



Overview: 2019-20

TheatreCares 2019-20: Vet Voices



TheatreCares Mission Statement: To provide a unique outreach program that promotes lifelong learning in the realm of the performing arts by creating special tours and programs for audiences who are physically, emotionally, financially, socially or geographically challenged and may otherwise not have the opportunity to embrace and engage in the art of a live performance.

TheatreCares Background: The TheatreCares program was launched in 2014 when TheatreWorks Florida received an unprecedented invitation from the National Endowment for The Arts to become the Central Florida representative for their program *Arts Engagement in American Communities (AEAC)*. The AEAC mission to 'increase understanding by enhancing the arts experience through engagement' aligned perfectly with TheatreWorks Florida's community outreach vision and the inaugural TheatreCares production, *Winter Wonderettes*, was born. To date, TheatreCares has received FOUR support awards from *National Endowment for the Arts*.

TheatreWorks Florida Organization Description: TheatreWorks Florida's productions provide, preserve and promote the advancement of the art of live theatre by providing full-scale theatrical experiences to multiple target populations. Through shared cultural experiences, such as their highly successful TheatreCares program, TheatreWorks Florida puts the "unity" in our "community" and creates excellence in the arts that is engaging, entertaining and educationally insightful for its audiences.

TheatreCares 2018-19: Vet Voices - Project Description

TheatreWorks Florida continues their successful community outreach program, TheatreCares, by partnering with the *National Initiative for Arts & Health for the Military*, *NEA Creative Forces*, *Polk County Veterans Council* and local veteran clinics to create an ongoing program for Central Florida military war veterans that will nurture life-long healing and learning through the art of live theatre.

Vet Voices is not a project but an ongoing "arts and health" program. The program will provide veterans an opportunity for positive self-awareness and self-discovery in a creative "safe space" environment. Participation in a wide scope of workshops and events will allow veterans affected by war to explore the theatre arts and ultimately find healing through creativity.

Combining professional actors with veterans on stage, the program will result in an original musical play that incorporates creative writing, songs and visual art to promote creative arts therapy healing from the effects of war.

The *Vet Voices* program is free of charge to active duty military members, veterans, their families and their caregivers. It will be presented to the Central Florida public in a continued effort to create awareness of our disabled veterans, their health issues that need attention and the normalization of their lives after war.

What does “Art” have to do with it?

EVERYTHING.



PRESENTED BY



PRODUCED BY



SUPPORTED BY



NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR
ARTS & HEALTH IN THE MILITARY

Polk County's only professional award-winning theatre!



WE WANT YOU!



WELCOME CENTRAL FL MILITARY VETERANS

Have you ever been curious about Acting? Song writing? Art design? Being on stage or behind the scenes? Well, be curious no more because the "Arts Got Your 6" with an all-new, inspiring program from TheatreCares. Now is **YOUR** time to discover the world of Theatre Arts with Vet Voices!

Vet Voices will provide disabled military war veterans an opportunity for positive self-awareness and self-discovery in a creative "safe space" environment. This arts and health program will nurture life-long healing and learning through the art of live theatre. The program will consist of workshops and events that allow veterans affected by war to explore the theatre arts and ultimately find healing through creativity.

THIS PROGRAM IS FREE!

RECRUITMENT IN PROGRESS

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

VISIT US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION

TheatreWorksFL.org

PRODUCED BY



SUPPORTED BY



TheatreWorks Florida • 8 W. Palmetto St., Davenport FL 33837
vetvoices@theatreworksfl.org • 407.340.0473

Polk County's only professional, award-winning theatre!

THE PROGRAM

Vet Voices is not a project but an ongoing "arts and health" program for Central FL disabled military war veterans that nurtures life-long healing and learning through the art of live theatre. The program will provide veterans an opportunity for positive self-awareness and self-discovery in a creative "safe space" environment. Participation in a wide scope of workshops and events will allow veterans affected by war to explore the theatre arts and ultimately find healing through creativity.

