

2010-2011
Report to the Membership
First City Players



Community Theatre for
Ketchikan, Alaska
November 12, 2011



Annual Meeting
and Report to the Membership
Saturday November 12, 2011
July 2010 - June 2011

Board of Governors

Officers

President	Tom LeCompte
Vice-President	Miguel Torres
Secretary	Terry O'Hara
Treasurer	Kathy Fitzgerald

Members-at-large

Jeff Fitzwater	Bill Moran
Heidi Poet	Jennifer Tucker
Cara Wallace	

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

As you are gathering to celebrate another year of theater in Ketchikan, I will be teaching as an Artist in Residency in Shishmaref. Shishmaref is on a small island in the Bering Land Bridge Preserve in the Chukchi Sea, a little west of Nome. Wow, to think of teaching theater to 180 kids in such an isolated place. This is such an amazing opportunity for me as an artist, and really, I have First City Players to thank for it. It is a little daunting. More than a little, but I know I can do it, I know I can be successful and I know they will grow through the experience of theater. I know this because of my experiences here working with so many different people on so many diverse projects.

Just look at our past season of plays. We did everything from Rodgers and Hammerstein to Jeff Daniels. Worked with people from 5 years old to 80. Produced new plays, and classics. Involved over 400 people both on and off the stage and sold over 8,000 tickets. That is a pretty amazing record on our little isolated portion of paradise.

This has also been a year of excitement about our new Performing Arts Center. I thank Lalette Kistler as the Chair of PAC for all her hard work keeping people involved in the project. I thank all the committee members and volunteers for the countless hours of work they have been pouring into making this dream come true. Debby and I are looking forward to working in our new office at the PAC in April of next year. The dream is coming true and it is the volunteers, patrons, staff and board who are doing it. Thanks so very much.

Ours is an island of opportunities and I invite all of you to join us, onstage, backstage, in the audience or as a member of one of the PAC committees. Thank you so much for making First City Players a fantastic place to play.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Nelson
Artistic Director

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE FIRST CITY PLAYERS

First City Players provides a professional, collaborative art form that educates, entertains and enlightens participants and their audiences.

PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FIRST CITY PLAYERS

The objectives of the First City Players are:

1. To cultivate interest among children and adults in classic and contemporary theatre.
2. To provide Southern Southeast Alaskan audiences a wide range of theatrical experiences.
3. To provide educational opportunities in all aspects of theatre.
4. To enable volunteers and professionals interested in any aspect of theatrical production to become involved, to mature and grow in their particular field as actor, director, technician, manager or playwright.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in theatre arts and the goals and objectives of the First City Players. Full membership is available for a \$25 yearly membership fee (\$15 student/senior and \$45 family memberships are also available). Membership is an integral part of our organization and it is with great pleasure that we have watched our membership grow significantly over the past years.

ADMINISTRATION

The FCP membership meets annually to elect the Board of Governors. The board meets monthly to plan and make policy. The artistic director implements the decisions of the board and executes the day-to-day artistic business of the theatre. The office manager works closely with the artistic director on all aspects of the theatre's operations. FCP is funded in part by a generous grant from the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, by the City of Ketchikan, by a season support grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). FCP also receives generous support from the First Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, the Monthly Grind, corporate donations, business program sponsorships, memberships, private donations and season and individual ticket sales.

HISTORY OF THE FIRST CITY PLAYERS

First City Players (FCP) is the Ketchikan area's community theatre organization. FCP was organized by a dedicated group of volunteers in 1965 and has been an active theatre for 43 years. FCP incorporated as a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization in August 1966.

For many years FCP produced plays in many different venues in Ketchikan, including the Kayhi Auditorium, Schoenbar Middle School, the Sons of Norway, the Fireside Restaurant and many, many other locations. The group produced musicals, contemporary and classical plays, drama and comedy as well as children's productions. FCP participated in many regional drama festivals and have always been noted for their excellent productions.

In 1983 FCP took over management of what was the Main Street Theatre. In 1985 the theatre received a capital grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts to begin renovations. With this grant, community fundraising and the work of many dedicated volunteers, the Main Street Theatre opened its doors in the spring of 1986 with the play *Painting Churches* by Tina Howe, directed by Carol Cairnes Schafer. With the opening of the theatre it became necessary for FCP to hire an artistic director to manage the facility and to administer and direct a regular season of plays.

Since 1988 FCP has produced regular seasons of plays and workshops. The theatre began to sell season subscriptions for the 1989-1990 season. The FCP production schedule has grown from one winter show and a summer production of Ketchikan's original musical melodrama, *The Fish Pirate's Daughter*, to a full year-round schedule of theatrical events.

