



**PALACE**  
T H E A T E R

**YOUR PALACE**  
— YOUR PLACE —



# The Royal Courier



*Raising the curtain on Palace Theater center stage arts in education*

**November 2008**

**Volume 2, Number 1**



*Learning in the Wings* intern, **Robert Trotta** from Nonnewaug High School, Woodbury, worked on sound and lighting for four shows in October.



*Palatial News* reporters covering the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra's PICTURES FOR YOUR EARS on October 24 were Waterbury Arts Magnet School students **Christian Lewis, Jillian Wifpler, Maggie Johnson, and Justin Rinaldi.**



## TO EDUCATORS:

Take advantage of the professional development workshops offered by the **Palace Theater**. Among past presenters was Connecticut State Department of Education's Jo Ann Freiberg, Ph.D. The next workshop, **Theater Journalism: A CAPT/ CMT Non-Fictional Writing Prompt**, presented by Doe Boyle, will be held at the **Palace Theater's**

Poli Club on

**Tuesday, November 18.**

For details, see the **Teacher News: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** section of this newsletter.

Dear Readers,

Welcome back! The cold snap in the air and the turning leaves evoke a sense of excitement as we begin our new season with educational programs that provide myriad learning opportunities for both students and educators. Again this year, *The Royal Courier* will provide valuable information for those who have participated in education presentations and programs and will pique the interest of educators who are new to the **Palace Theater** and its educational offerings.

*The Royal Courier* will be published three times a year to provide an overview of the quality learning initiatives provided by the **Palace Theater** such as *Learning in the Wings* and *Palatial News*. These experiential programs offer both artistic and technical training to participating students through hands-on learning.

Furthermore, *The Royal Courier* will feature articles on the many value-added in-school or after-school programs hosted by the *Palace at Your Place*. Designed to entertain and educate, these programs:

- Integrate the academic curricula in presentations
- Support literature-based initiatives
- Provide character education
- Foster an understanding of and an appreciation for the performing arts

Moreover, the **Palace Theater** offers meaningful **professional development** opportunities which have been supported by the Connecticut State Department of Education for educators.

Please contact me to discuss how the **Palace Theater** can play a supporting role in your classroom. I look forward to working with you to achieve your school's cultural and academic goals.

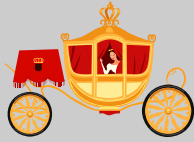
Sincerely,

Vanessa Logan

Director of Education and Community Initiatives

p. 203.755.8483 Ext. 132 e. [logan@palacetheaterct.org](mailto:logan@palacetheaterct.org)

# Let the Palace come to you!



## Ballroom Blitz . . .

Not your  
grandparents'  
ballroom!

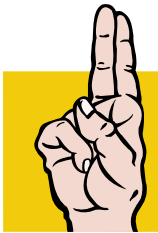


## Why not have **The Palace at Your Place?**

You are in luck! It's not too late to have the **Palace Theater** design and implement an educational in-school or after-school program to fit your students' needs. Programs can be short or long term to address your specific learning goals. Let our *Palace Presenters* offer programs such as the following:

**Ballroom Blitz** (Grades: 5-12), **adaptable as an in-school or after-school program at your facility**, gives students the opportunity to acquire ballroom dance skills that increase physical fitness and artistic awareness, while reinforcing fundamental character skills, such as respect, trustworthiness and responsibility. The program typically incorporates an opportunity for students to attend a dance-oriented presentation at the theater. Certified ballroom instructors from Arthur Murray, Hamden, teach students the discipline of dances such as Fox Trot, Merengue, Tango, Swing and Cha-Cha while highlighting the history and cultural importance of these social dances. The program culminates with a Showcase or Dancesport Challenge that encompasses lessons on presenting in a public forum, staying focused in an environment of competition, and good sportsmanship.

