



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

April 2009

Volume 2, Number 2



**SNEAK
PEEK!**

Take a look at the
Palace Theater's 2009-2010
Education Series:

STONE SOUP— OCTOBER 15

MAD SCIENCE PRESENTS "CSI
LIVE"— JANUARY 28

TONY VACCA'S *WORLD RHYTHMS*—
APRIL 1

SAVE THE DATES!

Dear Readers,

Winter's bluster has exited stage left bidding us *adieu*, Spring has taken center stage, and all's right with the world! *The Royal Courier* will continue to keep readers abreast of **Palace Theater** happenings, providing valuable information about the myriad education presentations and programs designed to address a variety of interests. *The Royal Courier* will continue to be published three times a year to provide an overview of the quality learning initiatives provided by the **Palace Theater**. For example, the *Palatial News* and *Learning in the Wings* 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*. Entertaining and educational, these programs integrate academic curricula in presentations, support literature-based initiatives, provide character education, and foster an understanding of and an appreciation for the performing arts. In addition, 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



Palace Theater Ushers in Change With Simulcast of 2009 Presidential Inauguration

The Community witnessed history in a historic venue with the **Palace Theater's** live simulcast of the 2009 Presidential Inauguration on Tuesday, January 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Evidencing the **Palace Theater's** dedication to community outreach initiatives and to education, all Waterbury students, faculty, and staff were extended a special invitation to this special viewing presented on the theater's twenty-foot projection screen located in Webster Hall.

Sponsored by Carmody and Torrance LLP and presented in part by the City of Waterbury and the Palace Theater, the event was opened to the public and free of charge.

TO EDUCATORS:



Through its Professional Development Program, the **Palace Theater** offered three workshops. Doe Boyle presented "Theater Journalism: A CAPT/CMT Non-Fictional Writing Prompt" related to *A Season of Miracles*. Connecticut State Department of Education's Jo Ann Freiberg, Ph.D. presented "Creating a Climate of Respect" in conjunction with *Silent Boy*. Also, Bessy Reyna presented "From Their Lives to Yours: Memoir Writing into Poetry" related to the upcoming April production of *The Last, The Very Last Butterfly*.

WATERBURY CT
Teachers
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

LET THE PALACE COME TO YOU!



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

Have the **Palace Theater** design and implement an educational in-school or after-school program to fit your students' needs. Programs such as the following can be short or long term to address your learning goals:

Ballroom Blitz . . .

Not your grandparents' ballroom!



DANCESPORT CHALLENGE
Palace Theater
May 21—7:00 p.m.
\$5.00 Suggested Donation
at the door

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. This year, students attended *Pajama Game* at the **Palace**. Certified ballroom instructors from Arthur Murray Hamden teach students the discipline of dance while highlighting dance history and cultural importance. This year's culminating Dancesport Challenge will be held at the Palace on May 21 at 7:00 p.m. that encompasses lessons on presenting in a public forum, staying focused in an environment of competition, and good sportsmanship.

The **Palace Theater**, a not-for-profit organization, recognizes the generosity of

of
**THE FOUNDATION-
JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN
CT, INC.**

which granted \$2000 to help support the prejudice reduction and character development program . . .



**I
Give My
Word**

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**. The **Palace Theater** is proud to announce that The Foundation-Jewish Communities of Western CT, Inc. has awarded the Palace a \$2000 grant to help support the theater's spring 2009 prejudice reduction and character development program *I Give My Word*. Participants will attend the ShopRite Education Series presentation of *The Last . . . The Very Last Butterfly*. Also, in a collaborative effort between the **Palace** and Shakesperience Productions, students will participate in workshops integrating 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), to practice respect, responsibility, fairness, citizenship, and trustworthiness to create positive change within their community 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.



