



Backstage Pass

Alaska Junior Theater Newsletter

January 2020 - Edition 38 Vol. II

Happy New Year!

You can now apply for your 2020 PFD. Imagine the Magic you can create when you support Alaska Junior Theater through Pick.Click.Give. AJT depends on support of individuals, companies and foundations that believe all children should have access to professional performing arts. Thank You for your Support and Patronage.



Two Down...



“Mean Mugging” with Soul Street at Muldoon Library

This season got off to a great start in October with the return of **Soul Street Dance Company**. The crew was amazing to work with and they made a huge impact on our community. They hosted three public workshops, two school visits, performed for thousands of students in the Atwood Concert Hall and ended their Alaska run with a public show exploring the history of American music, culture, dance and hip hop.

While in Alaska, we even made a music video with them. They danced all over downtown to a track they made about performing in Anchorage. You can check out the video on the AJT Facebook page.

Then in December, we presented *Sleeping Beauty* as told by Grandmaster Storyteller David Gonzalez. The show and performers were big hit with all the students and families that came out to see this multimedia experience. David visited two schools and lead a storytelling session at the Eagle River/Chugiak Library.

After the public show, we invited everyone back stage for snacks, games and a chance to meet David and his talented piano player David Kelly. There were lots of smiles and pictures.

Both **Soul Street** and **Sleeping Beauty** got our year off to a great start and raised the bar for the the rest of the season.



Princesses posing with the performers from *Sleeping Beauty*

Other Ways to Help



Donations & Fundraisers

Direct Donations. Attend AJT Fundraisers. Sign up for Amazon Smiles and Fred Meyer's Community Rewards.



Attend Shows

Dog Loves Books (School Shows)
Kattam and his Tam-Tams!
The Velveteen Rabbit



Volunteer

Show Usher. Office Work. Hang AJT Posters. Special Event Planning. Join the AJT Board. Like, Follow and Share AJT on Social Media.



Something for Everyone Preview Shows at akjt.org



...and Three to Go!

Alaska Junior Theater's "Get Up and Move" 2019-2020 Season continues with *Dog Loves Books*, *Kattam and his Tam-Tams* and *The Velveteen Rabbit*.



DOG LOVES BOOKS

School Shows Only
February 3 - 7, 2020
10:00 AM & 11:45 AM
Discovery Theatre

Louise Yates' New York Times bestseller comes to life in ArtsPower's musical about the irresistible Dog who loves everything about books. In fact, he loves books SO much that he decides to open his own bookstore and act out fun stories for his customers. Everything from dancing dinosaurs to funny fairy tales. His customers can't help but get into the act too! How could Dog's bookstore not be a success?



Kattam et ses and his Tam-Tams



Percussionist and storyteller **Kattam** invites you to move with the rhythm of Africa, the Middle East and India through song and dance! Experience African rap, desert dance to trance sufi rhythm and hints of Bollywood. Accompanied by his monkey and his two friends, **Kattam** never fails to delight and involve his audience!

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Public Show March 20, 2020 7:30 PM Atwood Concert Hall | School Shows March 17 - 19, 2020 10:00 AM & 11:45 AM Atwood Concert Hall | AJT Benefit Dinner March 21, 2020 Call for Tickets 272-7546 |
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The Velveteen Rabbit

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| Public Show May 2, 2020 2:00 PM Discovery Theatre | School Shows April 27 - May 1, 2020 10:00 AM & 11:45 AM Discovery Theatre |
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A young boy's love and a little nursery magic help transform *The Velveteen Rabbit* from a favorite plaything into a real rabbit. The Boy and Velveteen Rabbit embark on exciting imaginary adventures and learn the true meaning of friendship in this musical re-telling of Margery Williams Bianco best-known story performed by the always-engaging **Pushcart Players**.





Welcome Back Teachers

CenterTix
AKJTC
.com

I hope everyone had a great Winter Break and that you are as energized for the Spring semester as I am! I want to thank you all for being amazing patrons this year. If I have not had the chance to introduce myself to you yet, my name is Tina Taylor; I took over as the Education Associate for AJT right before our first performance of the season. I have learned so much, so fast, with just the first two performances! I am so excited for the rest of the season and to continue getting to know you all!

As we are getting back into the swing things, please take a moment to note the payment deadlines for the rest of the shows this season and remember that this is also the deadline to lower your seat count; after this date teachers will be held financially responsible for the number of seats they have reserved.

It's not too late to register for any of the amazing performances ahead! Seats are available for all three upcoming shows. Contact me or find a Teacher Registration Form on our website (akjt.org) to bring your students to these fun-filled shows.



READ ALL CONFIRMATIONS CAREFULLY!

All shows will be scheduled at least four weeks before the show date. If you have not received your scheduled date and time by then, contact me at the office as soon as possible!

If you have not signed up for **Kattam and his Tam-Tams**, make sure you do! This is the show I am most excited about this season and it is not one your class should miss out on. Percussionist and storyteller Kattam Loraki-Côté brings the rhythm of Africa, the Middle East and India through song and dance and never fails to delight and involve his audience! Also, be sure to consider attending the AJT Annual Benefit Dinner on March 21st, where Kattam will be our featured artist and give a special performance. This year's theme will be **Middle Eastern Masquerade**, with costumes and masks encouraged! Teacher ticket prices are discounted to \$65.00 each. Call our office to reserve your seats.

Never hesitate to call (272-7546) or email (education@akjt.org) with ANY question big or small. I'm always happy to help and love the chance at getting to know my teachers (and A/A's) better!

Tina Taylor
Education Associate

Join the Alaska Junior Theater Team!

We're so glad Tina has joined AJT! There is a spot on the team for you - or someone you know. AJT is looking the next Marketing Associate.

- **Great Experience**
- **Great Location**
- **Great Perks**

For a complete job description and information on how to apply, head to akjt.org.

Alaska Junior Theater
Wants You!

Now Hiring
Marketing Associate

Join us on our mission to bring World-Class stage productions to Alaska for students and families.

Alaska Junior Theater's 2020 Annual Benefit Dinner Middle Eastern Masquerade



Dinner, Drinks,
Auctions and a Special
Performance by



Kattam et ses and his Tam-Tams



Alaska Junior Theater is celebrating 38 years of bringing the best professional performing arts to Alaska's youth with a Middle Eastern Masquerade on Benefit Dinner on **Saturday, March 21, 2020**.

The evening includes a champagne reception, dinner, silent and live auction and a special live performance by International Percussionist and Storyteller Kattam Laraki-Côté, who invites you to discover Africa, the Middle East and India through rhythm, song and dance.

The proceeds raised from this dinner will go directly to supporting Alaska Junior Theater's art and education program for the year as well as full scholarships for underserved children in our community.

Due to the generosity of our community, last year's benefit raised over \$26,000 for AJT's Arts & Education programs. If you would like to attend, please call us at 272-7564.

Attend or Donate

You can also help by donating items for our silent and live auctions. We greatly appreciated all of these auction donations that helped us bring the best in live professional theatre to more than 37,000 children last year. This fabulously entertaining Dinner/Theatre Benefit will be our primary fundraising event of the year, so we ask that you give generously by March 13, 2020. You can find the "Auction Item Donation Form" on our website - www.akjt.org.



Alaska Junior Theater

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Open Monday to Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM 430 W. 7th Ave. Suite 30 (907) 272-7546 www.akjt.org