

# Topeka Civic Theatre & Academy 2008-09 Annual Report to the Community

## The Topeka Civic Theatre & Academy's Two-fold Mission Statement:

1. To enrich the lives of people in Topeka and Northeast Kansas by creating a broad range of programs and artistically excellent theatrical experiences for their education, engagement, and entertainment;
2. To nurture inspired and aspiring avocational theatre artists and support volunteers by providing positive and exciting opportunities for showcasing and developing performance, production, and management skills.

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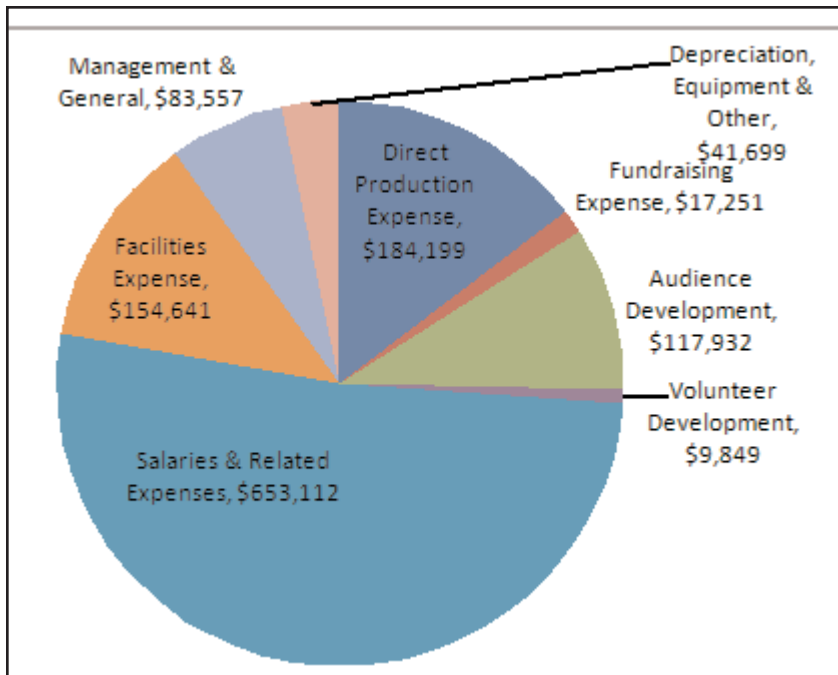




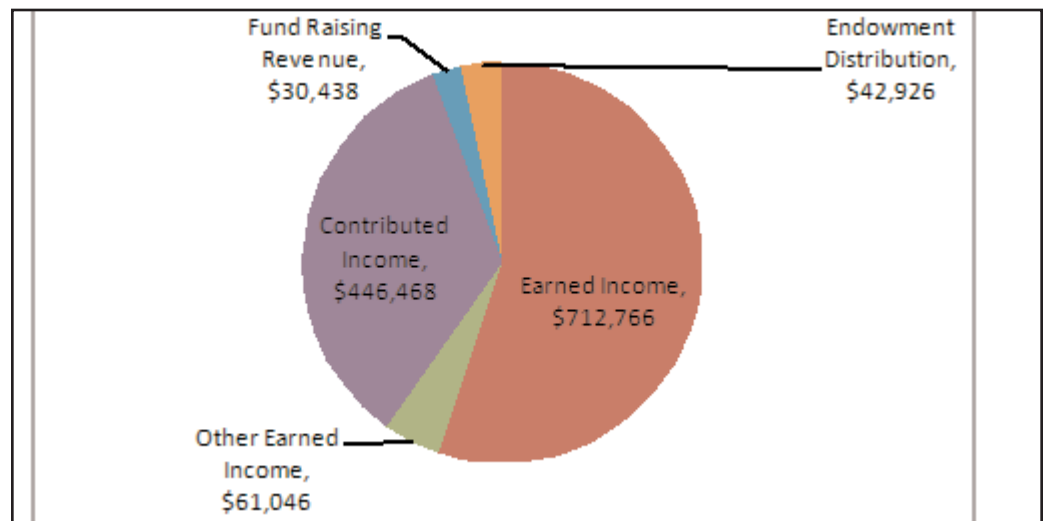
## Message from Carole Ries, TCTA Executive Director...

As I write this report in June, 2010, we've completed a very successful 2008/2009 season and are halfway through our 2009/2010 season. We are looking forward to a huge year of celebration as 2010/2011 will be our 75th season of producing theatre. In those 75 years, we have had many ups and downs. We've had many years when we almost didn't survive...the flood year being the most dramatic but there have been many others. No matter what, there have always been loyal volunteers and donors who have helped to see us through the tough times and celebrate our successes. This past season has been one of recovery, but we can see that we still have a ways to go. This is particularly visible when we look at our corporate partners, as everyone tries to reinvent themselves with tighter budgets and fewer staff. We're no exception, but we are also not alone. We're not alone in tightening our belts, and we're not alone as our loyal supporters stand steadfastly by our sides to make sure that TCT is here for another 75 years. Our two-fold mission is important. Not only will we be here to entertain, educate and inspire with our broad range of productions, but we will be here to serve those who want to be a part of this theatre, as actors, stagehands, and volunteers in many other capacities. Your support of sustainability by providing annual and multi-year gifts ensures we will be able to focus on that mission.