In the past ten years FCP has expanded its youth programming. Beginning in the summer of 1997 FCP began offering children's theatre classes. The first summer involved over 20 children in three different classes learning improvisation, storytelling and movement skills. In the summer of 1998 FCP joined with the KAAHC to start ArtsCool a summer fine and performing arts camp. FCP in, co-operation with Ketchikan Theatre Ballet, now enrolls up to 60 children ages 8 – 16 in classes that culminate in a fully staged musical production.

In the winter of 1999 FCP began a second children's program, ActOut winter children's theatre classes. These classes are for students from Kindergarten through 12th grades. These classes give students opportunities to learn a number of different theatrical skills, from different instructors. Classes include Creative Dramatics, Improvisation, and Acting.

In the winter of 2002 FCP lost the lease with our longtime landlords at the Main Street Theatre. We moved to a new office location at 716 Totem Way in May of 2002 and produced the majority of our productions on the Kayhi stage. Four years ago, we found that there was the

need to move to a larger, more accessible office space, and to try and find alternative performance space as well. In April 2007 we moved upstairs in the Plaza Mall and have performed a number of productions at the Plaza

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

In 2009, Ketchikan finally achieved traction for its vision of a Ketchikan performing arts center when First City Players and Ketchikan Theatre Ballet joined forces and purchased the former Fireside or Elks Club Building at 335 Main Street. With the assistance of The Ketchikan Gateway Borough, the City of Ketchikan and the State of Alaska, and some very timely assistance of ReMax and Terry Wanzer and Mary Klahn, the purchase was completed on June 30, 2009. That summer and Fall, the PAC Committee worked with architects Bettisworth North, and contracted engineers to fine tune a plan for development. Current plans call for a top floor open performance space with flexible seating that could serve audiences of up to 300 people for events as diverse as theater with proscenium to in the round seating, mystery and dinner theatre, jazz festivals and multiple configurations for dance. The middle floor will house dance and rehearsal studios, offices and dressing rooms. The ground floor will house offices, restrooms, storage and a stagecraft shop. Stay tuned as we all work together to develop a beloved arts and gathering space for our children, ourselves and future generations.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

FCP is a resource for scripts, play reviews, theatre arts competitions, auditions and information. Costume and technical use contracts enable the community to use the theatre's equipment. FCP also responds to individual and group requests for advice on theatrical, makeup and technical needs.

The FCP artistic director works in area schools both in individual classrooms and in larger school settings, directing productions, and giving workshops. In FY08 the artistic director worked with the Houghtaling "Dramatic Dolphins."

In FY11 FCP guest artists Brian Kinsella, Paul Meyers and Anton Schwartz worked in a number of area school music programs. Mr. Kinsella & Ms. Phillips instructed a Jazz Choir at Tongass School of Arts and Science, Houghtaling, Holy Name and Fawn Mountain. Our Sunday performance featured almost 200 students from area schools. The Sunday performance also featured the blues guitar ensemble which was a huge hit with our audience.

FCP sponsors a variety of workshops each year to increase the quality of our productions and to expand the knowledge of our actors and technicians. During FY11 we sponsored workshops for actors, musicians and children.

FCP continued to bring conductor **Roger Nelson**, instructor at Cornish College of the Arts, to work with the orchestra of the fall musical, “*Cinderella*.” Roger brings a wealth of musical theatre knowledge with him. He not only increases the quality of the orchestra and is available for private instrumental instruction, he also works with the singers to increase the musical quality of these productions.

Anne Phillips, jazz vocalist, conducted three sessions of solo vocal jazz/ cabaret workshops as well as an adult jazz choir. Pianist Brian Kinsella joined Anne working with vocalists this past year. He also worked with the youth from four area schools to create a youth jazz choir. Saxophonist **Anton Schwartz** worked with instrumentalists both with elementary, middle and high school bands, as well as teaching Master Classes in Woodwind and Jazz Ensemble. **Paul Meyers** instructed a class in blues guitar and the participants rocked the house on the Sunday performance. He also worked with **Anton Schwartz** in the jazz ensemble class. The residency of these fine artists was made possible, in part, by a sponsorship from Wells Fargo Bank Alaska.

FCP continues to produce two children’s programs each year. We begin our fiscal year with ArtsCool. This was the twelfth year of this program, which is an intensive four-week long workshop/rehearsal for a musical production. Last summer 50+ young people ages 8 – 17 worked with director Elizabeth Nelson, and choreographers Clare Bennett & Marguerite Auger along with artist Lauren McCue. They performed *Willy Wonka, Jr.* as well as learning about acting, dance, props, set construction and lighting. This project is made possible through generous support of the Monthly Grind, the First City Rotary, and the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

ActOut, FCP’s winter children’s program offered classes in Creative Dramatics, Improvisation, and Acting. The kids worked with directors Bridget Mattson and Elizabeth Nelson over three months. They played games, learned performance skills and rehearsed and performed the play *The Fantastic Mr. Fox*.

