

2014-2015
Report to the Membership
First City Players



Community Theatre for
Ketchikan, Alaska
December 10, 2015



Annual Meeting
and Report to the
Membership
Thurs., December 10, 2015
July 2014 - June 2015

Board of Governors

Officers

President	Jennifer Tucker
Vice-President	Glenn Brown
Secretary	Lynn Jorgensen
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Members-at-large

Chris Baca	Jeff Fitzwater
Amanda Glanzer	Sharolyn Kroscavage
Tom LeCompte	Michelle Short
Marie Zellmer	

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

December 10, 2015

Dear First City Players Members;

What a year. It was a year to celebrate our many successes. 50 years of them to be exact. It was a year to enjoy some spectacular theatre. We surprised many of you with what we were able to accomplish with some very difficult shows. It was also a year of illness and of a sad goodbye.

I was so very, very proud of all the First City Players volunteers this year. To produce *Les Miserables* and do it so beautifully - musically, acting, sets, lights and costumes is something to celebrate. It was a difficult show no matter how anyone looks at it, and to add the fact that our Technical Director had to leave the show due to illness, just made the whole thing more complicated on a different level. But - as so often happens, the FCP volunteers led by Clare Bennett, Jenn Tucker and Bridget Mattson banded together and made sure that the show would go on. I will be forever grateful to them and the entire FCP family for pulling together and making *Les Mis* a show we will always be proud of.

I'm proud of our partnerships with schools and other non-profits. I'm proud of our work with children and adults. I love that FCP is a place that families come to play together. I'm proud that we challenge ourselves to view the world around us; to laugh at it, to cry with it and to tell it's stories. I'm proud of the family that IS First City Players.

Sometimes we do have to say goodbye. We lost our dear friend, and longtime President and best ever FCP supporter, Tom LeCompte this year. Tom was one of the warmest hearted people I've ever met. He would give the shirt off his back and the food off his table. Tom loved the arts in Ketchikan. He was one of the most vocal supporters and he put his energy behind it. Tom sold more of our raffle tickets than anyone else...year after year after year. He would encourage people to join in, bring them to auditions, or to help backstage or to build and paint sets. Tom encouraged us to grow, and to make ourselves available to the community. He loved life and he loved Ketchikan. Tom - we miss you so much. Thank you for all you did to make First City Players a wonderful place to work and play.

Happy Holidays! I know I'll see you at the theatre.

Elizabeth Nelson

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 Executive 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. This past year we added a new half time position to the FCP staff, that of Marketing and Outreach Coordinator. This position works closely with the Artistic Director to reach new participants and audience. 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, 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 1964 and has been an active theatre for 50 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 to name a few. The group produced musicals, contemporary and classical plays, drama and comedy, as well as children's productions. IN the past FCP participated regional drama festivals and was always noted for their excellent productions.

In 1983 FCP took over management of what was to become 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 eighteen 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 now enrolls up to 60 children ages 8 – 17 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 were for students from Kindergarten through 12th grades. These classes gave students opportunities to learn a number of different theatrical skills, Classes included Creative Dramatics, Improvisation, and Acting. This past winter we changed the name of ActOut to StarPath Academy and are working to create year-round educational opportunities for adult and youth actors as well as workshops to teach technical theatre.

In the winter of 2002 FCP lost the lease with the longtime landlords at the Main Street Theatre.

The office moved to 716 Totem Way in May of 2002 and staged the majority of productions on the Kayhi stage. In April 2007 FCP moved upstairs in the Plaza Mall and a number of productions were presented at the Plaza. In September of 2012 FCP moved into their new permanent office in the lower level of the future Ketchikan Performing Arts Center building.

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

For forty of its fifty-years, First City Players has pursued the vision for constructing a Community Performing Arts Center for Ketchikan. It began with a feasibility study for the Main Street School in 1974. The proof of the dynamism of the art center concept came in the very small Main Street Theatre and Gallery. Our 14 years of occupying The Main Street resulted in an extraordinary growth for the arts in Ketchikan and could have only been possible with an accessible committed community arts space. When we lost the Main Street, a multi-user performing arts space became a pressing need, and we attempted to develop the Coliseum Theatre, then the Spruce Mill Lot 10A, and then White Cliff School.