**I Give My Word...** (Language Arts, Social Studies and Theater Integrated Program Best For Grades: 7-12) is **adaptable as an in-school or after-school program at your facility**. Participating students will attend the ShopRite Education Series presentation of *The Last . . . The Very Last Butterfly*. In a collaborative effort between the **Palace** and Shakesperience Productions, students will receive workshops that integrate academic curriculum, current events, and the creative processes of the stage with a collection of poems, narratives and drawings created by children who passed through the Terezin Concentration Camp. Students will create their own memoirs and poems and give their spoken word, as well as "their word" (ie: their pledge), during a culminating public event. This paradigm is designed to facilitate prejudice reduction and foster tolerance through literature, poetry, and theater, and will serve as a springboard for ongoing efforts in engendering an understanding of and a respect for others.



I  
Give My  
Word

Palace Theater Teams  
with Waterbury Bureau of  
Recreation and Leisure  
Services



If you are interested in bringing any of these programs to YOUR SCHOOL, or would like more information, contact Director of Education, Vanessa Logan, at 203-755-8483 x132 or [logan@palacetheaterct.org](mailto:logan@palacetheaterct.org).



## Student Stars can still *Dance with Words!*

Enrollment is still open for *Dances with Words*, a Waterbury Bureau of Recreation and Leisure Services after school program hosted by the **Palace Theater**. Currently underway at Wendell Cross Elementary School, the program combines poetry with quality dance/movement training and is suited for students in Pre-K to grade 10. Waterbury residents will experience a diversity of approaches towards the craft of dance, while developing the physical skills necessary to practice dance as a life long form of exercise. Training in ballet, tap, jazz and hip-hop are a few of the disciplines that will be utilized to foster student appreciation of dance as an art form and as a means of telling a story. This program is designed to travel and can be brought to your town.

## WAMS and the Palace-



### A PARTnership Extending Beyond the Physical Connection of the Buildings

## WAMS Student Makes "Season of Miracles" Meaningful

Valarie Henry, a WAMS sophomore, has been named project leader for "Thought for Food," a service learning program that educates youth on hunger issues within the community, region, and state. This service learning program has been created through a collaboration between ShopRite *Partners in Caring*, a year-round community-based hunger-fighting initiative, and the **Palace Theater**.

Under Valarie Henry's leadership, students will organize a hunger awareness campaign and/or a canned goods drive to benefit local food banks and organizations in need. In addition, Participating schools/classrooms must submit an essay that includes a synopsis of their project, what they learned, the academic areas integrated in the project, how the project impacted their school, and what they will do now about hunger issues as a school. Essays must be submitted to the **Palace Theater** by December 5th, and the winner will be announced during the "A Season of Miracles" presentation on December 12th.

## THOUGHT FOR FOOD



*You can be part of  
the  
ShopRite-Palace  
collaborative efforts  
to fight hunger.*

*For information contact  
WAMS student leader, Valarie  
Henry at 203-755-8483 Ext. 132.*

**Tickets for Tony Vacca's World Rhythms Benefit concert for Africa** are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. They can be purchased from the Palace Theater box office 203-755-4700.



## WAMS Students Learn to the Beat of Tony Vacca's *World Rhythms*

Tony Vacca's *World Rhythms* will give a benefit concert at the **Palace Theater** in Waterbury on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. The program will culminate two days of workshops for students at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School during which students will learn how music connects to geometry and physics. They will meet musicians from Senegal who will visit classrooms, according to Rami Haxhi, an organizer of the two-day event.

Students in music and dance classes will assist *World Rhythms* at the evening performance. Band members Abdou Sarra and Massamba Diop live in Senegal, West Africa. Diop has been playing the tama drum with World Music superstar Baaba Maal for over 20 years and has performed for Nelson Mandela, and has worked with such luminaries as Carlos Santana and Peter Gabriel. Lissa Black, a junior at WAMS and a member of the chorus, is very excited about working with these musicians. "I did a project on Baaba Maal for Mr. Haxhi's chorus class last year and I am really thrilled that I will be able to perform with some of the musicians who work with him."