**Total Expenses 2008-2009: \$1,262,240**



**Total Revenue 2008-2009: \$1,293,644**



# ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Trust Fund was established in 1998 due to the foresight of the leaders of the Sheffel capital campaign, Tim & Carole Etzel and John & Ruth Stauffer. They made a decision that 20% of all capital monies raised would be set aside for an endowment, so that hopefully the theatre would never again face the dire circumstances it had often faced so in its



history. Their goal was to establish a \$1 million endowment with the intent of providing an annual distribution of income to the theatre's general operating budget. In order to achieve that goal, we made some sacrifices but the gamble paid off. Since 1999, the Endowment has made an average annual distribution of \$28,600 to support the theatre's programming, or a total of \$314,600. At the end of 2008/2009 our fund balance had recovered to a balance of \$951,540. A generous donor replaced our losses of approximately \$22,000 to bring us back to the 2005 guarantee. In addition, the donor assured that the theatre had a distribution for fiscal year 2009 in the amount of \$40,000.

The Trust fund is a long-term investment securing the future of the theatre. The corpus of the endowment is never to be spent. However, the income is intended to be distributed annually to support the theatre's ongoing programming. Although the trustees were unable to make an annual distribution in FY2009 due to the economic downturn, the Trust Fund had a guarantee

in place to protect TCT's distribution. Donations to our endowments during 2008/2009 include \$1250 to the Etzel Stauffer Fund; \$1000 to the Anne-Katharine Goetz Memorial Fund; and \$1270 to the Discretionary Fund for a total of \$3520.

Friends of TCTA may desire to include the TCTA Endowment in their estate planning. Individuals interested in our planned giving program, The Show Must Go On may contact Randy Austin, chair of the Endowment at (785) 272-1555 or Linda Falley in our development office at (785) 357-5213.

## The many facets of our programming...

### MAINSTAGE

The 2007-2008 season opened with a gala and our production of a western comedy by Norm Foster, *Outlaw* followed by the classic mystery by Agatha Christie, *The Mousetrap*. The holidays brought the family musical *Annie Warbucks* and then the romantic comedy *KOLD Radio, Whitefish Bay*. Audiences delighted in the fun musical *Little Shop of Horrors* and were then moved by the classic drama *Death of a Salesman*. The season ended with the comedy based around writing *Gone with the Wind*, *Moonlight and Magnolias* and the summer was wrapped up with the classic musical of love and transformation, *My Fair Lady*.

### STUDIO

Our studio series began with the GrooveLily Musical, *Striking 12*. Two thought-provoking plays rounded out the TCT Studio Series with *Third* and *Doubt*.

### YOUTH PRODUCTIONS

TCT Academy students performed *Revenge of the Space Pandas*, *Sarah Plain & Tall* and the musical *Honk! Junior*. TCTA also introduced their new TYA series with *A Year with Frog and Toad* and *Ferdinand the Bull* with adults performing for children with special daytime matinee performances especially designed for young audiences.

### PERFORMANCE COMPANIES

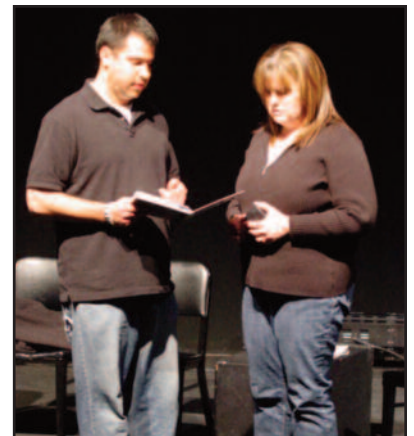
Our three performance companies made numerous performances throughout the year at TCTA and around Northeast Kansas. Laughing Matters improvisational comedy performed regularly on the Sheffel Stage along with the two senior citizen companies, WTCT Radio Players and The Senior Class Improvisational Comedy performing regularly in the Oldfather Theatre.

### VOLUNTEERS

TCTA productions rely on dedicated volunteers. Over 600 volunteers helped at TCTA during the 2008-2009 season. Volunteers helped in many capacities including, but not limited to scene shop workers, stitchers in the costume shop, hostesses, house managers, box office assistants, receptionists, food donors, and many more. A Volunteer Awards Night was held in August of 2009 to honor those volunteers.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

The season kicked off with the Corporate Gala and included a wonderful performance of *Outlaw*. Season Teaser events were held in May to announce the 2009-2010 season. The fifth annual Bravo Breakfast & Brunch helped raise much-needed money for TCTA programming.



# Thank you to our Contributing Members 2008/2009

Contributing members are essential to every facet of our program. Ticket purchases provide 65% of the funds needed to stage a TCTA production.

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\*denotes founding members

†denotes deceased

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### Gold Circle

*Making Dreams Come True for*

*50 Children & 50 Volunteers*

*Annually*

\*Liz Stratton

### Silver Circle

*Making Dreams Come True for*

*25 Children & 25 Volunteers*

*Annually*

\*Joanne Harrison

\*Twink & John Lynch

\*Irv & Peggy Sheffel

## DREAM BUILDERS

### Bronze Circle

*Making Dreams Come True for*

*5 Children & 5 Volunteers*

*Annually*

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**This is the conclusion of our 2008/2009 Annual Report.**

**For information about planned giving and other gifts, please contact**

**Linda Falley, Director of Development (785) 357-5213.**

**If your name has been inadvertently omitted, please accept our apology.**