**Student Stars from
Dances with Words
Viewed
Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy
at the Palace Theater on
January 17, 2009.**

**The Palace Theater Teams
with Waterbury
Bureau of Recreation
and Leisure**



Dances with Words (Grades Pre-K - 10) is a **Waterbury Bureau of Recreation and Leisure Services after school program** designed and hosted by the **Palace Theater**. Held at Wendell Cross Elementary School this year, the program combines poetry with quality dance/movement training in dance genres such as ballet, tap, jazz and hip-hop foster student appreciation of dance as an art form, as a lifelong form of exercise, and as a means of telling a story. Participants concluded their fall semester by attending *Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy* at the **Palace Theater**. *Dances With Words* is designed to travel and can be brought to your town.

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.

WAMS and the Palace-



A
PARTnership
Extending Beyond the
Physical
Connection of the Buildings

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

Tony Vacca's *World Rhythms* presented a benefit concert at the **Palace Theater** in Waterbury on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, culminating two days of workshops for students at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School. Students learned how music connects to geometry and physics, met musicians from Senegal, and assisted *World Rhythms* at the evening performance. All proceeds from the concert were donated to Senegal, for projects such as building schools and providing mosquito nets for students in Senegal, where malaria poses health risks every day.



The Palace Theater Celebrates a *Season of Miracles*- Central Avenue School of Naugatuck Named *Thought for Food* Winner!

Thought for Food is 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**.

Schools registering to participate in the program are eligible to win up to 400 tickets to attend a ShopRite Education Series presentation. This year's presentation is *Junie B. Jones*, presented at the **Palace Theater** on May 22, 2009.

Under WAM's student Valarie Henry's leadership, participants organized a hunger awareness campaign and/or a canned goods drive to benefit local food banks and organizations in need. In addition, they submitted essays that included a project synopsis. Students reported on what they learned, the academic areas integrated in the project, how the project impacted their school, and what they will continue to do about hunger issues in the community as a school.

Central Avenue School in Naugatuck organized a "Stuff a Bus" campaign, for which students created posters advertising the campaign and collected donated items to fill a school bus. The donated items went to the Naugatuck Ecumenical Food Bank and the Salvation Army. Central Avenue faculty integrated the topic of hunger awareness in various lesson plans for all grade levels. Lessons included studying the food pyramid, researching data on hunger, and reading books on the topic of hunger. In addition, they designed and created ornaments to decorate an "End Hunger" themed Christmas tree donated to the United Way Festival of Trees program. Moreover, Central Avenue participated in the United Nations online World Food Program www.freerice.com. During the *A Season of Miracles* presentation at the Palace on December 12th, Central Avenue School was awarded 400 tickets to view the May 22 performance of *Junie B. Jones* at the **Palace Theater**.

TO PARTICIPATE IN *THOUGHT FOR FOOD*
CONTACT VANESSA LOGAN AT 203-755-8483, EXT.132

The Palace Theater and the Department of Children and Families Partner Up With Lots of Heart!

Through its **TICKET AND TRAVEL SUBSIDY FUND**, the **Palace Theater** brought the magic of live theater to 87 foster/adoptive parents and their children who attended *The Golden Acrobats* on February 28, 2009. In partnership with the Department of Children and Families, the **Palace Theater** is also the site of *Connecticut's Heart Gallery*. The Palace allows DCF to display photos of children in need of adoptive families to raise awareness of the importance of adoption.



THOUGHT FOR FOOD



Hats Off to
**CENTRAL AVENUE
SCHOOL**



*in Naugatuck for joining the fight
against hunger and winning 400
tickets to the May 22 performance
of Junie B. Jones at the Palace!*



The **Palace Theater's**
TICKET AND TRAVEL
SUBSIDY FUND
brings live theater to
non-profit organizations and
Title I schools.
You can help!
See page 4 for details!

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 the **Palace Theater's TICKET AND TRAVEL 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 AND TRAVEL SUBSIDY FUND** is supported in part by ShopRite of Bristol and Waterbury, and the Lombard Group.

Believe in magic! 

EXTRA CREDIT FOR YOUR CLASSROOM



Teachers booking their class field trip to any of the 2009-2010 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 classrooms to create interactive lessons based on 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 I Schools and Not-for-Profit Organizations whose students otherwise would not have the opportunity to attend a live-theater presentation at the **Palace Theater**.