

2011-2012  
Report to the Membership  
First City Players



Community Theatre for  
Ketchikan, Alaska  
December 4, 2012



Annual Meeting  
and Report to the  
Membership  
Tuesday, December 4, 2012  
July 2011 - June 2012

## Board of Governors

### Officers

President	Tom LeCompte
Vice-President	Miguel Torres
Secretary	Jennifer Tucker
Treasurer	Chris Newbill

### Members-at-large

Glen Brown	Kathy Fitzgerald (resigned)
Jeff Fitzwater	Bill Moran
Terry O'Hara	Heidi Poet (resigned)
Michelle Short	Katherine Tatsuda
Cara Wallace (resigned)	Judy Zenge (resigned)

# FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Ketchikan Performing Arts Center. Yup, we get to say that now. Really, the office you are in is a part of the KPAC. The dream is coming true and very, very soon, this whole building will be alive with a variety of performing arts! Sometimes when I'm coming into work I have to pinch myself to really believe that the FCP office is at the KPAC. That our hard work is becoming a reality and that in the very near future this building, the Fireside/Elks building, will be alive with dance, music, theater and art. It really, really is happening! It has been a very full year, a year of some sadness, a year of frustration and set backs, but mostly a year of progress. The KPAC being the Borough's #1 priority was an amazing boost for our volunteers. Knowing that the community sees the value of the project and our elected officials are willing to fight for us. Being able to look into the future and see a time when the renovation begins, this has made for a very exciting time. I'm excited to see what the new year will bring and how our project shapes up during the next 12 months. But for now, I'm thrilled to have taken the first step, to be in our own cozy office in the KPAC.

FCP has been busy doing more than working on our home of course. The past year saw us do another year of varied theater: musicals, comedies, dramas and kids theater. Again I would like to thank the community for your continued support. The world is changing, but the need to tell our stories never will.

I'm off to another adventure this year. I will be spending the next two weeks in the little village of Pilot Point working with all 12 students in their school (K-12) directing a production of "A Christmas Carol". Again, a daunting and exhilarating task. I love these opportunities to see our state and to share theater with children who wouldn't have the opportunity otherwise. I'm able to do this because of the amazing support I receive from First City Players.

This 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 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 46 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 first with the KAAHC, and now 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. In April 2007 we moved upstairs in the Plaza Mall and have performed a number of productions at the Plaza. In September of 2012 FCP moved into our new permanent office in the lower level of the future Ketchikan Performing Arts Center.

# **PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

In 2009, Ketchikan finally achieved traction for its vision of a Ketchikan performing arts center when First City Players 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. 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.

During 2012 the Ketchikan Gateway Borough made funding the KPAC its #1 priority on both the Governor's and Legislative Community Capital Project List. After much discussion with the City of Ketchikan and the City of Saxman, the KPAC is #4 on the community list sent to Juneau. The KPAC Committee has been active on many levels of planning, the Capital Campaign Committee will begin the major campaign in January of 2013. The dream is coming true. With FCP moving into the building, it feels even closer than ever.

## **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. As a Alaska State Artist in Residence she travelled to Shishmaref and instructed 160 students from pre-K - 12th grade in the fundamentals of acting during a two week residency in November of 2011.

In FY12 FCP guest artists Anne Phillips, Zach Dietz, Paul Meyers and Bob Kindred worked in a number of area school music programs. Mr. Dietz & 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 these area schools. The Sunday performance also featured the blues guitar ensemble which was 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 FY12 we sponsored workshops for actors, musicians and children.

**Anne Phillips**, jazz vocalist, conducted three sessions of solo vocal jazz/ cabaret workshops as well as an adult jazz choir. Pianist Zach Dietz 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 **Bob Kindred** 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 at the Sunday performance. He also worked with Bob Kindred in the jazz ensemble class.

FCP continues to produce two children's programs each year. We began our fiscal year with ArtsCool. This was the twelfth year of this program, which is an intensive four-week workshop/rehearsal for a musical production. Last summer 50+ young people ages 8 – 17 were involved in both morning arts classes and afternoon performance classes. In the morning, the kids danced, made movies and created many types of visual art in classes instructed by Marc Osborne, Elizabeth Long and Jane Griffo. The afternoon group worked with director Elizabeth Nelson and choreographer Clare Bennett, along with artist Loren McCue. They performed *Fiddler on the Roof, Jr.*, as well as learning about acting, dance, props, set construction and lighting. Our youngest actors, aged 5 - 7, worked with Ashley Byler and Marc Osborne to create their own film. This project is partially funded and with the generous support of the Monthly Grind, 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 in the hilarious production of *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*.

