

# Education and Community Partnerships Programs

Center Theatre Group's Education Department enters its 40th anniversary year with a new name — Education and Community Partnerships — and a redesigned, widely-expanded framework of arts programming and community services.



"I fell in love with the theatre when I was introduced to it in high school,"

says CTG Artistic Director Michael Ritchie. "I was 15 years old and I had found something that I wanted to pursue for the rest of my life."

"We recognize that not every kid is going to love the theatre, or any arts, nor should they. But we want to create opportunities for them to become active observers and appreciators of theatre throughout their lives. Just as importantly, we want to introduce potential participants to it as well."



Special Thanks to the following donors who have made significant contributions in recognition of CTG celebrating its 40th year of theatre education!

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## FOR AUDIENCES

**P.L.A.Y. (Performing for Los Angeles Youth)** – as the department's focus has expanded, P.L.A.Y. (the old department name) now represents a singular program area among many: bringing students to professional productions.

**Target Young Audiences Program** – Students at the secondary level attend selected mainstage CTG productions, anchored by classroom study material. Recipient of the California Association of Teachers of English (CATE) 2011 Award of Merit for "outstanding contributions toward the improvement of teaching English/language arts."

**Children & Family Programs** – Grade-school children and their families experience live theatre through CTG performances and related hands-on activities.

**Community Partners Initiative** – Connects underserved local populations with CTG through partnerships with Los Angeles social and community service organizations.

**Project D.A.T.E. (Direct Access Theatre Experience)** – Provides access services during specific CTG performances for patrons who are visually impaired and for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.



## FOR ARTISTS

**Pre-Professional Training Programs** – Interactive learning opportunities for middle and high school students with an interest in theatre arts and the business of theatre.

**Student Advisory Committee** – A formal group of high school students who advise various CTG departments in a targeted area of project development and work alongside professionals in the industry.

"I've realized that I want to be a part of the business side of theatre, not necessarily the creative side," observes committee member Cristie Norman, 16, a high school junior at Academy of the Canyons School. "Having CTG's name on our resumes will open up many opportunities for us, and the communication skills we have gained in these programs are invaluable to our futures."

**Emerging Artists Green Room** – An online resource center designed by the 2010 Student Advisory Committee, giving middle and high school students a behind-the-scenes look at CTG and an opportunity to network with other future theatre leaders. Facebook.com/CTGEmergingArtists.

**Professional Training Programs** – Internships, mentor programs, professional apprenticeships and work-study programs for young adults and early career artists.

**The Sherwood Award** – A \$10,000 annual fund for early career artists of promise in Los Angeles, given in memory of arts patron and CTG Board of Directors Chairman Richard E. Sherwood. A complementary Sherwood Internship benefits aspiring arts professionals. "The Sherwood Award allowed me to premiere a significant work at home in Los Angeles for my first time," says 2009 Sherwood Award-winning composer Sage Lewis. "It was also great to have CTG forge new relationships with local arts organizations on my behalf."

**Scholarships/Sponsorships** – Help for young people in underserved communities to enable them to participate in Pre-Professional and Professional Training programs.

## ARTS EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

### ADVANCING THE PRACTICE OF TEACHING THEATRE

**Teaching Artists** – Trains theatre artists as instructional leaders and partners with them to develop theatre education programs.

"I love being a teaching artist," says set designer Janne Larsen. "Being exposed to the variety of voices within theatre can be an enriching experience for young people. In return, they can help breathe fresh air into the life of theatre."

**Chase Theatre Educators Fellowship Program** – A \$5,000 grant awarded annually for up to five teachers who integrate theatre in the classroom for professional courses of study that will revitalize and support their careers as artists and educators.

**Training and Events for Theatre Educators** – Professional development for general classroom teachers, theatre specialists, teaching artists and administrators through symposia, seminars, retreats, "Mix & Mingle" networking opportunities and special offers to attend CTG productions.

**Online Resource Center** – Links theatre educators and provides an aggregate of theatre curriculum, instructional resources and training opportunities. (Slated for a 2012 launch.)

"Investing in teachers is really important to us," Johnson says. "We see them as our partners. If there are not great theatre teachers, there are no more great theatres, because teachers are part of the pipeline that leads to our profession."

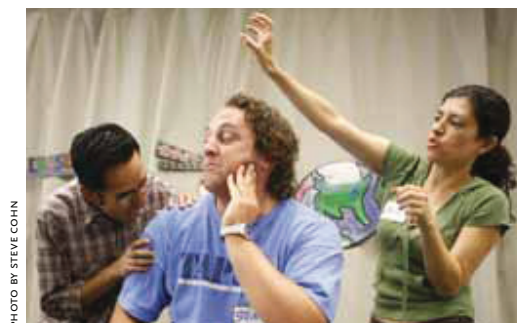


PHOTO BY STEVE COHN

L TO R: Teaching Artists Francisco Garcia, Steve Neumann and Julieta Garza.

**Front and Center: Culver City Unified School District Theatre Education Collaborative** – A five-year plan to bring professional development and arts enrichment opportunities to Culver City schools K-12. Made possible through the collaborative efforts of three theatre companies: CTG, We Tell Stories and the The Actors' Gang. Funded by Sony Pictures Entertainment, a key player in the creation and sustainment of the Culver City High School's Academy of Visual and Performing Arts.

**Middle School Playwriting Program** – An academic standards-based playwriting process taught by CTG teaching artists to core groups of students, following them from 6th through 8th grade in 10 L.A. area middle schools. Readings of the student works are performed by partnering theatres The Antaeus Company, Company of Angels, East L.A. Classic Theatre, Knightsbridge/NASC Theatre, the Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble and Theatre Banshee.

**Secondary Theatre Arts Initiative** – Provides long-term support for CTG's new neighbor, Central Los Angeles High School (CLAHS) #9, in collaboration with other local arts organizations, through the strengthening of arts education at feeder middle schools and the development of an ongoing relationship with CLAHS #9's theatre students, their teachers and families.

"Last year when they did *Peter Pan*, they needed help building a ramp for their set design," Johnson says. "We sent carpenters over to work with them. They've borrowed costumes from our costume shop, we've participated in their career days and they've let us use their black box theatre for our educator conferences. It's different when you're a neighbor. It's like calling and saying, can I borrow a cup of sugar—it's easy for us to respond quickly to each other." ●

The Chase Theatre Fellowship Program, Training and Events for Theatre Educators, and Online Resource Center are supported by JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

