive Director
Angela Umstead & D'Ana Castro,
Education Associates
Alexis Sheeder, Marketing Associate

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

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 2016-2017 Season:

- Provided 1,743 student scholarships to school shows.
- Raised the curtain on 41 performances.
- Reached 43,336 community members through educational performances and outreach activities.
- Partnered with 244 volunteers who contributed 1,090 of hours to ensure youth have access to the performing arts.
- Conducted 28 master classes, lectures or outreach events.
- Allocated 462 complimentary tickets to public shows.
- Distributed pre-performance study guides to teachers in the Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Borough School district teachers.

The Lightning Thief– 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.

"I'm always amazed at how much is achieved on stage by a handful of talented actors and actresses and just a few props. I also appreciated the emphasis placed on universal themes applicable to some young viewers, particularly family relationships." -Grade 7, Mears Middle School

360 ALLSTARS – Exceeded school show expectations with 11,338 students and teachers attending.

"The idea that hard work is very rewarding and can be the best kind of fun was clearly communicated during this show. They mentioned a few times 10,000 hours of practice and you can be good at anything really sparked with my students. They were talking about what they wanted to invest their lives doing in the future. Thanks for such an inspirational Q&A Time!!!" -Grade Mixed Homeschool.

Celeste – Teachers gave this show the highest ratings of the year: 82.4% rated it 5 out of 5 and 11.8% gave it a 4.

"What a BRILLIANT and moving way to put Autism into perspective!!! Thank you for making it real and engaging" - Ursa Minor Elementary.

Terrance Simien & the Zydeco Experience Band– These artists returned to Anchorage and reach 7,338 people with their shows and residency.

"This is my favorite performance to attend. This band is so talented, engaging, and interactive. No one could be bored" - Second/Third Grade, Inlet View Elementary.

AJT's Annual Benefit – Terrance Simien & the Zydeco Experience Band performed as we celebrated 35 years of bringing the best in professional family theatre to Alaska during our annual benefit and raised more than \$34,000.00 for our Education Programs.

Cascada de Flores-These musicians shared so much with our community through three in-school presentations in addition to thier school and public shows at the theatre.

"I really like how it included female performers and other languages"
- Grade 1, Rilke Schule Charter School.



Cascada de Flores Music Workshop.



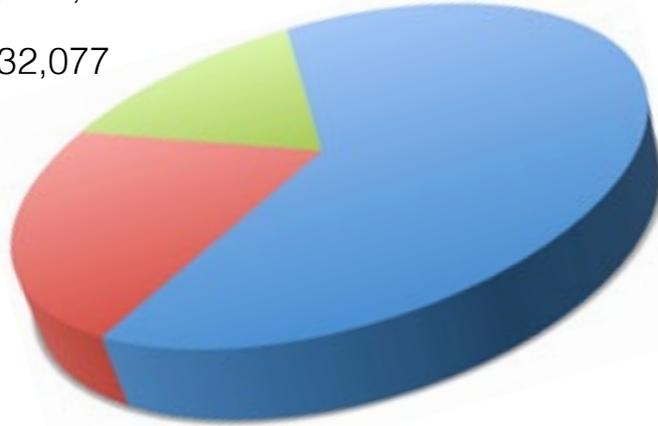
Terrance Simien & the Zydeco Experience Band Music Workshop.



Superman practicing during the 360 ALLSTARS Circus Workshop!

Total Revenue: \$515,538

- Earned Income: \$321,886
- Contributions: \$132,077
- Grants: \$61,575



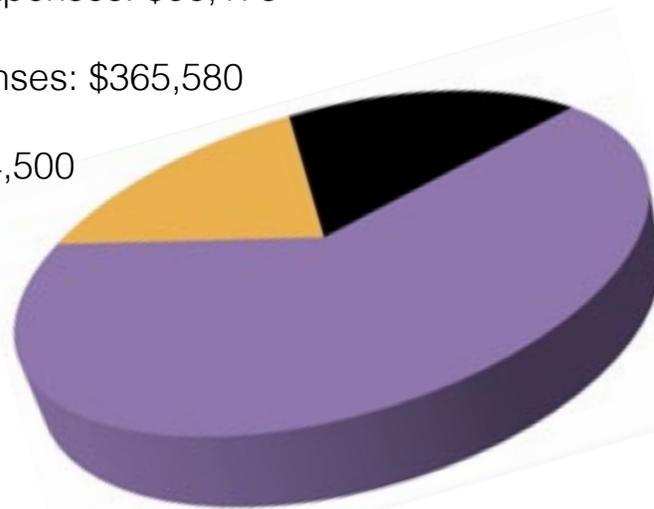
The Lightning Thief



360 ALLSTARS

Total Expenses: \$546,258

- Administrative Expenses: \$86,178
- Production Expenses: \$365,580
- Troupe Fees: \$94,500



Celeste



Terrance Simien & the Zydeco Experience Band

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



Cascada de Flores



2016-2017 COMMUNITY SUPPORT



**Crossroads Production
Light & Sound**



**Jacqueline Carr
The Carr Foundation**

**Barnard & Rachel
Gottstein**

Haf & Half, Inc.