# PlayTime

*The 2011-2012 Season of Plays*

## The Fish Pirate's Daughter

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 an "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, Austin Hays, Angela Dunleavy, Lyss Schleicher, Charlene Lauth, Leila Kheiry, Niles Corporon, James White, and a host of other talented people.

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## Gigglefeet Dance Festival

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. The Ketchikan Theatre Ballet coordinates the scheduling & rehearsals, First City Players stage manages and coordinates the front of house, and publicity is in the capable hands of the KAAHC. 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.





# *Fiddler on the Roof, jr*

Book by Joseph Stein, Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, Music by Jerry Bock



In the little village of Anatevka, Tevye, a poor dairyman, tries to instill in his five daughters the traditions of his tight-knit Jewish community in the face of changing social mores and the growing anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia.

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF JR. is presented as a special edition of one of Broadway's great masterpieces. The universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality

and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy and sadness. The show features a star turn in Tevye, among the most memorable roles in musical theatre. The show featured Emo Torres, Sarah Fitzgerald, Melanie Loughman, Cheyenne Mathews, Owen Oliver, Chasina Klein, Nicole Cyr, Andrea Short, Joanna Axelson, Seth Hudson, Chris Brown, Teiara Hayes, Liam Kiffer, Phillip Smith and many, many more.

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## Divas!

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. Ten women raised over \$15,000 for the theatre in this one night event. In a glorious night of triumphant performances by all, 2011 Diva Katherine Tatsuda finally prevailed among Divas Rita Flagg, Theresa Anderson, Dani Marcano, Sharon Bender, Amanda Slevin, Jennifer Tucker, Michelle O'Brien and Talia Starkweather-Jones. 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 and Diva Katherine spent a year being a wonderful Ambassador for the First City Players.





When the S.S. American heads out to sea, etiquette and convention head out the portholes as two unlikely pairs set off on the course to true love... proving that sometimes destiny needs a little help from a crew of singing sailors, an exotic disguise and some good old-fashioned blackmail. *Anything Goes* sailed onto the Kayhi stage featuring the talents of Amanda Slevin, Kyle Bailey, Stephanie Alley, Michael Van Wormer, Austin Kalkins, Alexie Weston and many other talented locals. With a book and lyrics by Cole Porter, this was a voyage enjoyed by all.

Directed by Elizabeth Nelson  
 Choreography by Clare Bennett  
 Musical Direction by Kim Henrickson  
 Conducted by Mary Kurth  
 Sets & Lights by Keith Smith  
 Costumes by Sherry Henrickson



**The weather outside was frightful, but the atmosphere inside the North Tongass Community Club was just delightful.**

Amazing food prepared by First City Players' volunteer Jenn Tucker. Wonderful Christmas Jazz provided by Ketchikan's talented musicians. Diverse wines to set off every course. It was a relaxing, lovely pre-amble to the holidays.

This fundraiser was the brainchild of FCP volunteer Heidi Poet and featured the vocals of Niles Corporon, Amanda Slevin,

Jeff Fitzwater and Heidi Poet. The top-notch jazz ensemble led by Kim Henrickson featured Dale Curtis, Bob Bloom, Austin Hays, Karl Richey and Lynn Caldwell.



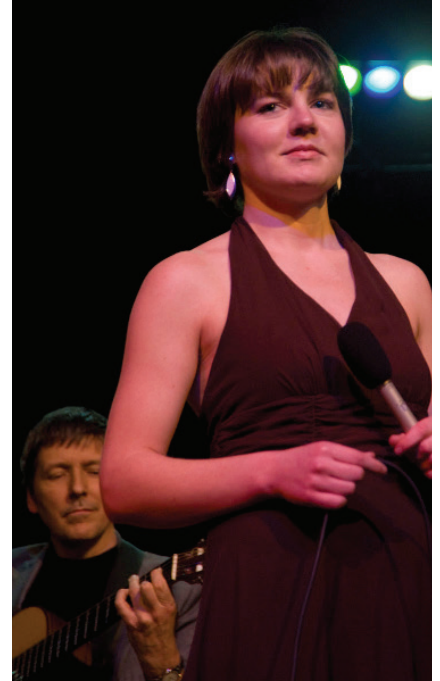
# The Jazz & Cabaret Festival

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

Anne Phillips, Zach Deitz, Bob Kindred and Paul Meyers returned to Ketchikan for another two-week “mini jazz festival”. Mr. Kindred and Mr. Meyers instructed various workshops and worked with local musicians to create a jazz ensemble and a blues guitar ensemble.

