



Nick McDermott, AJT Marketing Associate in an *Air Play* balloon.

Backstage Pass

Alaska Junior Theater Newsletter

January 2019 - Edition 37 Vol. IV

Air Play Shares Milestone with Alaska!



The duo that form **Acrobuffos** flew into Alaska looking for an adventure - and they sure got one! While here, they planned to perform seven shows for students and families but Alaska had other plans. Our states historic 7.0 earthquake on Friday, November 30th closed schools, shutdown the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts and kept Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone from taking the stage for what was to be the 200th performance of their breathtaking and heartwarming production - *Air Play*.

Once the shaking stopped, Alaskans did what we do best and got back to work. In our state, and in the theatre, we live by the saying "The show must go on!"

And, it did. We picked up our stuff, fixed our homes and schools, checked the theater lights and got **Acrobuffos** on the Atwood Concert Hall Stage for their 200th show - just one day after one of the biggest earthquakes ever!

Sitting in the audience for the public show that Saturday night was just what many of us needed after the quake. We were taken away from our worries and gently carried back to our childhoods.

Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone shared something special with us and it will live on in the memories of many families forever tied to the November 30th that Rocked Alaska.

Also, Christina got to see her first moose.



Pushcart Players Return with Stone Soup and Other Stories

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE
February 9, 2019 at 2:00 PM
Great for ages 5 and up!



The always engaging **Pushcart Players** return with *Stone Soup and Other Stories*. This charming, well-seasoned blend of carefully selected stories will delight audiences of all ages.

The stories that will be brought to life include:
Freddie Lee Fisher, passed down from the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia
The Great Being, a folktale favorite from India
The Long One, an African folktale
and *Stone Soup*, a classic with Eastern European roots.

Each tale is filled with music, fantasy and fun while playfully sharing the spirit and customs of other cultures.

Pushcart Players' 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 and support of the arts.

****Get Tickets at 263-ARTS or www.akjt.org****

Meet the Pushcart Players

Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019 @ 4:00 PM
Muldoon Library Reading & Craft event
(1251 Muldoon Rd).

Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019
"Milk and Cookies Reception"
after the 2:00 PM performance
sponsored by Stone Soup Group.





Hello Teachers!

I hope everyone has had a great winter break and that you are energized for the spring semester. 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 all three upcoming shows, *Stone Soup and Other Stories*, *Moon Mouse: A Space Odyssey* and *Emily Brown and the Thing*. Contact me, or find a Teacher Registration Form on our website at akjt.org to bring your students to these fun-filled shows.

READ ALL CONFIRMATIONS CAREFULLY!

If you send a registration form and do not receive an email confirmation within 48 hours, that means I did not receive the form. 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.

If you have not signed up for *Emily Brown and the Thing*, 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. Also, the book *Emily Brown and the Thing* written by Cressida Cowell is simply wonderful and one I know your students would enjoy. If it is not available in your school library, I know you can purchase it on Amazon (make sure you sign up to support AJT through Amazon Smile before you buy it!).

Be sure to consider attending the AJT Annual Benefit Dinner on March 23rd featuring *Moon Mouse: A Space Odyssey*. Teacher ticket prices are discounted to \$60.00 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!

Kind Regards,
Elizabeth Serrano
Education Associate



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Alaska Junior Theater's office (430 W. 7th Ave.) is open Monday to Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
Phone: 272-7546 Website: www.akjt.org



Something for Everyone Preview Shows at akjt.org

GET TICKETS
CenterTix
or 263-ARTS

MOON MOUSE A SPACE ODYSSEY



Lightwire
THEATER

AJT is excited to bring **Lightwire Theater** back to the Atwood Concert Hall Stage with a great new production.

Marvin the Mouse wants to be popular. Constantly bullied by the "cool" rats, Marvin retreats into his science books and a world of fantasy. He embarks on a space adventure to the moon on his homemade rocket where he meets many misfit creatures, learns of infinite peril and learns to be a Hero.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

March 19 - 22, 2019
10:00 AM & 11:45 AM
Recommended grades: 1-6

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

March 22, 2019
7:30 PM
Great for ages 6 and up!



Join us for the **2019 Annual Benefit Dinner** including a champagne reception, silent and live auctions and a performance by Lightwire Theater. For information about table sponsorships or to purchase individual tickets, call our office at 272-7546.

EMILY BROWN and the THING

SOMETHING MONSTROUS IS KEEPING EMILY BROWN AWAKE...

Tall Stories Theatre Company returns to bring a favorite children's character to life: *Emily Brown and the Thing*. Emily Brown leaps from the pages of her beloved children's series to help a new friend.

She and her old grey rabbit, Stanley, hear the Thing crying outside their window. No matter what he tries, the Thing just can't sleep. So, Emily and Stanley set off on a magical and musical adventure to find out what is keeping the Thing awake.



PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

April 26, 2019
7:30 PM
Great for ages 5 and up!

SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

April 22 - 26, 2019
10:00 AM & 11:45 AM
Recommended grades: Pre K - 4



Join Us for the AJT Pajama Party!

- * 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Friday, April 26th at the Discovery Theatre Lobby
- * Stories, Games, Prizes, Milk and Cookies!





Rocked by the Earthquake

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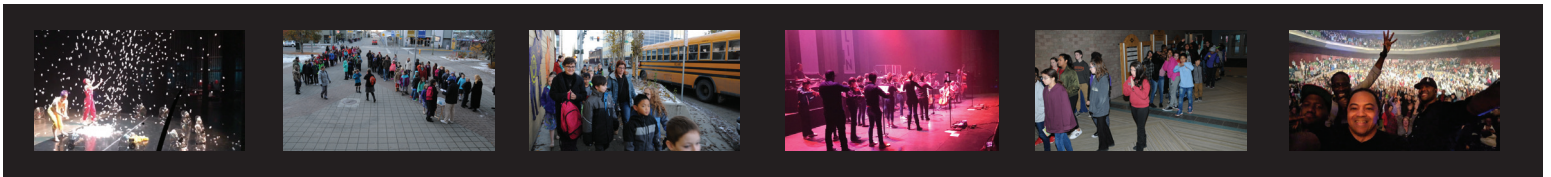
We would like to thank those who have already stepped up help Alaska Junior Theater start to recover from our financial aftershock. Many of our community partners, teachers and donors have come forward -- but we still have a ways to go to get back on stable footing.

Please Help us Repair the Cracks to our Bottom Line

The November 30th Earthquake cancelled two sold-out school shows in the Atwood Concert Hall and halted public ticket sales for our show *Air Play* causing AJT to suffer approximately \$40,000 in lost revenue and unexpected expenses. Much of the production expenses for that show are not recoverable and we do not have the resources to sustain such a loss. Our ability to provide educational and engaging live theatre productions to students and families is now at risk of being severely affected.

We are the only organization that does what we do and we need your help, simple as that.

So, if you want to live in a community that has high quality family theatre productions from around the world, please consider making a donation today through our website: www.akjt.org. Thank you for your continued support.



Alaska Junior Theater's success is dependant upon the time and monetary support of individuals, companies and foundations that believe that children throughout Alaska should have access to professional performing arts. We work hard to keep ticket prices low to ensure all young people have access to the arts. However, that means we also need your financial help.

Alaskans have the unique opportunity to help organizations we care about through the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD). As you apply for your PFD online, please consider supporting Alaska Junior Theater in the 2018-2019 Season. Your generosity will make a positive impact on the lives of Alaskan students and the future of our state. This program provides a safe, secure and easy way to make an October 2019 donation. Consider a gift today!

If every Alaskan gvides a little, think of the power we all have together to make a change in our state.

