

Renaissance

THEATERWORKS

Theater by Women
for Everyone



2018-2019
ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 26 years
of artistic excellence
and debt-free operations.

Dedicated to promoting the work of women onstage and off, Renaissance Theaterworks' mission is to **create moving theater that connects with our shared sense of being human**. Since our inception in 1993, we have been committed to gender equity in the performing arts. Today, more than 25 years later, women artists thrive in Milwaukee because of our efforts.

Our 2018-2019 season marked 26 years as Milwaukee's only professional theater company **dedicated to promoting the work of women onstage and off**. Our milestone season included bold and edgy productions: **NATIVE GARDENS**, **PHOTOGRAPH 51**, and **ANNIE JUMP AND THE LIBRARY OF HEAVEN**, all performed at the Broadway Theater Center on the Studio Theater stage.

We are committed to creating partnerships with community service organizations. Last season, these collaborations included Jewish Family Services, The Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center, The National New Play Network, Lake Shore State Park Association, NAMI, Ronald Reagan High School, The University Club, Woman's Club of Wisconsin, Waukesha Civic Theatre, UW-Parkside, Memories Ballroom, and many more.

Renaissance Theaterworks continues to pursue gender equity in the arts through innovative programs like our **Br!NK New Play Festival**. In the fall of 2018, we began the second season of our education program: the **Fran Bauer Young Critics Project**, in partnership with PEARLS for Teen Girls. Named after our beloved Board member and journalist Fran Bauer, the Young Critics Project encourages the next generation of diverse theater critics.

This season we're HERE, Next season, Next ACT! **We are thrilled to move to our new artistic home to share space at the Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water Street, beginning with our 2020-2021 season.**

As we move toward our bright future, we remain committed to improving opportunities for women to experience the arts, work professionally in theater, and grow artistically. Thanks to your patronage and support, Renaissance Theaterworks is proud to be the second oldest theater company in the United States dedicated to gender balance. We encourage you to find connections between our work and the world around you, and explore new ways to get involved with both. We find one of the most exciting parts of life is: there is always plenty... plenty to be curious about, plenty to discuss, plenty to connect us, and plenty to do.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, thank you for all that you do to ensure our continued success.

Warmly,



Lisa Rasmussen, Managing Director

2018-2019 Season In Review

JULY 2018

Br!NK New Play Development Workshops

AUGUST 2018

5th Annual Br!NK New Play Festival, including all New Br!NK Br!efs, showcasing the exciting new voices of nine Midwestern Women Playwrights

SEPTEMBER 2018

Joined the National New Play Network
Launched 2nd Annual Fran Bauer Young Critics Arts Education Program

OCTOBER 2018

Hosted the Annual StateraArts Conference in Milwaukee
–StateraArts is an international conference supporting women artists–
Opened our SHE BLINDED ME WITH SCIENCE Season with the Wisconsin Premiere of NATIVE GARDENS

NOVEMBER 2018

Green Room Group event: “Creating a Living Garden on the Stage” including backstage “garden tour” during NATIVE GARDENS

DECEMBER 2018

BluTender Holiday Party
Attended National New Play Network Showcase – Sacramento, California

JANUARY 2019

Wisconsin Premiere of Anna Ziegler’s award-winning PHOTOGRAPH 51

MARCH 2019

Rolling World Premiere & first fully produced Br!NK Play:
ANNIE JUMP AND THE LIBRARY OF HEAVEN

MAY 2019

Raise A Glass Event at the Ivy House, honoring Arts Supporter Lynde Uihlein and Artist Lisa Schlenker
Announced our participation in the Samuel French’s 2019 Off Off Broadway Short Play Festival with our production of ALL OF THE EVERYTHING, by Alayna Barnes

JUNE 2019

Announced the upcoming move of our performances to the Next Act Theatre, 255 South Water St., beginning with our 2020-2021 season

THEATER WITH A MISSION

Renaissance Theaterworks creates moving theater that connects with our shared sense of being human. We are dedicated to promoting the work of women onstage and off.

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PHOTOGRAPH 51

Barbara Johnson & Sandra Zingler
ANNIE JUMP AND THE LIBRARY OF HEAVEN
John Shannon & Jan Serr, Jane Bradley Pettit
Foundation, Sandy & George Dionisopoulos,
Anonymous

WINE WEDNESDAY SPONSOR

Baird

BRINK SPONSORS


Brico Fund, Ralph Evinrude Foundation, Frieda
& William Hunt Memorial Trust

FBYCP SPONSORS

Milwaukee Arts Board, Bader Foundation

NATIVE GARDENS

By Karen Zacarías | Directed by Marti Gobel
OCTOBER 19 - NOVEMBER 11, 2018



Imagine a sitcom where all of the squabbling neighbors were intelligent and verbally adroit, and the deck isn't stacked for either side. That might be hard to find on cable. But you can see it at the Broadway Theatre Center, where Renaissance Theaterworks opened "Native Gardens..."

- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Don't You Be My Neighbor...Renaissance Theaterworks' NATIVE GARDENS...cause patrons to laugh and think about the fences we build between each other despite better intentions.