Ms. Phillips and Mr. Deitz instructed four sessions of solo vocal jazz as well as teaching a Jazz & Gospel Choir. Mr. Deitz & 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. Deitz on the piano, were joined by Mr. Kindred 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.



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## Amadeus

by Peter Shaffer

**“Who Will Pray For The World’s Mediocrities?”**



In his absorbing play, Peter Shaffer speculates craftily on the possible murder of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart by fellow composer Antonio Salieri. It is less a look into the distressed life of the brilliant title character (the “Beloved of God,”) than a cunning examination into the devious mind of his arch rival (“the patron saint of mediocrity,”).

This beautiful, thoughtful, moving production featured Glen Fazakerley as Salieri and Austin Hays as Mozart. The supporting cast featured Dave Kiffer, Michael Van Wormer, Jeremiah Tucker, Theresa Anderson, Reg Kalkins, Maria Dudzak, Charles Anderson, Ethan Bowlen,

Steve Corporon, Scott Bowlen, Steve Shay, Shannon Hickman and Cat Hindman. The gorgeous set, sound and lights were designed by Keith Smith. The production was directed by Elizabeth Nelson, assistant director/stage manager was Jenn Tucker.

# The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood

by Mary Lynn Dobson

Directed by Bridget Mattson

An ActOut Performance Company Production



A frantically funny, Monty Pythonesque retelling of the classic tale of Robin Hood. This time around, the legendary legend, in his never-ending quest to aid the needy, encounters a lovely damsel-in-distress (oddly obsessed with skin conditions); an ever-scheming sheriff who would rather

bowl a strike than hit a bulls eye; a gold-hoarding, bad-guy monarch wannabe; and a good-natured “Town’s Guy” who manages to make his way into every scene, whether he belongs there or not. Combine them with a band of spoon-wielding Merry Men whose collective IQs equal six, and you’ve got an irreverent jaunt through Sherwood Forest you won’t soon forget! The show featured Faith Jardine, Tommy Varella, Claire Landis, Hannah Gesele, Brittany Slick, Emilio Torres, Wyatt Anderson, Arick Mattson, Andrea Short, Alexis Taylor, Chesley Lovell, Austin Taylor, Phillip Smith, Caden Mattson, Drace Mattson, Teiara Hays, Joleyn Cobbs, EthanThomas, Avery Thomas, Brock Thomas, Kolby Elliot, Tessa Salazar, Zoe Jackson, Izzy Hendrickson, Karly-Joanne McMahon-Klein, Jesse Loughman, Ashley Cyr, Owen Gesele, Kepler Starkweather-Jones, Lily Pasterski, Lucas Pasterski, Kadigaan McAlpin, Ashley Moulton, Robert Bidwell, Aurora Archibald, Zoe Jackson, Kyle Jackson, Kailen Wills, Collin Elliot, Izaak Landis, Haleigh Bolton, Orion Bender, Jacob Bruesch, Kelsey Kimmel, Emery Mattson, Braddock Duckworth, Sienna Archibald.

Set design by Keith Smith; sound and lights with the First City Players Tech Team.



# CutPlug

## Original theatre at the Saxman Tribal House

In it's fourth year this original short play festival held two evenings of original plays by local playwrights, Allen Bird, Michael Kinerk, Reg Kalkins and Valarie Hendle.

Host Marc Osborne kept the evenings lively. We even had a storyteller stop by and entertain us one night. Michael Kinerk won the People's Choice Award for the best play.



# Distracted

by Lisa Loomer

Directed by Ty Hewitt

What's the matter with nine-year-old Jessie? He won't sit still, he curses, he raps and no one can seem to get him in (or out of) pajamas. Teachers think it's A.D.D., Dad says, "He's just a boy!". Mom is on a quest for answers in this hilarious, provocative and poignant look at the modern family which asks the question: "Are we so tuned into our 24-hour world, we've tuned out what really matters?"

In this very funny, thoughtful, timely play, Mama was played by newcomer to First City Players Shelly Virginia, supporting roles were played by Heather Dickerson, Jenn Tucker, Austin Hays, Emo Torres, Elizabeth Nelson, Amy Carson and Lyss Schleicher. The set was designed by Keith Smith, lighting by Tommy Thompson, Slide Design by Emo Torres and the Sound Design by Jenn Tucker. The production was Stage Managed by Terry Robbins.