PlayTime

The 2010-2011 Season of Plays

The Fish Pirate's Daughter July 2010

by **Bob Kinerk and Jim Alguire**

Once again Little Nell was saved from the clutches of Kurt Von Ohlsen by Sweet William Uprightly with help from...gasp, dare I say that name? Violet LaRosa.

This perennial favorite played for four weeks at the Ted Ferry Civic Center to very appreciative audiences. We continued to offer this show with a "Crab Feast" and the response was tremendous. The production involves a dedicated cast of volunteer actors plus stage and production crew and attracts a diverse group from the community.

Last season's cast included: Dave Porter, Steve Corporon, Seth Krasnow, Heidi Poet, James White, Susan Shain, Talia Starkweather-Jones, Debby Otte, Lee Freeman, Milan Barry and a host of other talented people.



Gigglefeet Dance Festival August 2010



This was the twelfth year of this delightful, very Ketchikan, event. The sponsors of this event are the First City Players, Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council and Ketchikan Theatre Ballet. In 2002 FCP took over full coordination of this event, including scheduling, rehearsals, stage management, front of house and publicity.

The performances were held at the Kayhi auditorium on Friday and Sunday evenings during the Blueberry Arts Festival weekend. Once again both solo and ensemble dances wowed local audiences with the skill and imagination of our local dancers and choreographers.

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka, jr August 2010

Lyrics and Music by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley

Adapted for the stage by Leslie Bricusse and Timothy Allen McDonald

Based on the book *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl



Roald Dahl's timeless story of the world famous candy man and his quest to find an heir came to life in this stage adaptation of "Charlie and The Chocolate Factory," which features the songs from the classic family film "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." Thememorable score features "The Candy Man", "Pure Imagination", "Oompa Loompa" and "I Want it Now" The show featured Cheyenne mathews, Sarah Wendy burman, Noah Jardine, Tyler McRoberts, Jasmine Kolean,

Heather Newbill, Trevor Wutzke, Noah Jardine, Chasina Klein, Owen Oliver, Paige Hosley, Taylor Moody C.J. O'Brien, Hitsati Hudson, Mary Flora, Emilio Torres, Melanie Loughman, Elsie Heinl, Arick Mattson, Sarah Fitzgerald, Elizabet Vossen, Liam Kiffer Alexis Biggerstaff and many, many more.

Divas! September 2010

This fundraising event, first launched in 2007, is the most successful fundraiser First City Players has ever had. This is due to the Divas themselves. Seven women raised over \$18,000 for the theatre in this one night event. In a glorious night of triumphant performances by all, 2009-10 Diva Debby Otte crowned Diva Kelly "Chiquita" Chick as Queen Diva, from a field of amazing and talented women: Penny Connelly, Bridget Mattson, Deedra the "Diamond Diva" Wutzke, and the Diva Duo - Chazmania Jo Hanna, and Diva Kaile "Baby D" Hutton.

First City Players is deeply grateful for each of our Divas who collectively put together a dynamic evening of entertainment. We thank the sellout crowd as well who responded with cash, credit cards and checks. This event has become a yearly fundraiser for FCP. Congratulations to Diva Chiquita who spent a year being a wonderful Ambassador for the First City Players.



RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA

November 2010



**Sponsored by
First Bank**

The timeless enchantment of a magical fairy tale is re-born with the Rodgers & Hammerstein hallmarks of originality, charm and elegance. Presented originally on television in 1957 starring

Julie Andrews, Rodgers & Hammerstein's CINDERELLA was the most widely viewed program in the history of the medium. Its recreation in 1965 starring Lesley Ann Warren was no less successful in transporting a new generation to the miraculous kingdom of dreams-come-true, and so was a second remake in 1997, which starred Brandy as Cinderella and Whitney Houston as her Fairy Godmother. As adapted for the stage, with great warmth and more than a touch of hilarity, the hearts of children and adults alike still soar when the slipper fits. Cinderella waltzed onto the Kayhi stage featuring the talents of Ketchikan performers Heidi Poet, Elizabeth Graham, Cat Hindman, Jennifer Tucker, Michael Fitzgerald, Miguel Torres, Deb Porter and Rotary Exchange Student Balazs Rostas.



