



# Backstage Pass

Alaska Junior Theater Newsletter March 2018- Edition 36 Vol. III

## Step Up! for **STEP AFRiKA!**

**Step Afrika!** blends percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities, African traditional dance and influences from a variety of other dance forms. Founded in 1994 as the first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping, **Step Afrika!** is now one of the Top Ten African American dance companies. Performances are much more than dance shows; they integrate songs, storytelling, humor and audience participation. The blend of technique, agility and pure energy makes each performance unique and leaves the audience with their hearts pounding.



**WHAT IS STEPPING?**

Stepping is a rising art form and an important part of America's artistic and cultural heritage. In stepping, the body is used as an instrument to create intricate rhythms and sounds through a combination of footsteps, claps and the spoken word.

**ORIGIN OF STEPPING**

Stepping is based on a long and rich tradition in African-based communities that use movement, words and sounds to communicate allegiance to a group. It draws movements from African foot dances, such as Gumboot, originally conceived by miners in South Africa as an alternative to drumming, which was banned by authorities.

The stepping tradition in the United States grew out of song and dance rituals practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities, beginning in the early 1900s.

**SCHOOL PERFORMANCES:**  
 Recommended for Grades 1 - 12  
 March 20 - 22, 2018  
 10:00 AM and 11:45 AM

**PUBLIC PERFORMANCE:**  
 Great for Ages 6 and up  
 Friday, March 23, 2018  
 7:30 PM

**ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER:**  
 March 24, 2018  
 5:30 PM  
 Anchorage Marriott Downtown

# Tips For Teachers

Hello Teachers,

I hope everyone has had a great school year thus far, and is getting ready for a much needed spring break. I want to thank you all for being amazing patrons this year.

It's not too late to register for the amazing performances ahead! Seats are available for **Step Afrika!** and *Peter and the Wolf*. Contact us, or find a Teacher Registration Form on our website at [akjt.org](http://akjt.org) to bring your students to these fun-filled shows.

If you send a registration form and do not receive an email or fax confirmation, that means I did not receive the form. Please call us after 48 hours to confirm.

All shows will be scheduled at least five weeks before the show date. If you have not received your scheduled date and time by then, contact me at the office. Read the instructions for registration on our website: [www.akjt.org](http://www.akjt.org). It gives you the process from registration to getting to the theater.

You can keep up with the latest AJT information, on Facebook. Search for Alaska Junior Theater and LIKE our page. Please don't hesitate to call (272-7546) or email ([education@akjt.org](mailto:education@akjt.org)) with any questions you may have.

See you in the theater!,

*Elizabeth Serrano*, Education Associate



## Annual Benefit Dinner

# STEP AFRIKA!

## Saturday, March 24, 2018

### 5:30 PM at Anchorage Marriott Downtown

A champagne reception, dinner, silent & live auction and a live performance by **Step Afrika!**

**“A perfect rhythmic storm...high-energy movements with feet and hands adding flair through total body articulation.”**

**–The Daily News, Egypt**



**Regular Tickets \$85.00**  
**Teacher Price - \$60.00**

Call 272-7546    [www.akjt.org](http://www.akjt.org)



# The Final Show of our 2017-2018 "Season of Journeys!"



## PETER and the WOLF



### ABOUT THE SHOW

Prokofiev's classic *Peter and the Wolf* comes to life as the Emmy nominated **Pushcart Players** reinvent this enchanting tale about the adventure of growing up where danger becomes reality. Children will be mesmerized by the beloved characters of Peter our hero, Clara the duck, Sasha the bird, Ivan the cat, and, of course, the vicious wolf. Peter is warned repeatedly not to go into the woods by his grandfather but his boyish curiosity gets the best of him. Find out what happens to Peter and his friends in this captivating tale and charming introduction to the magical sounds and musical instruments featured in Prokofiev's exciting musical score.

### ABOUT PUSHCART PLAYERS

**Pushcart Players** was founded in 1974 with the mission is to provide professionally produced theatre, workshops and residencies for K – 12 students to foster in-depth understanding, discovery, participation and life long love for and support of the arts.



### SCHOOL PERFORMANCES:

Recommended for grades Pre K- 6  
April 16 - 20, 2018  
10 AM and 11:45 AM

### PUBLIC PERFORMANCES:

Great for ages 5 and up!  
Saturday, April 21, 2018  
2:00 PM



Alaska Junior Theater  
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To view more, visit us at [www.akjt.org](http://www.akjt.org) or LIKE us on FACEBOOK.  
To submit photos & story ideas, email [marketing@akjt.org](mailto:marketing@akjt.org).

## IMAGINE THE MAGIC...

*...when you hear  
the very first note of  
the song. You create  
the magic when you  
donate to Alaska Junior  
Theater through Pick  
Click Give.*



Pick.  
Click.  
Give.

AKJT.ORG



# Sneak Peak

Here is just a small sample of items to be showcased at AJT's Benefit Silent & Live Auctions.  
Get your bidding arm warmed up – there's more to be had.



Art by Vonnie  
"Barefootin"

Birds by  
Marieke Heartwole



Denali Zipline  
3 Hour Tour



Stuffed Curious  
"George-zilla"



Moose  
Table Mats

Round Trip  
Alaska Airline Tickets



Make your own  
Martini Basket



Antique Alaskan  
Dollhouse

Lots of  
Mystery Wine!!



**Alaska Junior Theater**

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