



VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Number 2

The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis Backers Volunteer Board

Winter 2010

2011 FOOD AND WINE EXPERIENCE

January 29 – 30
Chase Park Plaza Hotel

The 9th Annual St. Louis Food & Wine Experience, the largest international wine tasting event held in Missouri, celebrating the artistry of fine food and wine, and benefiting The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, is returning to the Chase Park Plaza Hotel.

General admission includes sampling over 700 fine wines and freshly prepared foods. Guests also receive a complimentary wine glass, valet wine plate and culinary demonstrations. General admission tickets are \$50 for either Saturday or Sunday in advance, \$60 at the door or \$25 for designated drivers. New this year is a Sunday only ticket for \$40 in advance.

Lidia Bastianich, acclaimed Public Television host and cookbook author, Eli Kirshtein, a contestant on *Top Chef* and a “throwdown” between Scott Drake, Executive Chef of Schnucks Markets and Brian Hale, Executive Chef of the Chase Park Plaza Hotel will all be part of the activities on the mainstage. Check www.repstl.org for scheduling and detailed information. Further information can also be found about the special VIP Reserve Room.

The Premier Tasting: A Cellar Maker's Dream will be held on Friday night, January 28, in the Starlight Ballroom. It presents a truly rare opportunity to sample and order wines of limited availability while dining on wonderful gourmet food. Preceding the event will be a reception for Lidia Bastianich. You can sample wines from the Bastianich Winery and hors d'oeuvres featuring Lidia's Italian specialties prepared with Lidia's sauces. Call 314-968-7340 ext 240 to purchase a ticket to the reception. General Admission, VIP and Premier tickets may be purchased at The Rep Box Office - 314-968-4925, or online, www.repstl.org.

Opportunities still exist for volunteers at this event. Volunteers must be at least 21 years of age. Contact Ann Straw, annhstraw@sbcglobal.net. One of the perks for volunteering is general admission to the show. Volunteers may responsibly enjoy the show before and/or after their shifts. If you would like to upgrade your ticket to include entry to the Reserve Room, you may do that for \$25 at the front desk. In late February, you will receive a postcard inviting you and a guest to attend opening night of *Beehive*, The 60's Musical at The Rep on Friday, March 18.

THE NUTCRACKER

December 18, 20, 21 – 11 am & 2 pm
Nerinx Hall High School

The Imaginary Theatre Company (ITC) presents a magical update to a beloved Christmas classic. Join the nutcracker as he leads Marie on a wonderful adventure that shows her that friends may not be so hard to find and that the magic of Christmas can last the whole year through. For tickets (\$6) call The Rep Box Office, 314-968-4925, or online, www.repstl.org.

ITC will be presenting *Chanticleer!* on March 19, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at The Rep. The play, recommended for children in grades K-3, combines the spirit of the original folk tale with fresh musical mischief that is laugh-out-loud fun. Costumed volunteers are needed to sell snacks and supervise crafts. Volunteer face painters are also needed. Call Joan Tiemann, 314-395-0371.

Trail of Tears will be performed at the Missouri History Museum the last week in March. Volunteer ushers are needed. Contact Marsha Coplon, mcoplon@repstl.org.

KIDS ARTSTART

10 am The Rep Lobby

- January 1:** McGhee's Miniatures & To the Pointe Studio
February 5: Art St. Louis, Bob Kramer's Marionnettes & Masterpeace Studios
March 5: Dances of India, Webster Community Arts Foundation, Yucandu Art Studio & Betsy's Storytelling Fantasy
April 2: Diva La Tap, Krueger Pottery & St. Louis Cultural Flamenco Society

Everyone is having a grand time at Kids ArtStart this year. There has been great attendance and lots of fun! Please think about being a part of this volunteer opportunity to bring art to young families. Contact: Ann Bronsing, bronsing@sbcglobal.net

LEADING LADIES

The 2010-2011 Leading Ladies fundraising efforts are underway to raise \$40,000 in individual support to help sponsor the Mainstage production of *Macbeth*, February 9 - March 6. If you'd like to help, visit www.repstl.org/support or call Barb Melton at 314-968-7340 ext. 230.

WHY ADVOCATE FOR THE ARTS?

