



May 2009 E-Newsletter

FEATURED STORY

Broadway Junior Theater Celebration: A Toe Tappin' Good Time for Local Students

Issue 2, May 2009



Broadway Junior 2009 Finale

The Blumenthal Performing Arts Center's Education Institute hosted the second annual Broadway Junior Theater Celebration on April 30th in the McGlohon Theater in partnership with iTheatrics, a New York based company that specializes in educational theatre. The event featured the iTheatrics team of skilled arts education professionals as adjudicators--Tim McDonald, Steven G. Kennedy, Marty Johnson, and Cindy Ripley.

The celebration featured performances by 14 schools from the central Carolinas for the one day musical theatre celebration. Each school was invited to perform a 5 minute selection from any musical theater performance that they performed or will perform at their respective schools. The participating teachers and students also attended a series of workshops where they learned useful information and techniques for improving their own school performances.

The day began with bus loads of excited students representing schools from Charlotte, Monroe, Mt. Holly, Mooresboro, Shelby, and Greensboro, North Carolina, plus Rock Hill, South Carolina. Each of the participants, teachers, and observers were welcomed with a gift bag containing a t-shirt, a program, and several other items provided by iTheatrics and Music Theatre International (MTI, the originator of Broadway Jr.). The students, some wearing their school T-shirts, or other bright T-shirts representing the show they were performing, followed the Center's ushers into the theater and prepared to participate in the day's event.

"We loved it!! The kids had a blast and learned a lot!! Thank you!" ~Ed Miller, Springmore Elementary School

Once seated, the Center's VP of Education welcomed everyone, and acknowledged the schools, the donors, and those who worked "behind the scenes" to help make the event successful. He then introduced the iTheatrics team, who took over and got the day's activities and performances started, after a few introductions. The students were led through a series of vocal and physical warm-ups to prepare them for their performances. After they were warmed-up, Marty Johnson called up the first of the 14 performing schools. The first group to hit the stage was Charlotte Country Day Middle School performing "Oh the Thinks You Can Think" from *Seussical Jr.* After their very energetic performance, the iTheatrics adjudicators provided feedback, encouragement, and helpful tips about ways they could strengthen the performance. One of the adjudicators worked with the students on stage before the students performed part of the song again to demonstrate their improvement. This process was repeated with each school in front of 600 attendees. Each of the performances ended with a thunderous applause from the audience in support of the other performers.

**"I absolutely loved the celebration! I want to come back next year!"
~Myla Sampson, Student,
Northwest School of the Arts**

Useful Links

[North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center](#)

[Education Institute](#)

[Community Programs](#)

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[The Kennedy Center's ArtsEdge](#)

[The Broadway League](#)



Northwest School of the Arts-*Annie Jr.*



Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts-*101 Dalmatians Kids*



University Park Creative Arts-*Cinderella Kids*



Dilworth Visual and Performing Arts Elementary-*Mulan Jr.*

The energy, creativity, and learning continued for the rest of the morning with the following performances: Northwest School of the Arts performing "Hard Knock Life" from *Annie Jr.*, University Park Creative Arts Elementary School performing "Bibidi-Bobidi-Boo" from *Cinderella Jr.*, Alexander Graham Middle School performing parts of the opening from *Into the Woods*, St. Pius X Catholic School performing "We're All in this Together" from *High School Musical*, Rock Rest Elementary School performing "I Wanna Be Like You" from *The Jungle Book Kids*, and Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy performing "Hard Knock Life" from *Annie Jr.*, Ida Rankin Elementary School performing "Getta Loada Toad" from *A Year with Frog and Toad Kids*, Union Academy performing "Fork, Knife, Spoon" from *Dear Edwina Jr.*, Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts performing "Twilight Bark" from *101 Dalmatians Kids*, Queen's Grant Community School performing "Oh the Thinks You Can Think" from *Seussical Jr.*, Dilworth Visual and Performing Arts Elementary School performing "Keep Em' Guessin'" from *Mulan Jr.*, and Northside Elementary School of the Arts concluded the morning session with "Oompa Loompa #1" from *Willy Wonka Kids*.

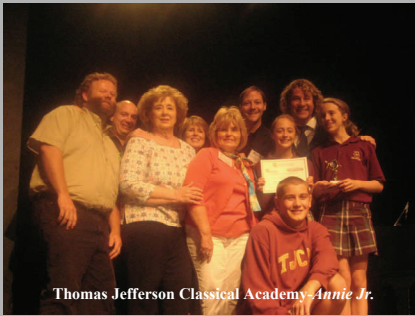
After the morning session ended, the students, teachers, and observers took a lunch break. The Center also hosted a luncheon with donors, principals, and the iTheatrics team in the McMillan Gallery at Spirit Square. The attendees shared positive insights and statements about the importance and impact of the arts on young people. They also encouraged the Center and the schools to continue working together on events like this one to engage young people in the theater and the arts.