The end result will combine theatre professionals with veterans on stage in a fully produced, original musical play, developed by the veterans themselves, that incorporates creative writing, music, songs and visual art generated from the workshops.

The Vet Voices program is **free of charge** to military veterans of war (Active, Retired, Reserve and National Guard), their families and their caregivers in the Central FL region. Three highlight presentations of the vets' creative work and the final presentation musical play will be presented to the Central Florida public in a continued effort to create an awareness of our war-time veterans and the health issues they deal with on a daily basis as well as how they adapt to normalizing their lives after war.

THEATREWORKS FLORIDA: VET VOICES

Previous Activities That Demonstrate Our Organization's Ability To Carry Out The Vet Voices Project:

TheatreCares 2014 Tour: *Winter Wonderettes*. Focus group: nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Supported in part by National Endowment for the Arts. Artworks. Polk & Orange counties.

TheatreCares 2015 Tour: *Schoolhouse Rock Live!*. Focus group: underserved students. Supported in part by National Endowment for the Arts. Artworks. Polk & Orange counties.

TheatreCares 2016: *Rock Of Ages – The Experience*. Focus group: underserved music students. Supported in part by National Endowment for the Arts. Artworks. Polk & Orange counties. Creative Partner: Full Sail University.

Past Project Descriptions:

Winter Wonderettes (2014)

December 2014, TheatreCares will mount a production of *Winter Wonderettes*, a musical filled with 60s holiday classics, and tour the show to select nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the Central Florida region free of charge for the residents, their family members and staff of each location. Following every performance, audiences will engage in a 20-minute interactive educational discussion with the professional cast that will explore the influence of 60s music on the growth of American Musical Theatre and inspire continued participation in the performing arts.

Schoolhouse Rock Live! (2015)

In the Fall of 2015, TheatreCares will mount a production of the musical *Schoolhouse Rock Live!*, the pop culture phenomenon that taught educational topics through song, and tour the show to select community centers in the Central Florida region free of charge for underserved youth, their family members and staff. Following every performance, audiences will engage in a 20-minute interactive educational discussion with the professional cast that will explore how the music of *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* can educate their minds, impact their lives and inspire continued participation in the performing arts.

Rock Of Ages (2016)

In the Fall of 2016, TheatreWorks of Central Florida will mount the Central Florida regional premiere of "Rock Of Ages". In conjunction with TheatreCares, free educational workshops will be offered prior to select shows for music students in the Central Florida region. These workshops will explore the basic building blocks of classical music and demonstrate the connection to all music, including rock and roll. After the workshop, students will attend a special interactive educational discussion with the professional cast and explore how the music of *Rock Of Ages* can educate their minds, impact their lives and inspire continued participation in the performing arts.

Production Photos – Winter Wonderettes (2014):

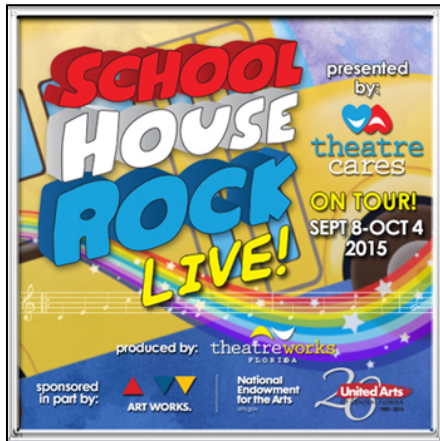
Photos by: Kristen Wheeler



"A REAL-LIFE CHRISTMAS MIRACLE"... At SOUTHERN GARDENS (Lake Alfred, FL), our final stop of weekend #3, the cast and crew of WINTER WONDERETTES became part of a true Christmas miracle we will never forget. A resident of SOUTHERN GARDENS who had not responded nor spoken to another human being in 6 years suddenly came to life clapping and singing and actually speaking to the ladies on stage throughout the ENTIRE 90 minute show! The SOUTHERN GARDENS staff was tearful as they thanked us for the gift of music, love and laughter that changed another person's life and represents all that THEATRECARES is.