Directed by Elizabeth Nelson
Choreography by Bridget Mattson
Musical Direction by Elizabeth Nelson & Roger Nelson
Sets & Lights by Keith Smith
Costumes by Bridget Mattson & Kathy Fitzgerald

The Jazz & Cabaret Festival January 2011

with Anne Phillips, Bob Kindred, Zach Deitz and Paul Meyers

Anne Phillips and Paul Meyers returned to Ketchikan with newcomers Brian Kinsella and Anton Schwartz for another two-week “mini jazz festival”. Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Meyers did intensive workshops with local instrumental musicians. They instructed various workshops and worked with local musicians to create a jazz ensemble and a blues guitar ensemble.

Ms. Phillips and Mr. Kinsella instructed three sessions of solo vocal jazz as well as teaching a Jazz & Gospel Choir. Mr. Kinsella & Ms Phillips also did residencies at Houghtaling Elementary, Fawn Mountain School, the Tongass School of Arts and Science, and Holy Name School.

After two weeks of hard work, the vocalists with Mr. Kinsella on the piano, were joined by Mr. Schwartz on sax, Mr. Meyers on guitar and local musicians, Bob Bloom & Nelson Hays on bass, Austin Hays on drums and Dale Curtis on trumpet to give a varied, lively and sometimes poignant performance to sold out houses at the Ted Ferry Civic Center. On Sunday afternoon the children’s choirs joined the adults for a family afternoon of spirited jazz. An added event to our festival was the Dixieland Jazz Brunch which featured our guests artistis along with some local musicians. Musicians will be returing to Ketchikan at the same time next year.



Our Town March 2011

by Thornton Wilder



The plain folks of Grover’s Corners - the doc, the editor, the mothers, the milkman, young lovers and others - offer ordinary lives to our eyes and invite our empathy. Its stage setting, famous for implication rather

than simulation, fixes our attention on the words and the telling. Wilder won the Pulitzer Prize for drama when Our Town went to Broadway. This beautiful, thoughtful production featured Dave Kiffer as the Stage Manager and included the talents of Nicole Capel, Kathy Fitzgerald, Steve Corporon, Terry O’Hara, Heidi Poet, Tim Moreau and many others. The set, sound and lights were designed by Keith Smith. The production was directed by Elizabeth Nelson.

Fantastic Mr. Fox April 2011

by Roald Dahl Dramatized by David Wood

An ActOut Performance Company Production

Roald Dahl's enchanting tale relates the adventures of badgers, moles, rabbits, weasels and our hero - a most fantastic fellow! See the farmers Boggis, Bunce and Bean try to foil Mr. Fox and his friends. Thrill as the brave animals face doom in Bean's Secret Cider Cellar. Cheer their escape and share the pleasure as Mr. Fox provides a feast for everyone. Lively and suspenseful and



a lot of fun! The show featured Emilio Torres, Alec Leighton, Sarah Wendy Burman, Wyatt Anderson, Arick Mattson, Seth Hudson, Andrea Short, Owen Hillberry, Tessa Salazar, Phillip Smith, Sage Mirsky, Jefferson Barry, Caden Mattson, Drace Mattson, Luke Dossett, Meagan Jorgensen, Teara Hays, Aurora Archibald, Sienna Archibald, Paige Avila, Ashlynn Bishop, Jenna Bishop, Zoe Jackson, Kulle Jackson, Gabriel Canfield, Reese Schmitt, Jake Avila, Evan Bishop, Dyllan Boren, Bradock Duckworth, Mickey Lapinski, Nolan Nagy Tristan Trujillo, Chasina Klein, Orion Bender, and Jacob Bruesch.

CutPlug May 2011

Original theatre at the Saxman Tribal House



In it's third year this original short play festival held two very different events over one weekend.

On Friday there were three short plays by Ketchikan writers Sharon Bender, Keith Smith and Colin Patton as well as stand up comedy by Marc Osborne and Justin Hoyt On Saturday former Ketchikan resident Bill Patton returned and performed his one-man show *One For the Road*

Escanaba in da Moonlight June 2011

by Jeff Daniels

When the Soady clan reunites for opening day of deer season at the family's camp on Michigan's Upper Peninsula, 35-year-old Reuben Soady is a "Youper" suffering a jinx: the oldest Soady on record never to have bagged a buck. Native Michigander Jeff Daniels spins a tale of hilarity, horror and heart as Reuben goes to any length to avoid extending his sorry distinction. Escanaba in da Moonlight was crafted by a talented actor famed for his diverse movie roles. But Daniels proves here that he's also a consummate storyteller. A true delight for everyone who saw it, this show includes a scene that got some of the biggest laughs we've ever heard in the Kayhi Auditorium

The talented cast of Russ Schleicher, Jeremiah Tucker, Tom Burrows, Seth Krasnow and Lyss Schelicher were mostly newcomers to the First City Players and we sincerely hope that all of them will return to play with us again. The beautiful sets and lights were created by Keith Smith the show was directed by Elizabeth Nelson with assistance by Jennifer Tucker.