The cross-curricular aspect of this project is one of the main appeals to Joseph Nole, Supervisor of Social Studies for the Waterbury School District. "To have people directly from Senegal visiting social studies classrooms to discuss African culture, religion, and family life is a homerun for all involved." Nole, who is an amateur balafon player, is familiar with Vacca's prowess on that instrument. "Vacca is the Paganini of the balafon, and I know how hard it is to master the balafon." Nole, a life-long activist for African causes says, "I'm tickled pink that this endeavor will culminate in a concert that will raise money to build schools and provide mosquito nets for students in Senegal, where malaria is a serious issue."

All proceeds from the concert will be donated to Senegal, making this concert something more than an evening of music fusing the sounds of Africa with funk, reggae, rock, and hip-hop. "I've heard these musicians perform live," says WAMS music teacher Marianna Vagnini, "and they will blow you away! We are so happy to be involving our students in a great cause that will help raise an awareness of issues beyond the WAMS community."

# Teacher News: Professional Development

*Teacher Professional Development Workshops  
At the Palace Theater Poli Club*

**Pre-Registration is Required Two Weeks Prior to Workshop Date**

Sponsored by:

**Time of All Workshops: 4:30-7:30PM**



**To Register Call: 203-755-8483 Ext 134**

## **Theater Journalism: A CAPT/CMT Non-Fictional Writing Prompt**

Best for Teachers: Grades 1- 6 but can be applied to Grades 7-12

Related to: *A Season of Miracles, Junie B. Jones* and Palatial News Program

Teaching Artist: Doe Boyle

Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2008

Fee: \$25.00 per teacher-NO FEE for teachers who book tickets to any ShopRite Education Series Presentation

This workshop will provide pre- and post-production lesson plans that introduce students to theater journalism, with the aim of developing and utilizing expository writing skills under the creative umbrella of theater arts and stage culture. Participants will discover creative ways to engage students in nonfiction writing, to encourage the growth of observation skills, and to develop students' sensory awareness and their processing of theatrical cues as a tool for decoding plot and character development in other works of art. A Fairfield University graduate, Doe Boyle has worked in many areas of magazine, book, and newspaper publishing. She is a Master Teaching Artist selected by the CT Commission on the Arts with a specialty in teaching elementary school children to write from the heart of their own experiences.

## **From Their Lives to Yours: Memoir Writing into Poetry**

Best for Teachers: Grades 6 -12

Related to: *The Last, the Very Last Butterfly* presented on Holocaust Remembrance Day

Teaching Artist: Bessy Reyna

Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2009 Snow Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Fee: \$25.00 per teacher-NO FEE for teachers who book tickets to *The Last, the Very Last Butterfly*

*The Last. . . the Very  
Last Butterfly  
Monday,  
April 20, 2009*



Participants will be introduced to memoir writing and poetry as a means of personal expression, as well as a record of one's history. The workshop will explore how students can extract every day moments and create written documents that influence and inspire audiences in the future. We will briefly discuss the memoir genre in general and its importance in poetry. The work of several writers, including children's poetry from the Terezin Concentration Camp, will be presented as a catalyst for the writing exercises in this workshop. Bessy Reyna is a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College with Master's and law degrees from UCONN. In addition, to being a poet, free-lance writer and op-ed columnist for the Hartford Courant, Reyna is also a Master Teaching Artist for the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism.