Everyone returned to the theater after the lunch break to receive information about the afternoon schedule and workshop options. The iTheatrics team led student workshops in the McGlohon Theater and the Duke Energy Theater that taught the young performers about improvisation, character development, ensemble singing, and choreography. These workshops also prepared the students for the final performance. While the students were singing and dancing in the theaters, the teachers were in the classrooms learning about choreography, technical theatre, directing, and producing a Broadway Junior Show.

Once the workshops were completed, everyone reconvened in the theater for an awards presentation and the grand finale. The finale featured all of the 630 participants singing "Sing Your Own Song" from *Dear Edwina Jr.* The day concluded with students saying goodbye with a smile.

If you would like to receive information regarding next years celebration, please feel free to contact the Education Institute at eiprograms@ncbpac.org.

[Click Here for More Pictures from the Broadway Junior Theater Celebration](#)



Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy-*Annie Jr.*



Springmore Elementary School-*Annie Jr.*

EDUCATING AUDIENCES

"Can We Build It? Yes We Can!" Kids and Adults Learn about Building at *Bob the Builder* Get to Know the Show



Bob the Builder Get to Know the Show

The Blumenthal Center's Education Institute and Lowe's Home Improvement collaborated on Sunday, April 26th, 2009 in the Belk Theater lobbies to host a free Get to Know the Show workshop in support of the *Bob the Builder* Live performance. Lowe's featured its fun "Build and Grow Clinics" where approximately 100 kids were guided through the steps to build toys and other fun objects like a birdhouse, a hang glider, and a rain catcher. Everyone was given a toolkit to build something and learned about safe use of tools, plus received goggles, an

apron, a badge, and a certificate. "Thank you for hosting Building is Fun! We had a great time."
~Angie Munoz

Featured story teller, Ramona Moore Big Eagle, engaged the kids in how to "build a story." They used their building materials: voice, body language, gestures, and facial expressions to build their own story. The whole family joined in on these fun activities, and left the 'Building for Fun' kids workshop excited and prepared to see the May 2nd and 3rd performances of *Bob the Builder* Live!

"Thank you so much for doing these kinds of things. It was a blessing for our family especially since we have been affected by the economy and not been able to do as much with our kids."
~JoAnna Bennett



Bob the Builder Get to Know the Show

Ravi Shankar Get to Know the Show



Chris Johnson and Viswas Chitnis playing sitar and tabla.

On Saturday, April 18th, 2009, The Blumenthal Center's Education Institute partnered with **Friends of Music at Queens** for a 'Get to Know the Show' event highlighting Indian classical music. The event, in support of the Ravi Shankar performance, attracted 80 participants to Queens University of Charlotte's Dana Auditorium. **Viswas Chitnis**, the featured sitar artist, and tabla accompanist, **Chris Johnson**, introduced participants to Indian music known as Raga Sangeet, which can be traced back nearly two thousand years to its origin in the hymns of the Hindu temples. Participants learned about the sitar through an educational presentation, listened to melodic and rhythmical Indian classical music, and learned the similarities and differences between classical Indian music and Western classical music. There was also a Q & A session that gave attendees further insights into Indian classical music, and helped everyone better appreciate and enjoy the Ravi Shankar performance on May 4th, 2009.

"Thanks for making it an interesting presentation and providing insight to the upcoming event and Indian classical music."

~Chithra Venkataramani

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Blumenthal Representatives Attend Broadway League Conference in NYC

The Center's President, Tom Gabbard, and other senior staff attended the annual Broadway League Spring Road Conference in New York in early May. The Education Institute was represented by Morenga Hunt, VP of Education and Education Institute Director, who participated in an all-day Education Forum, and presented on the Audience Development panel which focused on ways that education and marketing can achieve success by planning and working together to cultivate new audiences. He spoke about the various successful strategies for the Frost Nixon audience development events that the Center delivered in January and February, 2009.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Kennedy Center Trained Local Artists Offer First Successful Teacher Workshops