# PlayTime

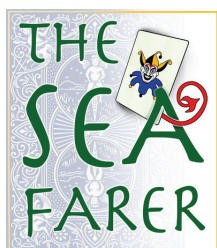
*Still to come in 2012 & 2013*

## Jazz & Cabaret Festival



Workshops begin January 7, 2013. Anne Phillips, Zach Deitz, Christian Fabian & Paul Meyers 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.

## The Seafarer

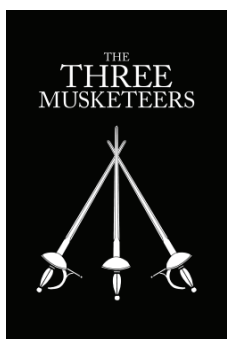


CONOR McPHERSON'S drama is set in a hardscrabble village near Dublin, where four whiskey-soaked Irishmen confront the devil - though only one of them is in on that fateful secret. It's a play that blends humor and desperation, a character-rich narrative that shows us the painful perils of our human souls and our slender chances for redemption.

Adult themes and language.

March 1 - 9, 2013 at the Kayhi Auditorium

## The Three Musketeers



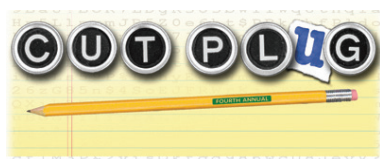
*ActOut Youth Theatre*

ALEXANDRE DUMAS' TALE is a catalog of heroism, treachery, close escapes and honor-perfect features for our enthusiastic youth company. The time is 1625. D'Artagnan goes to Paris for adventure and joins Athos, Porthos and Aramis to defend the honor of the queen while battling evil Cardinal Richelieu and the Countess de Winter. It's one for all ages, all ages for one! Performed by participants of ActOut Performance Company.

April 19 & 20, 2013 at the Kayhi Auditorium

## Cut Plug

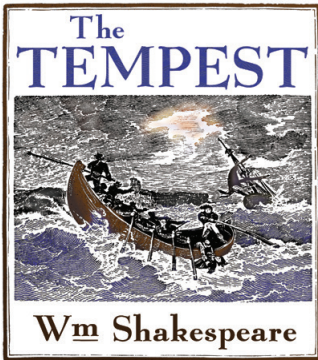
Once again First City Players challenges the writers and actors of Ketchikan to fish or cut bait! This festival of plays, skits, stand-up or monologues is structured on the *Gigglefeet* model.



We'll provide two fun-filled evenings of studio performances of original works by Ketchikan's talented writers!

May 3 & 4, 2013, at the Saxman Tribal House

## The Tempest



Shakespeare's creative power is dazzling in "The Tempest", one of two plays that he penned from original material and the last drama he wrote alone before a series of collaborations. On an island, the exiled Prospero employs illusion and manipulation in a plot to restore his daughter, Miranda, to rule in the duchy of Milan. A storm shipwrecks Prospero's usurping brother, Antonio, and his confederate, Alonso, to set the conflict. This is forceful drama from the all-time master.

Directed by Ty Hewitt

June 7 - 15, 2013

## 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 5 - 20, 2013 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 5 & 7, 2013 at the the Ketchikan High School

Auditorium

## ArtsCool Production

### Bugsy Malone, Jr.

Bugsy Malone is a tongue-in-cheek tribute to gangster films set in the 1920s. It's based on



Alan Parker's 1976 film. Parker cast children in teh stock roles and commissioned a score by Paul Williams. The film was a surprise hit, with youngsters Scott Baio as Bugsy and Jodie Foster as Tallulah. Join Ketchikan's talented kids and celebrate the 1920s!

Directed by Elizabeth Nelson/Choreography by Clare Bennett

August 9 & 10, 2013 at the Ketchikan High School Auditorium

**First City Players**  
**Income Statement**  
**July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012**

**Income**

<b>Contributions</b>	<b>83,980.96</b>
<b>Gross Receipts</b>	<b>154,322.68</b>
<b>Special Events</b>	<b><u>22,088.38</u></b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>260,392.02</b>

**Expense**

<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>112,679.56</b>
<b>Professional Fees</b>	<b>27,802.15</b>
<b>Fundraising Expense</b>	<b>3,382.89</b>
<b>Printing</b>	<b>1,164.78</b>
<b>Insurance</b>	<b>3,192.87</b>
<b>Production Expense</b>	<b>70,519.75</b>
<b>Administrative Expense</b>	<b>20,441.33</b>
<b>Rent &amp; Building Expense</b>	<b>11,155.06</b>
<b>Repair &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>3,665.87</b>
<b>Travel</b>	<b><u>723.80</u></b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>254,728.07</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>6,663.95</b>