## **Creating a Climate of Respect: Administrator and Teacher Workshop Suited for All Supervisors, Administrators, Teachers**

Related to: "Silent Boy"

Facilitator: Dr. Jo Ann Freiberg, CT State Department of Education

Date: February 10, 2009 Snow Date: February 17, 2009



# EXTRA CREDIT FOR YOUR CLASSROOM



Teachers who book their class field trip to any of the five 2008-2009 ShopRite Education Series presentations also receive these SmART Initiatives:

**PRE-SHOW PACKAGE:** Upon confirmation of your order, teachers will receive:



- Palace History Page
- Student Permission slips
- A Theater Etiquette Guide
- Architectural Art Quest – a student treasure map that assists students in focusing on the beauty of the venue, while highlighting the history of its different architectural structures

## STUDY GUIDES:

An educational resource specific to each presentation, a study guide contains introductory information about the show, as well as pre and post-show lessons and activities. All enhance the students' live theater experiences or can be used as a wonderful tool for those who will not experience the specific performance. Study guides will be emailed after a signed contract and deposit are received. Teachers are also eligible to take advantage of these special opportunities.

## IN SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS: NEW!

Bring the **Palace** to your school and watch your study guides spring to life! Teachers interested in enhancing their students' field trip have the option of inviting *Palace Presenters* into their classroom to create interactive lessons based on the provided study guides.

## HISTORIC & EDUCATIONAL TOURS:

Built in 1920, the **Palace Theater** is known for its rich culture and architectural design. Designed in a Renaissance Revival style, the venue features an eclectic mix of Greek, Roman, Arabic and Federal motifs. This age appropriate tour can be planned to emphasize an academic class or accommodate a specific lesson plan. Examples include a Science Unit on sound; History Unit on the Great Depression; or a Language Arts Unit of Mythology. Theater folklore and vocabulary are also integrated into the tour, which can be custom designed for grades K-12.

Tours are \$4.00 per person.

## TICKET & TRAVEL SUBSIDY FUND:

This matching fund is designed to provide financial assistance to Title One Schools and Not-for-Profit Organizations whose students otherwise would not have the opportunity to attend a live-theater presentation at the **Palace**.

## Keeping the Magic of Theater Alive for Students

Did you know that Wolcott, Naugatuck, and Waterbury are among the districts that have reaped the benefits of our ticket subsidy fund? The **Palace Theater** uses funds from grants, sponsorship pledges, and individual commitments to provide students who would not otherwise be able to see live theater with the opportunity to do so.

Some schools took advantage of the **Palace Theater** "Wizard of Oz" 08-09 Ticket Subsidy Campaign. Patrons who attended the **Palace Theater's** Broadway Series presentations of "The Wizard of Oz" on November 7 – 9, were greeted by some of Waterbury's own little "munchkins" in an effort to help raise funds for community schools and not-for-profit organizations to attend educational shows at the theater. Dressed in colorful costumes, local elementary school students were stationed throughout the theater, asking audience members to donate one dollar to benefit the theater's ***Ticket and Travel Subsidy Fund***, a program designed to provide financial assistance to non-profit organizations and Title One Schools.

Patrons who donated money during "Wizard of Oz" received a complimentary Dorothy coloring sheet for helping pave the road for their munchkins to attend educational programs at the Palace. All monetary donations go to the theater's ***Ticket and Travel Subsidy Fund*** to help offset the cost of *ShopRite Education Series* field trips for local students. Schools applying to receive these funds are selected on a legitimate need basis and can receive up to a 100% reduction on ticket prices.

However, funds are dwindling. We need your help. Any businesses or individual parties interested in running their own Ticket and Travel Fundraiser, or those who wish to donate to the fund, should contact Director of Education Vanessa Logan at 203-755-8483 x 132. The Ticket Travel Subsidy Fund is supported in part by ShopRite of Bristol and Waterbury, as well as the Lombard Group. Tickets for the Broadway Series presentation of "The Wizard of Oz," sponsored by Waterbury Hospital, WTNH/MyTV9 and Dunkin' Donuts/Sal Rocha are \$58, \$53, and \$48, and can be purchased by phone at 203-755-4700, online at [www.palacetheaterct.org](http://www.palacetheaterct.org), or in person at the Palace Theater Box Office, 100 East Main Street in Waterbury. Groups of 20 or more qualify for special discounts and should call the Group Sales Hotline at 203-755-8483 x 134.