



# ALASKA JUNIOR THEATER

2011 - 2012



[www.akjt.org](http://www.akjt.org)

30<sup>TH</sup>

anniversary  
season

1981-2011

30 years of PROFESSIONAL FAMILY THEATRE  
BRINGING THEATRE TO LIFE ■ Annual Report



## A message from the President & Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Alaska Junior Theater is honored to have completed our 30th Anniversary Season. We started off our year with a celebration in town square and ended the year with the well received *Peter and the Wolf* by Pushcart Players. During the 2011-2012 Season both *Sleeping Beauty* and *Peter and the Wolf* were so well received we had to add seats to accommodate all of our teachers and students. At our Annual Benefit Dinner, we raised over \$30,000 for AJT education programs, exceeding our goal expectations. Although we did not reach our anticipated sales in our public performance this season, we were able to reach new audience members and create stronger bonds within the community.

AJT continues to offer subsidized tickets to age-appropriate school shows with direct ties to Alaska Content Standards, study guides and transportation for students. AJT reaches over 40,000 students and teachers and provides more than 3,000 full scholarships each year, ensuring each child has access to the wonderful world of live performance.

This year was filled with ups and downs! We attempted new fundraising events, made connections with new organizations and witnessed breathtaking performances. We continue to make progress toward reaching our strategic goals through programming and outreach. This fiscal year, AJT accomplished the following:

- More than 16,952 students and teachers attended our school performances of *Sleeping Beauty* and *Peter and the Wolf*.
- Both *Sleeping Beauty* and *Peter and the Wolf* were sold-out and were waitlisted before the season even began.
- AJT sold a record breaking number of seats to our Annual Benefit.
- *A Story Before Time* helped to build stronger bonds with the native community through a potluck and drumming event at Alaska Native Cultural Charter School and a dance workshop at the Alaska Native Heritage Centers Teen Program.
- *Danny, King of the Basement* gave AJT the opportunity to partner with eleven other local non-profit organizations and give back to the homeless families in the community.
- We had a combined total of more than 60 people turn out for our Fiddle and Step-Dance workshops with *Grand Dérangement*.
- Nearly 81.9% of all teachers who attended our shows rated them with a 4 (liked it) or 5 (loved it).
- We held a Wine Tasting event and two Cake Walks after our public shows raising more than \$33,500 towards our Education Programs.

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

Sincerely,



Pam Robinson  
President, Board of Directors

Lainie Dreas  
Executive Director



# About Alaska Junior Theater

Alaska Junior Theater is a private, nonprofit organization that has been bringing the best in professional theater from around the world to Alaska's young audiences for 30 years. Each year, more than 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 theater, music and dance performances to young people and families into smaller Alaskan communities. For the 2011-2012 season, AJT will build upon its relationships with rural school districts, cultural organizations and Alaska Native corporations to facilitate performances in other towns.

## Creating Accessibility

AJT is committed to keeping ticket prices low, allowing children of all financial levels to have a professional theater experience. Our low educational ticket price of \$7 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 \$7 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 almost 850,000 children and parents.

### 2011-2012 Board of Directors

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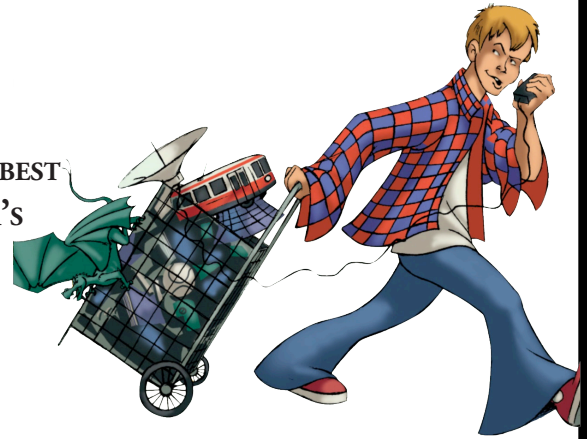
### Staff

Lainie Dreas, Executive Director  
Leah Lopshire, Education Associate  
Maggie Jane Moonin, Marketing Associate  
Michael Cross, Technical Director  
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.



During the 2011–2012 fiscal year, Alaska Junior Theater accomplished the following:

- Provided 2,125 student scholarships to school shows.
- Raised the curtain on 48 performances.
- Reached 41,579 community members through educational performances and outreach activities.
- Partnered with 250 volunteers who contributed 907 of hours to ensure youth have access to the performing arts.
- Conducted 22 master classes, lectures or outreach events.
- Allocated 944 complimentary tickets to public shows, a majority of which were to given social service organizations.
- Distributed pre-performance study guides to teachers in the Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Borough School district teachers.

