

# Education Department Programs and Services

## **Our Educational Mission:**

**To enrich individuals and communities within the Charlotte Region through exposure to and involvement in the performing arts**

## **Our Goals:**

- Provide engaging and enjoyable educational activities and programs to a growing and increasingly diverse population
- Encourage and enable more and better arts education experiences for area schools and students
- Help build and sustain audiences for Blumenthal-presented events and for the performing arts in general



## School Shows

A school show is a weekday mini-performance of a BPA-presented show that typically has evening and weekend performances for the general public. With the continued reality of severe cuts in school fine arts budgets, Blumenthal seeks to help fill the “arts gap” by providing these shows for Charlotte region schools at minimal to no cost for schools and students. (Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools may also use their Arts and Science grant funding to purchase tickets.)

Specifically designed for school shows, many performing companies incorporate a moderator or instructor (often a performer or production member) who will describe to the students elements of the performance along with the personal disciplines enabling such performances.



## Master Classes and Workshops

Each year BPA’s Education Department hosts numerous master classes and workshops led by performing artists who come to Charlotte for multiple-performance engagements at BPA theaters. In addition to BPA theater venues, master classes and workshops are frequently held at college, middle school and high school campuses,

dance studios, and other community sites. Performers typically demonstrate various aspects of their art form then lead attendees in participatory activities. Attendees often receive discount ticket vouchers or free tickets for BPA performances featuring their guest instructors.



## Junior Theater Celebration



Junior Theater Celebration is a unique, fun, all-day learning experience for musical theatre performance groups from Charlotte area elementary and middle schools. Following each school's presentation of a song/scene from an abbreviated Broadway musical, a distinguished panel of New York professionals provides positive, instructive feedback. Students also participate in several voice, dance, and acting workshops.

Prior to our March 2019 Celebration, each of the 47 schools participating schools had presented at their respective home venues a Broadway musical production adapted for children by the New York Company, iTheatrics. (BPA has been a collaborating partner with iTheatrics on the Broadway Junior initiative since 2004.) Thanks to generous gifts from BPA donors, we are able to annually provide or supplement the cost of individual show kits (up to \$450 each) to as many as 50 underserved Charlotte area schools.



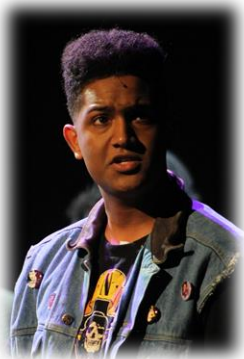
## The Blumey Awards

### *Blumenthal Performing Arts High School Musical Theater Awards Program*

Patterned after Broadway's Tony Awards®, and loosely aligned with regional programs around the country, our first annual Blumey Awards program was held in 2012 with 20 participating high schools. In May 2019, musical productions from 47 schools competed for trophies representing the best in thirteen categories – including Best Musical, Best Student Orchestra, and Best Actor and Actress.



Sayo Oni of Central Academy of Technology and Arts captured the Best Actor Award and Actress Arella Flur of Charlotte Latin School took home the Blumey Award for Best Actress. In June, they were joined by their counterparts from 39 other regional programs for a week of extensive training in New York City. The culmination of their experience was competition for Best Actor and Actress in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards Program, *The Jimmy Awards*.





## **Social Groups**

BPA Social groups are informal clubs consisting of members who enjoy making new friends and attending great Blumenthal performances. Participants enjoy free pre- or post-show parties plus great discounts on show tickets. The Education Department plans and coordinates events for two student social groups: Charlotte Live (one club for middle schoolers and one club for high schoolers) and for one adult group, Teachers' Lounge, which was created to serve and honor Charlotte Region educators of all subjects and grade levels.

### **Charlotte Live**

For Charlotte Live students, the 2019-2020 season includes fun, get-acquainted pre- and post-show events, dinner, and a heavily subsidized ticket for ONCE ON THIS ISLAND, THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG, COME FROM AWAY, MY FAIR LADY, ANASTASIA, SPONGEBOB THE MUSICAL, JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, and Disney's FROZEN! This program focuses on providing access to high caliber Broadway productions to students who may not otherwise have the opportunity.