- Urban Milwaukee

Well-directed by Marti Gobel, NATIVE GARDENS has a ton of issues tucked away in its nooks and crannies and gardens...keeping us engaged, laughing and thinking all the way.

- Waukesha Freeman

Photo by Ross E. Zentner.

Featuring Norman Moses, Linda Stephens, Andrew Joseph Perez and Kelsey Elyse Rodriguez (NATIVE GARDENS, 2018)

PHOTOGRAPH 51

By Anna Ziegler | Directed by Suzan Fete

JANUARY 18 - FEBRUARY 10, 2019

Renaissance Theaterworks, once again, provides an intensely captivating and fascinating drama filled with top-notch performances ... Directed with acute precision and devotion to detail by Suzan Fete, Photograph 51 educates as well as entertains. Renaissance Theaterworks' stellar production demonstrates that the creativity of art and the laws of science can create a compelling onstage synergy.

- Shepherd Express

Renaissance has a commitment to woman centered theater and they achieve that goal regularly. But more than that, they have a commitment to transcendent theater, and with Photograph 51 they've reached that goal as well.

- Dave Begel on Theater

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Harry & Rose Samson Family
Jewish Community Center



ANNIE JUMP AND THE LIBRARY OF HEAVEN

By Reina Hardy | Directed by Pam Kriger
MARCH 29 - APRIL 21, 2019



The 75-minute, one-act play is a masterpiece of deft, taut, economical writing. Hardy introduces, defines and develops characters with laser-like precision, creating sympathetic, likable folks the audience can't help caring about and a fast-moving and engaging story with a good dose of humor.

- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

COMMUNITY PARTNER



Photo by Ross E. Zentner.

Featuring Reese J Parish, Rachael Zientek and Karen Estrada (ANNIE JUMP AND THE LIBRARY OF HEAVEN, 2019)

Br!NK

NEW PLAY FESTIVAL

5TH ANNUAL | JULY 31 - AUGUST 5, 2018



DEVELOPING NEW WORK BY WOMEN PLAYWRIGHTS

Renaissance Theaterworks' Br!NK Award is presented annually to Midwestern female playwrights to develop and advance their work. During the Br!NK residency process, these playwrights workshop their script with a director, dramaturg, and full cast: a team dedicated to researching and considering the play from every angle. In 2018, the Br!NK Awards went to Kristin Idaszak for *THE SUREST POISON* and Nabra Nelson for *NUBIAN STORIES*.



The Festival also included our second Annual Br!NK Br!efs presentations, a series of seven 10-minute plays by Midwestern women playwrights, performed over the Br!NK New Play Festival Weekend at the Broadway Theatre Center.

Br!NK was supported in part by the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee, the Brico Fund, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, and Bader Philanthropies.



THE FUTURE IS FEMALE: CULTIVATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF THEATER CRITICS

The Fran Bauer Young Critics Project is Renaissance Theaterworks' newest arts education program. Named after our beloved Board member and journalist Fran Bauer, FBYCP was created to inspire the next generation of theater critics.

FBYCP is designed to introduce Milwaukee's high school-age women to theatre criticism and professional writing. Students see our shows and attend monthly workshops taught by a team of local arts educators, journalists, and theater critics that we have brought together to breathe life into this project. At the workshops, students discuss each play's themes and production strategies with directors, actors, and other members of our production team.

FBYCP emphasizes the enthusiastic exploration of students' unique voices as women and writers. We hope that this project will foster a new and more diverse group of theater critics.

We are proud to partner with PEARLS for Teen Girls.



FBYCP is supported by Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation, Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation, and the Woman's Club of Wisconsin Foundation

2018/19 AT A GLANCE

Renaissance Theaterworks' "She Blinded me with Science" season was an out-of-this-world success. We hired the greatest number of artists ever, including playwrights, actors, directors, and designers, for a total of 67 artists, 41 of whom were women.



This season, we provided a range of education and outreach programs for community members ages 9 to 99.

AFFORDABLE THEATER

Renaissance Theaterworks served close to 6,000 patrons, offering student, senior, group, pay what you can, and artist discounts as part of our commitment to accessible theater for our community.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Throughout the season, we partnered with community groups to create awareness of the arts, benefit our community, and provide education opportunities. Our partnerships included Jewish Family Services, The Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center, The National New Play Network, Lake Shore State Park Association, NAMI, Ronald Reagan High School, The University Club, Woman's Club of Wisconsin, Waukesha Civic Theatre, UW-Parkside, Memories Ballroom, Juneau Park, and many more. We held a care drive for Jewish Family Services. We received over 200 items during the course of 4 weeks.

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Our artistic staff brought informative & engaging presentations to groups around the Greater Milwaukee Area, including the University Club thanks to George Dionisopoulos, Osher Lifelong Learners, the Woman's Club, UPAF Workplace Giving Campaigns, and more. The 2018 Br!NK New Play Festival performed toured-readings of new works by Midwestern women playwrights to Waukesha Civic Theatre, Comedy Sportz, Memories Ballroom, UW-Parkside, and Arts@Large, bringing the arts into the community!