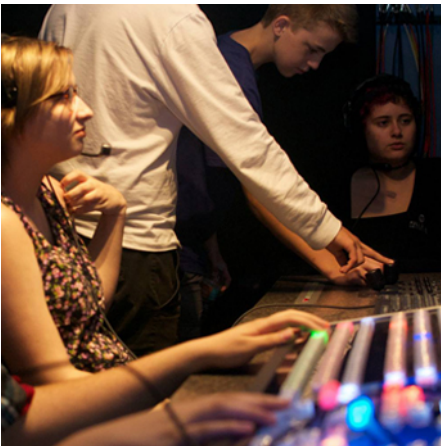
Production Photos – Schoolhouse Rock Live! (2015):

Photos by: Kristen Wheeler



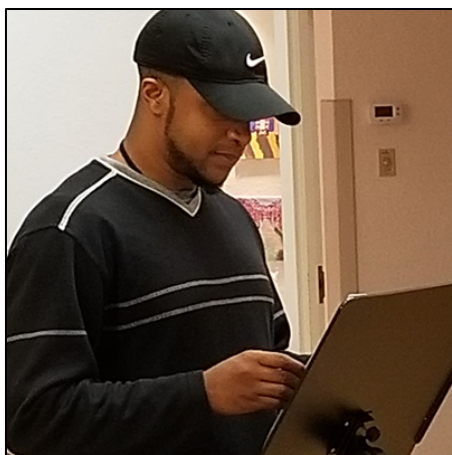
Production Photos – Rock Of Ages – The Experience (2016):

Photos by: Barry Nadler & Abel Gonzales



Production Photos – Vet Voices – Highlights Presentation (2018 & 2019):

Photos by: Abel Gonzales



CONNECT WITH US!



TheatreWorks Florida Website: TheatreWorksFL.org



TheatreWorks Florida Facebook: [TheatreWorksFL](https://www.facebook.com/TheatreWorksFL)



TheatreWorks Florida Twitter: [TheatreWorksFL](https://twitter.com/TheatreWorksFL)



TheatreWorks Florida YouTube: [TWF0101](https://www.youtube.com/TWF0101)

REVIEWS
LETTERS OF SUPPORT
SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS



POLK COUNTY VETERANS' COUNCIL

**Box 3911
Lakeland, FL 33802
863-602-0921**

31 January 2019

**To Whom it May Concern
Re: TheatreWorks Florida**

It is my pleasure to provide this recommendation for the theatre arts program, *Vet Voices*, developed and hosted by TheatreWorks Florida headed by Scott Cook and Abel Gonzales.

For the past year, TheatreWorks Florida has worked with Veterans to involve them in multiple theatre dimensions—acting, writing, prop construction, etc. From a Veterans perspective, we believe such a program is beneficial to those combat veterans seeking to deal with emotional issues such as PTSD as a result of their combat experience.

We believe arts experiences including painting, music, sculpture, and the like are valuable in assisting with the emotional adjustment many veterans require. The efforts of Scott and Abel, contribute in a meaningful way to the overall arts experience.

I recommend TheatreWorks Florida be considered by any community to be included in a veteran support program.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary L. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Colonel USAF(Ret)
Chairman**



March 29, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

TheatreWorks Florida has been an active member of our Chamber of Commerce since 2017. Since day one of coming to our area they have provided fun, quality performances for our residents and business owners. They are involved in the Northeast Polk communities with our events and support the chamber and municipalities in a big way. I understand they have outgrown their current building and are looking to come into the downtown historic Haines City area to relocate the theatre. The Northeast Polk Chamber of Commerce welcomes this relocation and is thrilled for the opportunity to have them here among our businesses.

We will do all we can as a partner to promote and support this move and help them thrive in this downtown location.