By reading this newsletter, you are an advocate for the arts. Although you may have never trekked to Jefferson City, you have a passion for what makes people wish to perform in front of an audience using their theatrical, musical or lyrical talents, and you support their efforts by volunteering your time. Perhaps you were a student who thrived in school due to a fine arts program. The Missouri Alliance for Arts Education explains the impact art has on the young people of the Show Me State:

Arts Education makes a difference in Missouri schools. Higher high school graduation rates correlate with student participation in arts education, as well as higher standardized test scores in Math and Communication Arts.

A society that desires to flourish gives credence to the arts and our state must support and encourage artists. First Lady Georganne Nixon, Honorary Chair of Missouri Citizens for the Arts, best describes the goal we are striving toward: "From the books we read, to the music we enjoy, to the picturesque beauty of our small towns and great cities, the arts are part of the fabric that binds the state of Missouri together. Throughout our history, Missouri has been home to some of the most innovative and inspiring artists, authors and musicians in the country, including Thomas Hart Benton, George Caleb Bingham, Mark Twain, Scott Joplin, Maya Angelou and Walt Disney. I'm pleased to have this opportunity to work with Missouri Citizens for the Arts to preserve this vibrant legacy, and to inspire future generations of Missouri artists to create the masterpieces of tomorrow."

Hopefully, you will be inspired to show support on Wednesday, February 16, 2011, by either attending, calling or writing your legislators. Annually, a group of volunteers from The Rep takes part in *Citizens' Day at the Legislature*, visiting legislators in the State Capitol to express support of the arts and art funding. If you wish to join the group and carpool to Jefferson City, contact Dea Hoover 314-781-0975, stltourgirl@earthlink.net.

To learn more about what is happening with the arts in the legislature, visit: www.missouricitizensforthearts.org, or call 314-383-6644,

VOLUNTEER USHERS NEEDED

The Rep continues to seek volunteer ushers for the 2010–2011 Mainstage and Studio series. General duties include seating patrons, scanning tickets, distributing programs and helping with Patron Services. Ushers are asked to arrive approximately one hour before curtain time, and are welcome to stay for the show after their duties are completed. If you, or anyone you know, is interested, please contact Becky DeBroux, House Manager, at (314) 968-8888 or bdebroux@repstl.org. Please note: The Wednesday matinee volunteer list is full.

TALK THEATRE TRIES SOMETHING NEW

January 10, February 14, March 21

7:30 pm Opera Center \$12 each program

The Fall of Heaven: Seth Gordon, Director, will lead a discussion on how to go from a novel to a play to a stage production. Copies of the script have been distributed to all who are interested in participating, and everyone is encouraged to read the book, *The Tempest Tales*, on which the play is based. Both are written by Walter Moseley. Anyone interested in being a part of this exciting evening can contact The Rep for a script, 314-968-7340. You are also welcome to just come and listen!

Macbeth: Representatives from the scene shop, prop shop, costume shop, and perhaps others will give a "behind the scenes" peek!

Beehive, The 60's Musical: A presentation on the female singers of the 1960s, with a surprise performance of some of those wonderful songs.

WISEWRITE IS ON ITS WAY TO THE FESTIVAL

The WiseWrite students from Hudson Elementary School and Wyland Elementary School have attended the Winter Workshop and are now busy writing their own plays for publication. The plays will be submitted in February and a committee will decide which ones will be part of the Annual WiseWrite Festival of One Act Plays to be held at The Rep on Friday, April 8, 2011.

There are still opportunities to volunteer for WiseWrite. Volunteer coaches are needed in the classrooms, especially as the deadline for finished plays gets closer. If you are interested, contact Marsha Coplon at 314-968-7340, ext. 280. If you are interested in helping at the festival with ushering and lunch, contact Jean Lange, 314-968-1344.

BACKERS CHALLENGE

The Rep is most grateful to receive a \$25,000 Challenge Grant from a generous anonymous longtime supporter of The Rep to match any gifts from new donors to the theatre. Any gift of any size will help us reach our goal. If you would be interested in being a Rep Backer, please contact Barb Melton 314-968-7340, ext. 230.

AN AUTUMN CABARET

The Backers Volunteer Board hosted a Cabaret event on November 7, at Jazz at The Bistro in Grand Center. Over one hundred guests enjoyed an evening of jazz, headlined by our own Company Manager, vocalist Deborah Sharn. Cocktails, appetizers, and a raffle rounded out the enjoyable time. This successful party raised \$7,200 to be given as a special gift to The Rep.

Check out the volunteer pages on www.repstl.org.