In 2009, with the help of City, Borough and State grants, First City Players, in alliance with Ketchikan Theater Ballet, purchased the 21,000 square foot Fireside Building at 335 Main Street, which finally provided some traction for realizing the vision. We developed conceptual plans for a two hundred and fifty seat theatre on its third floor; with dance studios, rehearsal spaces, office, and technical spaces on the second floor. At that time the cost of completion was estimated at \$4.5 Million Dollars. We partitioned and remodeled fourteen-hundred square feet of the ground floor for First City Players to move its office to the Fireside and use it for a small rehearsal space.

The challenge for completion is in the funding. We have identified funders that would be happy to help us finish the project, and the kick-start funding has been extraordinary from the Borough City and State. Our generous individual supporters have pledged and donated \$270,800 dollars to the project, which is more than has ever been raised privately for a community capital project. But the keystone funding, the first 50% of construction costs, or \$2.25 million dollars, remains elusive. 40 years ago, when we first began, it would have been easy; State and Federal sources existed then that were readily tapped for such a community project, but the funding climate has changed. At present, if the project is to go forward at all, the front end funding will need to come from local civic sources: such as CPV Funds, Economic Development funds, bond or sales tax initiatives; the same type of sources that funded the library, the pool, and fire station, but this is only possible if the community makes a performing art center a priority.

We continue to push the project forward. In 2009, we began with a conceptual design and budget for the building, but we never had an architect look at the project with the eye and expertise for an actual theatre, and several engineering questions remained unanswered. How strong is the masonry in the walls? What would it take to raise the roof? What will the 2015 price be for a building that is soundproofed with great acoustics?

This year we addressed these issues and contracted with John Fisher Associates and Linda Millard as the official architects of record. Phase One is to develop plans for the Center to 35% completion. Fisher designed the Sitka Performing Arts Center and has designed more theaters than any other architect in America. We are very excited by the vision and expertise he is bringing to the project.

Testing the masonry was done this past year and the cement block walls are in really good shape.. John Fisher recommended we start from scratch for our vision for the Center, and we held our first design Charrette in November, including other interested organizations in the process. We are expecting to see the designs any day now..

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 Executive 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 Kodiak and instructed a two week elementary workshop in "Fractured Fairy Tales."

In FY15 FCP guest artists Anne Phillips, Matt King, Paul Meyers and bassist Christian Fabian, worked in a number of area school music programs. Mr. King & Ms. Phillips instructed a Jazz Choir at Tongass School of Arts and Science, Houghtaling, Ketchikan Charter School and Fawn Mountain. Our Sunday performance featured almost 200 students from these area schools.

FCP continues to produce two children's programs each year. We began our fiscal year with ArtsCool. This was the seventeenth 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, Karley Lesko, Ashley Byler and Elizabeth Nelson. The afternoon group worked with director Elizabeth Nelson and choreographer Clare Bennett, along with artist Loren McCue. They performed *G2K Sound of Music*, as well as learning about acting, dance, props, set construction and lighting. Our youngest actors, aged 5 - 7, worked with Ashley Byler, and they created their own short original play.

StarPath, FCP's winter children's program offered classes in Fractured Fairy Tales, Creative Animals and Teen Scene Study. These classes were purely process based classes and included acting, improv and writing. The multi-generational production of *Anne of Green Gables* included a lot of our StarPath actors. This year, the StarPath classes will lead to a production of *The Phantom Tollbooth*

PlayTime

The 2014-2015 Season of Plays



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 three weeks at the Ted Ferry Civic Center to very appreciative audiences. We continued to offer this show with a "Crab & Salmon 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. Special thanks to E.C. Phillips for providing all of the salmon to this event.

Gigglefeet Dance Festival

Because the Kayhi Auditorium lighting system was being updated, we did not have a performance space for Gigglefeet in the summer of 2014. While greatly missed, the show did come back stronger than ever in the summer of 2015.