**Jacqueline Holzman,
Frank Jeffries & Jordan
Jeffries**



**In Remembrance of
James C. Robertson, Sr.**

2 Friends Gallery
907 Surplus
A.B.A.T.E. Of Alaska, Inc.
Advanced Clinical Skin Care, LLC.
AJT Board of Directors
AK Starfish Co.
Aladdin's Fine Mediterranean
A Lakeside Bed & Breakfast
Alaska Aces
Alaska Aviation Museum
Alaska Center for the Environment
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts
Alaska Chamber Singers
Alaska Dance Theatre
Alaska Dinner Factory
Alaska Heritage Museum at Wells Fargo
Alaska Native Heritage Center
Alaska Peace Officers Association
Alaska Railroad Corporation
Alaska Public Media
Alaska Sealife Center
Alaska Sea Kayakers
Alaska Tech Services
Alaska Wooden Spoon Co.
Alaska Zoo
Alaskan Brewing Company
Alaskan Sweet Things
All About You Bodyworks
Allen & Peterson Cooking & Appliance Center
Bernice Allman
Alpenglow Acupuncture, LLC.
Janice Altman
Altman, Rogers & Co.
Anchorage Classical Ballet
Anchorage Concert Association
Anchorage Marriott Downtown
Anchorage Media Group
Anchorage Moose Lodge No. 1534
Anchorage Museum at the Rasmuson Center
Anchorage Opera
Anchorage Press
Anchorage School District
Anchorage Wine House
Anonymous
Arctic Mermaid Mosaic
Arctic RoadRunner, Inc.
Jacob Armstrong*
Art by Vonnie
Brenda Arthur*
Artique, Ltd
JoAnn Augdahl
Bagoy's Florist & Home
Barbara & Gary Baugh
Barnes & Noble
Bear Tooth Theatre Pub/Moose's Tooth Pizzeria
Bell's Nursery
Allison Biastock
Emily Blahous
Blockbuster Video
Blue Iris Photography
Emma Bolin
Bosco's
Boys & Girls Club
Wade & Paula Bradison

Anna Brawley
Patty Brown
Bubbly Mermaid Champagne
Cabin Fever
Amanda & Nick Busch
Michael Buzinski*
Cabin Fever
Caffe D'arte
Ellen Call
Harold & Judy Campbell
Ann Canaday
Sher Canady
William Canady & Angel Howard
Carrie Canup
Capital Office Systems
Carlile Transportation
Carrs/Safeway
Andreas Castelblanco & Julian Rojas
Castle On O'Malley
D'Ana Castro+
Catered Blessings Dessert First
Connie & Bill Chambers
Michael Chambers
Tyrone & Yvonne Charles*
Sarah Cleary- Pampered Chef
CIRI Alaska Tourism
Classic Toys
Cold Stone Creamery
Color Art Printing
Joshua & Anelis Comeau
Riley Conti
Copper Whale Inn
COSTCO
Chiquita Cothron
Credit Union 1
Cyranos Theatre Company
Kevin Dalzell
David's Jewelers
Deha Yoga
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Alaska Chapter
Denali Family Dental Center
Denali Raft Adventures, Inc.
Denali Zipline Tours
Dianne's Wild Fork Catering
Dimond Center Recreational Facilities
Dino's Donuts
Mary Knox Dodge
Doll House Pottery
Sheryl Douglas
Al Dreas & Toni LaChappelle
Lainie Dreas+
Linda & Steve Duwa
Will & Lisa Earnhart
ELBY Charters
Ross & Laura Emerson
Mary & Rufus Epperson
Fathom Graphics
Fire Island Rustic Bakeshop
Firetap Alehouse Restaurant
First National Bank Alaska
FlightLinez Bootleg Canyon
For Fun Alaska
D Franki Fox
Fred Meyers Community Rewards