Sincerely,

Lana Stripling

Executive Director

Northeast Polk Chamber of Commerce

863-422-3751 cell: 863-604-7762

<https://www.northeastpolkchamber.com/>



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:
Higher Education, *Chair*
Appropriations Subcommittee on Education
Fiscal Policy
Judiciary
Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic
Security
Regulated Industries

JOINT COMMITTEE:
Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight

SENATOR KELLI STARGEL
15th District

September 2, 2015

TheatreWorks Florida
Attn: Scott Cook, Artistic Producer
8 East Cypress Street
Davenport, FL 33837

Dear Mr. Cook,

I saw the article in the Ledger and wanted to congratulate you on bringing TheatreWorks Florida into Davenport. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful institution promoting the theatrical arts in our area. I applaud your willingness to give back to our community and wish continued success in the years to come. Again, congratulations on this very special event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelli Stargel".

Kelli Stargel
State Senator, District 15

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 2033 East Edgewood Drive, Suite 1, Lakeland, Florida 33803
- ☐ 324 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5015

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

ANDY GARDINER
President of the Senate

GARRETT RICHTER
President Pro Tempore



CITY OF DAVENPORT

Gateway to the Ridge

November 19, 2015

Mr. Abel Gonzalez
8 East Cypress Street
Davenport, FL 33837-3106


Dear Mr. Gonzales:

I would like to use one of the adjectives used at the recent production of Schoolhouse Rock Live! – WOW! I feel confident in speaking for the City of Davenport and saying what an honor it was having a truly professional production in our fair City. The actors, set, sound and lighting were all fantastic.

While Davenport is an outstanding community, it has its share of challenges. One challenge is the cultural void we have in our immediate area. Arts and culture are such an important part of the community. Study after study shows the benefits to residents of all ages of having easy access to the arts. Building stronger art programs is not only supported by the City of Davenport but communities nationwide. That is why programs, such as the ones provided by TheatreCares, are so important.

We are honored to have TheatreCares as part of the Davenport community, and I strongly recommend support of its programs by any organization. After seeing the community support at Schoolhouse Rock Live, I know the community is looking forward to the next production. Thank you again for your hard work and an outstanding production of Schoolhouse Rock Live!

Sincerely,


Amy E. Arrington
City Manager

Follow Up Support Letters – Winter Wonderettes:

WINTER PARK CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER



WinterParkCare.com

February 18, 2015

Attn: Abel Gonzales

Re: Winter Wonderettes Tour

Dear Theatre Care,

On behalf of the staff and residents of Winter Park Care and Rehabilitation Center, I would like to give you and your staff a heartfelt thank you for a wonderful event enjoyed by all. It is not everyday that an organization takes the time to meet with our Residents to improve the quality of their life on an individual level.

Part of our "Quality of Life" program is to keep our residents involved in our community through special events. We are grateful for your effort in helping us meet this challenge. We especially enjoyed the actresses (Candy Lou, Betty Jean, Suzy and Missy) with their amazing performances, which left a smile on everyone's faces. The powerful performance displayed Holiday cheer and put everyone in a festive mood for the season. We anticipated a fun filled hour and we received so much more. Thanks again for your generosity. We look forward for our next future event.

I wanted to share some statements from a couple of our Residents:

Marian Canada "Loved the energy! The actresses brought to life."

Myra Ullrich "loved the audience participation."

James Lucas "The Wonderettes were so matched for the parts they played."

Malinda Feagins "The event was bright and colorful fun for the entire family."

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dollene Torres".

Dollene Torres
Quality of Life Program Director

Follow Up Support Letters – Winter Wonderettes (cont.):



Health Central Park

411 North Dillard St.
Winter Garden, FL 34787
tel 407.296.1600
fax 407.296.1639

healthcentral.org

TheatreWorks Florida
8 East Cypress St
Davenport, FL 33837-3106

To whom it may concern,

The TheatreWorks Florida Troupe performed at Health Central Park on Saturday, December 13th. The Troupe presented "Winter Wonderettes", a marvelous musical. Health Central Park is a long term care home for 214 elderly residents, many who are no longer able to withstand a trip out into the community for a show. The TheatreWorks Team gave our residents a respite from their illnesses, difficulties and frailty.