G2K, Sound of Music – An ArtsCool

Production

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Music by Richard Rodgers

Book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse

Suggested by “The Trapp Family singers” by Maria Augusta Trapp

The Sound of Music is one of the the world’s most beloved musical. When Maria (Clara Stanton) becomes too high-spirited for life in an Abbey, the Mother Abbess (Maria Wojcik) dispatched to be the governess for seven children of widowed captain Von Trapp (Emilio Torres). The plot thickens as the Nazis demand the captain’s service and the family narrowly escapes to Switzerland. The large cast also featured Andrea Short, Melody Thompson, Connor Wodehouse, Miranda Jorgens, Katelyn Kaulbaugh, Kyler Zink, Phillip Smith, Ema Oshima, Elinor Pickrell, Nyah Jackson, Sarah Short, Izzy Oliver and Annie Paxton as the children.

Director Elizabeth Nelson and Choreographer Clare Bennett worked with 60 kids from ages 8 – 17 to create the magic that is *The Sound of Music*. To make things even more interesting, the Kayhi auditorium was unavailable for performances and the show was staged in the Schoenbar Commons. The two performances were done to a standing-room only crowd.

Director/Teacher Ashley Byler worked with a small group of 5 – 7 years olds and produced the story *Jumping Beans* which was performed Saturday afternoon before *The Sound of Music*.



The cast of *The Sound of Music*
ArtsCool 2014
Photo by Fitzwater Photography

Divas Vs. Divos

This fundraising event, first launched in 2007, is the most successful fundraiser First City Players has ever had. This is due to the Divas & Divos themselves. Three Men and four women raised over \$25,000! In a glorious night of triumphant performances by all, 2014 Diva Sharolyn Kroscavage finally prevailed among Divas Estelle Cowie, Callie Reddington and Janalee Gage. Divo Jeff Karlson gave up his crown to Divo Russell Thomas. Steve Hayburn, and Tom Fowler gave wonderful performances. First City Players is deeply grateful for each of our Divas and Divos who collectively put together a dynamic evening of entertainment. We thank the sellout crowd who responded with cash, credit cards and checks. We especially thank Jenn Tucker, Bridget Mattson and Austin Hays for all the hours they put into making this event extra special. This event has become a yearly fundraiser and both Diva Sharolyn and Divo Russell were wonderful Ambassadors for the First City Players.

Welcome to the Family!



Sharolyn Kroscavage



Callie Reddington



Steve Hayburn



Tom Fowler

Divas 2014 & Divos



Estelle Cowie



Russell Thomas



Janalee Minnich



Devon Galt

Saturday, Sept. 27

Ted Ferry Civic Center • 7:30pm (doors open at 7pm)

Votes are \$2
Vote Early! • Vote Often!

A First City Players  Fun(D) Raiser!
For Table Reservations/Purchase Info Call 225-4792

FIRST CITY PLAYERS was excited to start off the 2014-2015 50th Anniversary Season with

Les Miserables

A musical by ALAIN BOUBLIL and CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHÖNBERG Based on a novel by VICTOR HUGO