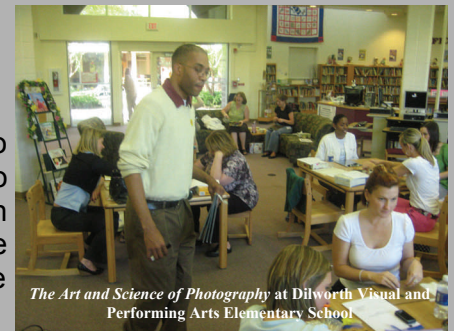


Sound Writing at University Park Creative Arts Elementary School

The Blumenthal Education Institute hosted two workshops by Kennedy Center trained artists David Crowe and Charles Thomas. David Crowe's workshop "Sound Writing: Composing Musical Scores to Enrich Language Arts Skills" was held at Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts and University Park Creative Arts Elementary School. Both workshops were presented to 11 participants from the school. The workshop focused on helping teachers integrate music with language arts curriculums. All the participants were given examples of lessons that incorporated the teaching of onomatopoeia, personification, simile, and metaphor with "found sounds."

"Excellent. I really enjoyed the workshop. It kept my interest the entire time." ~Kiri Kirschner

Charles Thomas' workshop "The Art of Science and Photography" was presented to 27 teachers at Dilworth Elementary School. This workshop helped train teachers to use photography to teach science lessons. Charles provided the teachers with three activities that they could use or adapt in their classrooms. The teachers made pinhole cameras, studied shadows and the biology of the eye in relation to the camera.



The Art and Science of Photography at Dilworth Visual and Performing Arts Elementary School

Blumenthal Center's Education Institute Receives a Gaston County Award

The Blumenthal Performing Arts Center's Education Institute received an award on Thursday, April 30th, 2009 from Gaston County Schools and the Gaston Regional Chamber.

Sue Breckenridge, the Chair of the Center's Education Committee and the Education Institute's Advisory Board received the award on behalf of the Center during the Gaston County Annual Business Partners' Reception on April 30th, at the Franklin Boulevard location of Carolina Harley-Davidson in Gastonia, North Carolina. The event was appropriately called "Rev it up for Education" this year since it was held at the Gastonia Harley-Davidson dealership.

The Blumenthal Performing Art Center and it's Education Institute are proud to be a valued partner with Gaston County Schools. We would like to thank everyone involved with awarding us this kind of gift of recognition for our partnership work in Gaston County.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Caribbean Creative Arts Youth Steel Band Program

The Blumenthal Performing Arts Center's Education Institute is partnering with the Johnston YMCA to offer a steel band program with the aim of helping young people, ages 5-15, develop leadership, academic, performance, and communications skills. Our featured teaching artist, Jim Boyce, is an experienced steel band player and teacher, from the Caribbean island Nation of Trinidad and Tobago, the birthplace of the steel band art-form. The steel drum class will meet twice a week throughout the summer. By the end of the program the young people will perform in a special public performance as part of the Johnston YMCA's "So You Think You Got Talent!" event at the YMCA on August 21st, 2009.



Previous participants perform their final performance in front of parents and friends.

Broadway and Opera: Similarities and Distinctions

The Blumenthal Center will be offering its first ever group sales preshow workshop before the June 19th and June 28th performances of *The Phantom of the Opera*. The Center will also be hosting a Club Blume Informance on June 16th in the Knight Gallery.

The workshop will help increase participant's behind-the-scenes knowledge of how shows are produced! Join us for an informative pre-show discussion led by local artists and technical theater specialists. The topics covered will give you a deeper appreciation for the similar and distinct elements that are part of Broadway musicals and classical or contemporary opera. Some of the specific topics to be discussed, compared, and even demonstrated are:

- Creative and Technical Elements of Musicals and Opera
- Costume, Set and Lighting Design
- Stage Makeup
- How Music, Song, and Movement are Incorporated Into a Production

There will even be opportunities for you to interact with and have your questions answered by the workshop leaders!



Club Blume Informance for *The Color Purple*



Join us for a special Club Blume Informance in support of *The Color Purple* at the Belk Theater from May 19 – 24, and from August 25 – 30, 2009. Our featured artists will utilize movement/dance, songs, music, and spoken word to explore the themes of the show. During the activity, participants will have fun as they sing selected songs, perform a brief movement piece, and discuss the connection between the music, movement themes, and lyrics from the show and its relevance today. By the end of the event attendees will have a better understanding and appreciation of the show. The Informance will take place on Thursday, July 21, 2009. For more details contact eiprograms@ncbpac.org or by calling 704-348-5784.

Complete list of [Get to Know the Show Workshops](#)



NORTH CAROLINA
Blumenthal Performing Arts Center



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For more information, or to register, contact the Community Programs at 704-348-5784 or School Programs Coordinator at 704-348-5836 or eiprograms@ncbpac.org.