Leslie Fried
Fromagio's Artisan Cheese
Vonnie Gaither
Jilene Galle
Ed & Karen Gasque*
GCI
Max & Michelle Geidi
Generous Health
Sarah Gerken
Amanda & Robert German*
Glacier View Cabins
Sandi Goersch
Grande Denali Lodge
Gray Chiropractic Health Clinic
Great Alaska Council/Boy Scouts Of America
Great Alaska Pizza Co.
Great Harvest Bread Company
Rachel Gregory
Staci Gulsvig
H2Oasis Indoor Waterpark
Cindy Hamilton
Harp By Skookum
Harry J McDonald Memorial Center
Her Tern
Erik & Robin Hill
Hilltop Ski Area
Hilton Anchorage Hotel
Brianna Hitchcock
Cindy Holderith
Holiday Station Stores
Pam & Graydon Horan
Lorrie & Morris Horning (Founders)
Shawn Horning & Claire Costello
Tom & Cheryl Howdysshell
Humpy's Great Alaskan Alehouse
Husky Homestead
iHeartMedia
Inlet Tower Hotel & Suites
Mary & Tony Jackson*
Jessica Jacob
Mike & Deanna James*
Ryan Jaramillo & Christie Watson
Jen's Restaurant
Jewel Lake Tastee Freeze
M. Dian Johnson
John Joseph
Sue Joyce
JPS Home Maintenance & Repair
K & L Distributors
Kaleidoscope Play Studio
Kare-N-Hands
Kenai Fjords Tours
Sean & Zobia Kennedy*
KFAT 92.9 FM
Kobuk Coffee
Dave & Cassie Kosinski
Teri, Carolyn & Jim Kostka*
Ron Kotyk
Peter & Ena Laliberte
Law Office Of Michael J. Walsh
LaVerne Lee
Mary Lee Allen & Andrew Allen
Kelly Levitt
Liz Bowen Glass Artist
Loft Hair Design
Logistics, LLC.

Alex & Sheila Lomboy*
Lowe's Home Improvement
Major Marine Tours
Editha Manansala
Marie's Beauty Salon & Supply
Leah Martinez & Bryson Spicer
Patricia McAdoo
Bryce McCandless
Mike & Paula McCarroll
Julia McClure
Adam McCullough & Erika Griffith Stafford
Samantha McGee
McGinley's Irish Pub
Ryli Meehan
Rod Mehrtens
MeTV
Travis Michel
Miller's Landing
Tish & Russ Millette
Ann Morgester
Cerise Morse
Marie Motschman
Bill & Heather Mott
Mr. Prime Beef
NANA WorleyParsons
Odyssey Sleep Works, Inc.
Office Of Senator Dan Sullivan
Office Of The Mayor
Ohana Media Group
Oil & Vinegar
Once In A Blue Moose
Liz Osorio*
Over the Rainbow Toys
Ozarks
Kerry & Connie Ozer
Kris Palmatier* & Joe Sonnier
Pandora
Papa Murphy's Take & Bake Pizza
P.E.T. Project/Joann Shore
Pendleton Fine Arts
Phil & Henry Penney
Audrey Phelps
Tina Pidgeon
Phil & Joan Pragman
Lisa Prince
Carl Propes
PubHouse Gastropub
Putters Wild
Rayville TNT Sports
Real Estate Unlimited
Red Robin Alaska, Inc./Pizza Studio
Kim & Cameron Reitmeier*
Rhonda Scott Art
Richardson Spouses' Club
Ada Riojas
Rise & Shine Bakery
Cynthia Roland
Janine & Joe Romanosky*
Round Table Pizza
Barbara & Raymond Rouzan
Rover Trade Co.
Sacks Cafe & Restaurant
Santa Ana Zoo
Scan Home
Darl Schaff
Scoop Trooper, LLC
SeaGalley

Alexis & Ryan Sheeder+
Sheraton Anchorage Hotel & Ice Spa
Liz & Ken Sherwood
ShuzyQ
Side Street Espresso
David Sierks
Signature Land Services
Jill & Brian Singleton*
SKHOOP, Smart Scandinavian Wear, LLC.
Skinny Raven Sports
Sleep Comfort By Nerlands
Snow City Cafe
South Restaurant
Spenard Roadhouse
Jeanine & Al St. John
Danielle Stark
Brett Starr
Jennifer & Bob Stratton
Greg Stoddard
William Stokes
Stoney Creek Canopy Adventures
Studio 49
Subway Of Alaska
Sullivan's Steakhouse
Summit Spice & Tea Co.
Carrie Sumner
Dorea Sun
Sunshine Custom Promotions
Sweet Caribou
Talketna - Denali Zipline Tours
Pam Tanora
Tastee Freeze
Virginia Taylor
Deanna & Richard Teders
Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport
The Alaska Club West
The Chicago Cubs
The Midnight Sun Cakery
The Waterworks Spas & Saunas
Three Bears Farm
Anna Tillman
Tons Of Fun Entertainment
TOTE Maritime Alaska
Angela Umstead
Uncle Joe's Pizzeria
Dr. Warren Urda
Ashley Vega-Barrera
Visit Anchorage
Vital Communications
Shelly Wade & Dave Soquet
Sandi Waldroup
Walgreens
The Waterworks Spas & Saunas
Welakahao Catamaran, Inc.
Angie Wellborn
WESTAF
Wet N Wild Hawaii
What-A-Hoot
Donna H. Williams*
Carla Wight
Sam Wolfe
Brian & Karen Worthington*

* indicates AJT Board Member
+ indicates AJT Staff