Music by CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHÖNBERG

Lyrics by HERBERT KRETZMER

Original French Text by ALAIN BOUBLIL and JEAN-MARC NATEL

Additional material by JAMES FENTON

Adapted and originally directed by TREVOR NUNN and JOHN CAIRD

Orchestrations by JOHN CAMERON

Original London Production by CAMERON MACKINTOSH and THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Myles Milholland as Jean ValJean and Niles Corporon as Javert led a stellar cast in this musical of Love, Loss, Justice and Redemption. The show charged onto the stage and kept our audiences on the edge of their seats for three hours. The sets moved the story along seamlessly. The glorious cast included: Rudy Saccomanno, Amanda Slevin, Russell Wodehouse, Chuck Slagle, Jim Guenther, Brooklin Dillard, Austin Hays, Bridget Mattson, Nyah Edenshaw, Melanie Loughman, Katie Gaggini, Ethan Bowlen, Steve Shay, Maria S. Dudzak, James White, Kyle G. Baily, Wyatt Anderson, Tommy Varela, Dallin Ward, Derek Meister, Luke Guenther, Stephanie Alley, Charles Anderson, Theresa Anderson, Wyatt Anderson, Trapper Bishop, Scott Brandt-Erichsen, Theresa Brown, Cade Browning, Anne Calhoun, Amy Carson, Lindsay Duckworth, Sarah Fitzgerald, Misty Franklin, Kris Frye, Sara Gilmon, Amanda Glanzer, Melinda Greenwood, Jim Guenther, Faith Jardine, Stephanie Johnson, Lalette Kistler, Tyler Leavitt, Geralyn Lovell, Karri Montero, Patrick Morgan, Lori Orlovski, Heidi Poet, LouAnn Richardson, Steve Shay, Andrea Short, Michelle Short, Kimberly Stone, Julie Tibbles, Elizabeth Vossen, Connor Wodehouse.

Directed by Elizabeth Nelson

Musical Direction by Trina Purcell

& Mary Kurth

Conducted by Trina Purcell

Costumes by Tess Brown &

Choreography by Clare Bennett

Set design by Keith Smith

Sound by Teresa Wojcik

Stage Managed by Jenn Tucker

Lighting by Carol Schafer



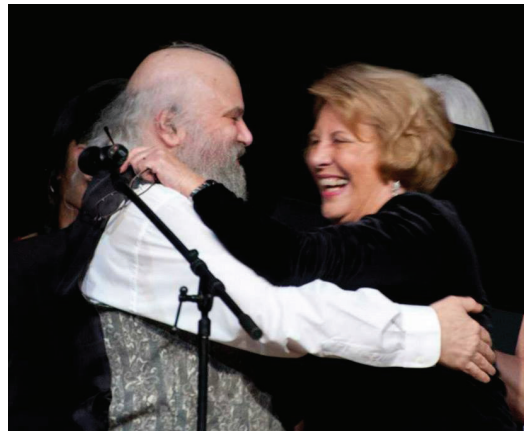
The Jazz & Cabaret Festival

with Anne Phillips, Paul Meyers, Matt King and Christian Fabian

Anne Phillips, Christian Fabian, Matt King and Paul Meyers returned to Ketchikan last January.

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

After two weeks of hard work, the vocalists, with Mr. King on the piano, were joined by Dave Kiffer on sax, Mr. Meyers on guitar, Mr. Fabian on bass, Austin Hays on drums and Dale Curtis on trumpet to give varied, lively and sometimes poignant performances 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.



Upper photo: Dave Rubin and Anne Phillips
Lower photo: Dave Rubin and the Jazz Choir
Photo by Fitzwater Photography

An Evening of Once Act Plays

by Chekov, Milne & Albee

First City Players went all the way back to the beginning to celebrate our 50th year. The first shows produced by FCP in 1964 were *The Bear* by Chekov, and *The Ugly Duckling* by A. A. Milne. We added a classic by Edward Albee and a wonderful dinner and called it a celebration!

First time director Jenn Tucker and her wonderful cast told the classic tale of the ugly duckling – with a twist. The cast included Lori Orlowski, Rob Arnold, Glen Fazakerley, Ethan Bowlen, and Faith Jardine. Elizabeth Nelson directed Chekov’s classic, *The Bear*. This hilarious short play starred Austin Hays and Heather Dickerson. Clare Bennett directed the modern American classic *The American Dream*, beautifully acted by Amanda Glanzer, Jeremiah Tucker, Stephanie Johnson, and Harmilla Earth. Patrick Morgan portrayed the young man or “the American dream”.

Special thanks to Jenn Tucker and Deb Peterson for the delicious three course dinner.

Lights were by Chad Chatham and sound by Theresa Wojcik.

first city players presents
anton chekhov THE BEAR
a.a. milne THE UGLY DUCKLING
edward albee AMERICAN DREAM



ne  ct
Plays

*two evenings of dinner and theatre
celebrating our fiftieth season*

DINNER SHOW FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20
DINNER SHOW SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21
SHOW ONLY THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19
dinner show \$45 ADULT / \$25 12 & YOUNGER
show only \$15 / \$12 SNR-STDT CIVIC CENTER
firstcityplayers.org 225-4792 335 main st.