RAISE A GLASS TO

Renaissance

THURSDAY

MAY
9



HONORING

Outstanding Supporter, LYNDE UIHLEIN

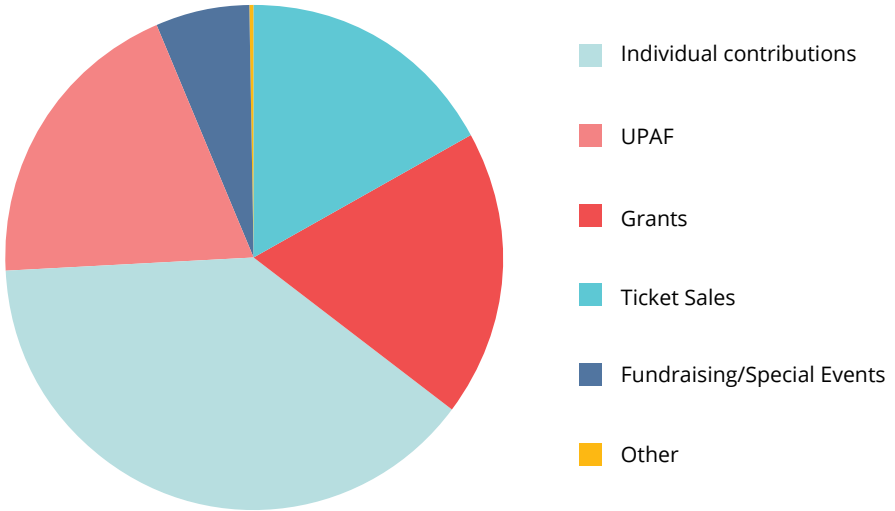
Outstanding Artist, LISA SCHLENKER

FUNDS RAISED: \$50,530

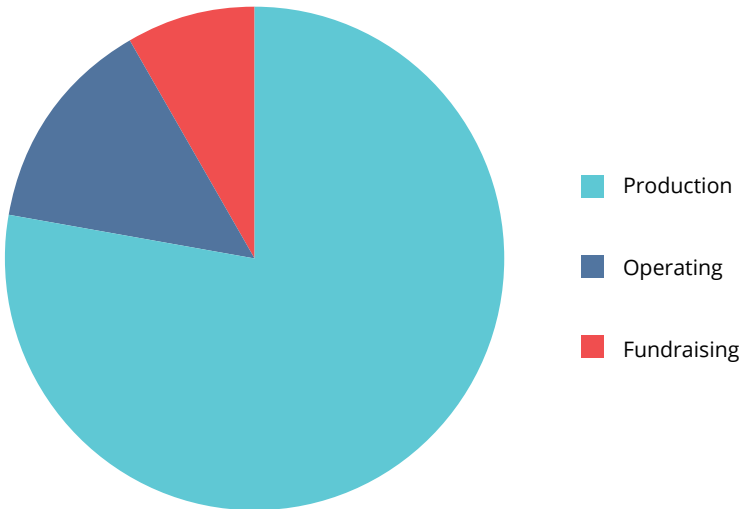
There was a little bit of everything in our annual fundraiser! We honored two incredible women who not only have made an impact on our organization but also on our entire community. We offered activities for our guests: games to play, great food and entertainment including a table magician and an aerialist. We also had our most successful live appeal to date. We thank the Committee and all those who volunteered and donated.

FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE AND SUPPORT



EXPENSES



Over 75% of our total expenses go directly to the work seen onstage.

Diverse revenue sources ensure the financial stability of Renaissance Theaterworks. We continue to grow our earned income, and *every year of our existence has been debt-free*. We are grateful for the continued and expanding support we receive year over year that allows us to remain one of Milwaukee’s most critically acclaimed professional theaters.

2018-19 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

REVENUE & SUPPORT	2018/19	2017/18
Ticket sales	\$141,461	\$153,404
Grants	\$153,343	\$146,974
Individual Contributions	\$322,351	\$122,908
UPAF	\$160,890	\$167,246
Fundraising/Special Events	\$50,885	\$32,294
Other	\$1,347	\$3,062
Total Revenue	\$830,277	\$625,888
EXPENSES		
Production	\$506,394	\$528,424
Operating	\$90,091	\$90,744
Fundraising	\$53,855	\$57,016
Total Expenses	\$650,340	\$676,184
Change in Net Operating Assets	\$179,937	(\$50,296)
NET ASSETS IN RESERVE FUND		
Beginning of Year	\$236,686	\$286,982
End of Year	\$416,623	\$236,686

SUPPORTERS

Renaissance Theaterworks is proud of its tradition of debt-free operation. Our 2018-19 annual operating budget of \$661,838 is primarily generated through ticket sales, individual donations, special events, and philanthropic support.

\$50,000 & above

The Estate of Bettie Zillman
United Performing Arts Fund

\$10,000- \$49,999

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\$5,000- \$9,999

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Renaissance

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