### **Teachers' Lounge**

In addition to enjoying pre-show dinners provided by BPA's restaurant and catering partners, teachers (along with their spouses and friends) purchase specially discounted season and single show tickets. Teachers continually express their appreciation for this BPA-provided benefit. Pre-show parties for the 2019- 2020 season are held in tandem with the following performances: ONCE ON THIS ISLAND, THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG, COME FROM AWAY, MY FAIR LADY, THE COLOR PURPLE, ANASTASIA, JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, and Disney's FROZEN!



## **The Blumenthal Experience**



Each year, our Education Department invites area high school theatre teachers to bring two to four students to an intensive day of discovery at BPA's three Tryon Street campuses. Activities include a tour of all six Blumenthal theaters, discussions with Blumenthal professionals, a performance-based and/or technical theatre workshop, great seats for a BPA touring Broadway show, and a post-show discussion with cast members.

The 2019 Blumenthal Experience took place in conjunction with BPA's run of the hit musical, *MISS SAIGON*.



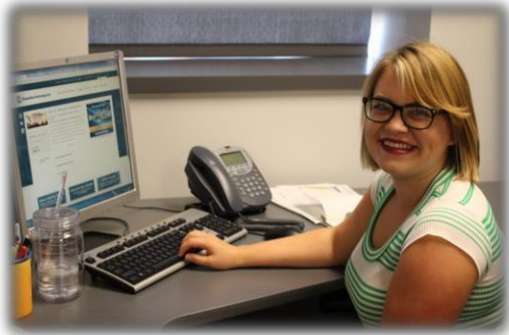
## **Junior Ambassadors**

BPA's Junior Ambassadors program provides Charlotte Region high school juniors and seniors an excellent educational and hands-on volunteer experience in the beyond-the-stage world of the performing arts. Participants are selected from applicants who maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average and have stellar character references. During an entire school year, Junior Ambassadors serve as volunteer theater ushers in BPA theaters and attend a series of "Saturday Seminars."



## **College Internship Program**

Blumenthal internships provide hands-on and instructional learning experiences to college and graduate students considering careers related to the performing arts. The Education Department has the privilege of coordinating intern experiences among BPA's participating departments. Full-time Blumenthal internships (30+ hours per week) require a minimum student commitment of ten weeks. Pending the needs of individual departments, and true to the nature of the world of the performing arts, flexibility in daily and/or weekly work scheduling is often required. To assist full-time interns with living expenses, Blumenthal provides a stipend of \$250 per week.



## **Scholarships**

### **Mary Doctor Performing Arts Scholarship**

The Mary Doctor Performing Arts Scholarship Fund was established in honor of business leader and philanthropist, Mary Doctor. Each year, two graduating high school seniors within the Charlotte Region who demonstrate great ability and great interest in one or more areas of the performing arts are selected as scholarship recipients. Each student receives an annually renewable scholarship of up to \$10,000. Since the inception of the fund in 2010, 20 Charlotte- area students have been awarded these extremely generous scholarship packages. To date, numerous institutions of higher learning have been attended/are being attended by Mary Doctor scholarship recipients, including NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Boston Conservatory, and UNC School of the Arts.





## **Gordon Hay Scholarship**



The Gordon Hay Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship program established in 2015 in memory of Gordon Hay, an organizational development professional who believed passion and fire from within fuel exceptional results. Each year a one-time \$5,000 scholarship is awarded to one high school senior planning to pursue a non-performing career in the performing arts industry. The award is not to be used for tuition, but for books, supplies and extra-curricular learning opportunities related to the recipient's career interest. Examples include professional conferences, seminars and/or workshops, unpaid internship programs, and theatre and music performances.

## **The Spirit of Service Scholarship**

With many thanks for the generous gifts from one of our donor families, several high school seniors in the Junior Ambassadors program are presented scholarships each year. The purpose of the award is to encourage the pursuit of higher education and provide financial assistance for expenses related to the first year of college.