Jeremiah Tucker, Harmilla Earth, Amanda Glanzer and Stephanie Johnson
Photo by Fitzwater Photography

Anne of Green Gables

by Tracy Wells, based on the novel by L. M. Montgomery

Directed by Bridget Mattson

Matthew Cuthbert (Russell Wodehouse) and his sister, Marilla (Elizabeth Nelson), are getting older and decide to adopt a boy from an orphanage to help out on their farm, Green Gables. But when Matthew arrives at the train station, he is disappointed when he discovers that the orphanage mistakenly sent a girl instead of a boy. However, Anne Shirley (Tyler Leavitt), a cheerful young orphan with freckles and red hair, instantly charms Matthew, and he convinces his sister to keep Anne instead of returning her to the orphanage. The precocious, imaginative Anne happily settles into her new life at Green Gables but manages to get into a few misadventures along the way. She dyes her hair green, jumps off the roof in a dare, and mistakenly bakes a cake with liniment instead of vanilla. Anne proves to be one of the smartest pupils at her school and earns a prestigious scholarship to attend college. But when Matthew unexpectedly dies, Anne shows her devotion to Green Gables by giving up her scholarship and staying at home to help Marilla on the farm. Lovingly directed by Bridget Mattson, the cast included, Amanda Glanzer, Elsa Snodderly, Sarah Fitzgerald, JoJo & Bella Robinson, Arick Mattson, Rudy Saccomanno, Katherine Tatsuda, Faith Brown, Samantha Wodehouse, Anne Coss, Connor Wodehouse, Bryce Mattson, Matt Armstrong, Clarissa Hubbard, Kathy Fitzgerald, Sharolyn Kroscavage and Christine Newbill. Set design by Jenn Tucker. Light design by Steven Villano and Keith Smith.



The cast of Anne of Green Gables
Photos by Fitzwater Photography

Romeo and Juliet

by William Shakespeare

Adapted & Directed by Keith Smith

This classic tale of star-crossed lovers was told with a twist by director Keith Smith. The setting was a galaxy far, far away and the actors and designers did a terrific job of making magic happen. Niles Corporon was compelling as Romeo and Tyler Leavitt was a very convincing Juliet. Gillian Moon and Glen Fazakerley as the Nurse and Friar Laurence were riveting. The cast of Amanda Glanzer, Lori Orlowski, Rob Arnold, Colin Patton, Cade Brwning, Jim Guenther, Stephanie Johnson, Faith Jardine, Melanie Loughman, Maria Dudzak, Cameron Mackie, Lucas Guenther, Karri Montero, Maria Wojcik, Clara Joy Stanton, Anne Calhoun and Heather Newbill made a magical and delightful evening of theatre.



Tyler Leavitt & Niles Corporon
Photo by Fitzwater Photography

In loving memory



Tom LeCompte

Tom was elected to the First City Players Board of Governors in 1998 and served our community theatre organization as a board member until 2013. He was president of the Board of Governors from 2007 to 2013. Tom was honored as Governor Emeritus this spring.

Tom was a performer and a volunteer on production crews. He was a tireless raffle-ticket seller and a respected spokesman for First City Players. He was an advocate extraordinaire.

First City Players will always be a stronger organization because of his passion for his community and for the arts in his community.

Thank you, Mr. LeCompte, for all the wonderful memories.

First City Players
Income Statement
July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Income

Contributions	63,427.63
Gross Receipts	170,531.25
Special Events	<u>20,524.00</u>
Total Income	254,482.88

Expense

Salaries & Benefits	109,157.92
Professional Fees	21,519.00
Printing	362.16
Insurance	13,046.00
Production Expense	74,207.77
Administrative Expense	12,479.13
Rent & Building Expense	13,953.33
Repair & Maintenance	<u>3,152.46</u>
Total Expense	253,779.74
Net Income	703.14