***A Story Before Time*** – Participated in a Potluck and Drumming share at the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School. They also provided a dance workshop for the Alaska Native Heritage Center’s Teen Program. “I liked when the Grandmother of the twins starts to dance. I liked the way she moved so swiftly and it looked very nice. I liked that the show has a “lesson” and I learned some new things.” - Grade 6, Orion.

***Danny, King of the Basement*** – Artists from the show attended the Community Awareness Fair held at The Salvation Army Community Center. We collected items for homeless families and had other organizations take part in the event to give out information on how to be involved. “I learned that there are a lot of people in Danny’s situation and we need to help.” – Grade 9, North Anchorage Christian Academy.

***Sleeping Beauty*** – David hosted a storytelling workshop at Taku Elementary and did a story hour at the Loussac Library. “I learned how much more exciting a show can be with rhyme, visuals and beautiful piano. How one actor can be all the parts. Absolutely amazing!” - Grade 1 - 3, Denali Montessori.

***Grand Dérangement*** – For outreach into the community, the group held a Master Fiddle Workshop and a Step-Dance Workshop for local fiddlers and dancers. “I liked when the tap dancer sat on the chair and tapped her feet, and then stopped when the fiddler turned around, and started tapping again when he left.” - Grade 4, Denali Montessori.

***30th Annual Benefit*** – We celebrated 30 years of bringing the best in professional family theater to Alaska during our annual benefit and raised more than \$33,000.00 for our Education Programs. We were pleased to have ***Grand Dérangement*** as our guest artist for the event which was held at the Bill Sheffield Train Depot this year.

***Peter and the Wolf*** – They performed ten sold out school shows, four of them in the Atwood Concert Hall. “My favorite part was the cat and duck. I loved the duck, it’s funny voice and how it moved.” - Grade 1, Denali Montessori.

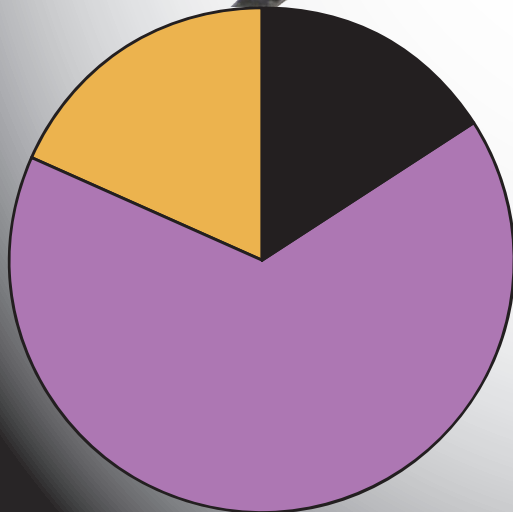
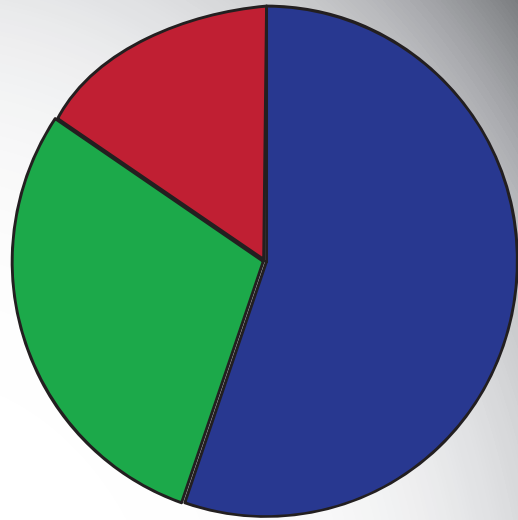
# Operating Budget

 Earned Income: \$281,533

 Contributions: \$94,950

 Grants: \$67,950

**Total Revenue: \$444,433**



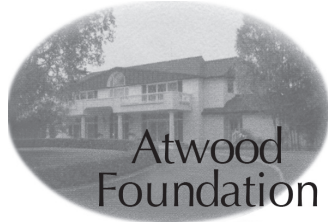
 Administrative Expenses: \$91,040

 Production Expenses: \$338,582

 Troupe Fees: \$96,000

**Total Expenses: \$525,622**

# 2011-2012 Community Support



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS



ConocoPhillips



**Crossroads Production  
Light & Sound**



Anchorage  
Daily News  
adn.com

WESTAF

**Crossroads FLP**

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**Jacqueline Holzman, Frank  
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