*Detailed information about the above scholarship programs may be found at [blumenthalarts.org/scholarships](http://blumenthalarts.org/scholarships).*

## **Community Programs**

### **Get to Know the Show**

Get To know the Show (GTKS) programs are free events provided for the general public. These programs are designed to present information regarding upcoming Blumenthal-presented shows in an entertaining, upbeat, enjoyable manner, and, when available, to offer attendees the ability to purchase specially discounted tickets. Often held in The Booth Playhouse, GTKS programs frequently incorporate a variety of activities including teaching artist presentations, hands-on activities for attendees, and cast member appearances.



Upcoming Get to Know the Show programs include ONCE ON THIS ISLAND, THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG, THE COLOR PURPLE, and many more!

## Arts for All Ticket Scholarships

In 2009, BPA announced a commitment to expand accessibility to select touring Broadway shows for families and children with limited financial resources. We currently partner with numerous local organizations (Right Moves for Youth, Girl Talk Foundation, Communities in Schools, Heal Charlotte, Circle de Luz, and many more) to identify and invite families and students to participate.



Recently, community organizations have been treated to A CHRISTMAS CAROL, CATS, and Disney's ALADDIN. Opportunities for upcoming shows include COME FROM AWAY, MY FAIR LADY, and BLUE MAN GROUP!

## Big Brothers Big Sisters Ticket Partnership

Beginning with the 2010-2011 performance season, BPA has annually provided a \$14,000 ticket account for Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Greater Charlotte.



The account allows BBBS to acquire tickets to any performance of any Blumenthal-presented show. This show selection flexibility enables BBBS to incorporate Blumenthal theater attendance with their own awards programs and as special incentives—accommodating the individual schedules and show preferences of “Bigs” (mentors) and their respective “Littles” (mentees).

## Open Mic

Open to performers and spectators of all ages, Open Mic occurs about eight times a year, providing Charlotte Region folks an opportunity to perform on the stage of Blumenthal's McGlohon Theater. Hundreds attend each free event to see, hear, and support instrumentalists, singers, dancers, storytellers, poets, jugglers, magicians, and other performers of all ability/skill levels. For information on performing and attending, see [blumenthalarts.org/open-mic](http://blumenthalarts.org/open-mic). Audience attendance typically ranges between 350 and 450 enthusiastic and supportive individuals. At the end of the season, the Open Mic program culminates with a Best of Open Mic show which showcases “fan favorites” from a year of Open Mic events!





## **Improv Pre-Show Workshops**

Ever see an improv comedy show and think “I can do that”?! If so, then take improv comedy for a whirl by joining us for a workshop taught by local comedy professionals! Workshops are a part of Queen City Improv Room’s series of comedy shows in the Stage Door Theater and are held on selected performance days. Workshops are designed for comedy beginners, but those who want to hone their improv skills are welcome too! Workshops are free for participants.



## **Annual Young Jazz Artists Competition**



Our Education team hosts the annual Loonis McGlohon Young Artist Competition where first, second and third place winners received scholarships in the amount of \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively. Eligible applicants include eighth grade through college sophomore students. Dates and location for the 2019-2020 competition are pending.

## **Classroom Connections**

Classroom Connections is a new initiative enabling Title 1 school teachers to connect units of study to live performances at BPA theaters. Thanks to our donors, school groups will be able to attend Blumenthal-presented shows for only \$10 per ticket. For more information, contact Kacy Connon at [kconnon@ncbpac.org](mailto:kconnon@ncbpac.org).

## **breathelInk**

Our education Department provides venue space, financial assistance, and other means of support to breathelInk, a Charlotte area slam poetry organization created for high school youth. From area master poets, students learn to express their concerns, joys, fears and life experiences by writing and performing their own poetry. The public is invited to poetry events to experience the work of these young poets and offer their support and encouragement. The ticket price for *Youth Poetry Slams* is minimal, and information about upcoming slams is available at [www.blumenthalarts.org](http://www.blumenthalarts.org) via the Events tab. BreathelInk Open Mics events are free events occurring sporadically. These open mics will be posted within the Education and Free Event sections of the same website. For more information about the breathelInk program, contact Eric Figueroa at [EFigueroa@blumenthalarts.org](mailto:EFigueroa@blumenthalarts.org) or call 704-348-5770.