PlayTime

Still to come in 2011 & 2012

Christmas Jazz Cafe

A new event created by FCP Board members Heidi Poet, Jenn Tucker and Jeff Fitzwater, you are invited to an intimate event featuring wonderful Christmas Jazz, a six-course tasting of wines, cheeses, hors 'd'oeuvres and dessert. December 2 & 4, 2011 at the North Tongass Community Club.

Jazz & Cabaret Festival

Workshops begin January 9, 2012. Anne, Zach Deitz, Bob & Paul will all be here to teach great workshops and make some wonderful performances. Whether you join us onstage or come to one or all of the great shows. FCP's Jazz/Cab Festival is something to look forward to on a cold January night.

Amadeus

Peter Shaffer's provocative work weaves the confrontation between mediocrity and genius into a tale of breathtaking dramatic power. In the court of the Austrian Emperor Josef, Antonio Salieri is the established composer. Enter one of the greatest musical geniuses of all time: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Salieri has given himself to God so that he might realize his ambition to be a great composer. And here is Mozart - a foul-mouthed, graceless oaf who owns a musical gift that is beyond Salieri's desperate and envious grasp.

Directed by Elizabeth Nelson

March 9 - 17, 2012 at the Kayhi Auditorium

The Adventures of Robin Hood

ActOut Youth Theatre

Follow Robin and his Merry Men as they protect poor Saxons from the evil machinations of the Sheriff of Nottingham. Performed by participants of ActOut Performance Company.

April 20 & 21, 2012 at the Kayhi Auditorium

Cut Plug

Once again First City Players challenges the writers and actors of Ketchikan to fish or cut bait! This festival of plays, skits, stand-up or monologues is structured on the *Gigglefeet* model. We'll provide two fun-filled evenings of studio performances of original works by Ketchikan's talented writers!

May 4 & 5, 2012, at the Saxman Tribal House

Distracted

What's wrong with nine-year-old Jesse? He can't sit still, he curses, he raps. Teacher says it's A.D.D. Dad says he's "just a boy!" Mom wants answers. Is Jesse dysfunctional or different? Don't we all have A.D.D., to a degree? Lisa Loomer's play is a hilarious, provocative and poignant look at a family and an epidemic. Are we so tuned in to our 24/7, info-rich world that we tune out what matters?

PLEASE NOTE:

THIS PLAY IS RATED M FOR MATURE FOR CONTENT AND LANGUAGE

Directed by Ty Hewitt

June 15 - 23, 2012 at the Kayhi Auditorium.

Fish Pirate's Daughter

Ketchikan's original musical melodrama is served up with a crab feast for a perfect summer evening. Cheer the hero, hiss the villain, and admire the damsel. Join us and bring your guests from out of town for a comical evening of slightly exaggerated Ketchikan history, set to charming songs.

Fridays and Saturdays July 6 - 21, 2012, at the Ted Ferry Civic Center

Gigglefeet Dance Festival

Our 15th annual dance festival celebrates the joy and diversity of dance. Performances feature local and visiting choreographers and dancers of many different schools of training, varied ages and cultures. Gigglefeet is co-sponsored by FCP, Ketchikan Theatre Ballet and Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council.

August 6/8 at the the Ketchikan High School Auditorium

ArtsCool Production

Oklahoma!

Rodgers & Hammerstein's first collaboration set the standard for musical theatre in its high-spirited rivalry between farmers and cowboys and the charming love story of Curly and Laurey. This special G2K version of the play is performed by the ArtsCool Production Co.

Directed by Elizabeth Nelson

August 10 & 11, 2012 at the Ketchikan High School Auditorium

First City Players
Income Statement
July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

Income

Contributions	62,774.52
Gross Receipts	183,578.44
Special Events	<u>24,374.27</u>
Total Income	270,727.23

Expense

Salaries & Benefits	125,798.51
Professional Fees	29,928.96
Fundraising Expense	6,597.78
Printing	1,439.35
Insurance	1,348.14
Production Expense	78,804.42
Administrative Expense	20,869.95
Rent & Building Expense	13,286.07
Repair & Maintenance	4,653.13
Travel	1,195.57
Uncategorized Expenses	<u>37.71</u>
Total Expense	283,959.60
Net Income	-13,410.37