We are fortunate to have a large room so we could invite all of our residents and their families. The evening was wonderful, the music perfect and the show was entertaining. This event gave us the opportunity to make new happy memories for our residents and their families, and for that we are truly thankful. The entertainers are talented and gifted, as are the management and production team. All were professional and attentive to our residents. All around it was a great event! TheatreWorks Florida is welcome to come any time!

We are thankful for your generosity. We wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Skilton".

Judy Skilton
Director,
Recreation Therapy
& Volunteer Services

ORLANDO HEALTH

⊗ ORLANDO REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER ⊗ ARNOLD PALMER HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN ⊗ WINNIE PALMER HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN & BABIES
⊗ M.D. ANDERSON CANCER CENTER ORLANDO ⊗ DR. P. PHILLIPS HOSPITAL ⊗ HEALTH CENTRAL HOSPITAL ⊗ SOUTH SEMINOLE HOSPITAL
⊗ SOUTH LAKE HOSPITAL ⊗ ORLANDO HEALTH PHYSICIAN GROUP

“A Real Life Christmas Miracle” Facebook Post – Winter Wonderettes:



Last night at SOUTHERN GARDENS (Lake Alfred, FL), our final stop of weekend #3, the cast and crew of WINTER WONDERETTES became part of a true Christmas miracle we will never forget... **A resident of SOUTHERN GARDENS who has not responded nor spoken in 6 years suddenly came to life clapping and singing and actually speaking to the ladies on stage throughout the ENTIRE 90 minute show!!!!** The SOUTHERN GARDENS staff was tearful as they thanked us for the gift of music, love and laughter that changed another person's life and represents all that THEATRECARES is.

You can't see her face, but in the picture above, she is the woman in red who is clapping with BETTY JEAN (Desiree Perez). This picture will forever stay within our hearts and be a reminder that THEATRECARES and ALL theatre has the power to change lives, make us better people and bring love into places that may seem without hope.

When booking this venue, our company manager, Abel Gonzales, told me, "Of all the places we will be performing, THIS is the venue that needs us the most". Now we know why...

There is NOTHING more powerful than to be doing what you love, not knowing it is about to change someone's life. Happy Holidays to all. And thank you for letting us share this amazing story with you. Please continue to share this story across Facebook and everywhere...

Sincerely,
Scott A. Cook
Artistic Producer, TheatreWorks Florida

The Winter Haven News Chief – Winter Wonderettes:



This copy is for your personal, noncommercial use only. You can order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers [here](#) or use the "Reprints" tool that appears above any article. [Order a reprint of this article now.](#)

Winter Haven Theater Group Spreads Its Holiday Joy

Free performance at Spring Haven for its residents raises spirits

By [Madison Fantozzi](#)

Ledger Media Group

Published: Monday, December 15, 2014 at 12:25 p.m.

Wes Counsell says his eyesight isn't very good anymore. He can't drive a car. He's 91, and he insists you put "and a half" at the end of his age. Daily activities have become difficult, so a night out on the town is out of the question.

But Counsell and the residents at Spring Haven Retirement Center didn't need to leave the comfort of their home for a full-scale theatrical performance of "The Winter Wonderettes" last weekend.



PHOTO PROVIDED TO THE NEWS CHIEF
Wes Counsell, left, a resident of the Spring Haven Retirement Center, with Frida Söderdahl, who plays Suzy in "The Winter Wonderettes."

It's the inaugural show of TheatreWorks Florida's TheatreCares program, which brings performances to audiences that may be physically or otherwise challenged in going to see a live show.

"We've never had something like this at the center before," Counsell said. "I enjoyed everything about it. The set, the songs, the girls."

Scott Cook, TheatreWorks Florida's artistic producer, chose "The Winter Wonderettes" for the program's inaugural show to perform 1950s and 1960s holiday songs like "Jingle Bell Rock" and "Santa Baby" for the elderly.

"When I hear a song from when I was younger, it practically transports me to that time and place," said Candy Marilyn Heller, the actress who plays Cindy Lou. "(The show) allows us to do just that for the people who shaped musical theater (and) our world into what it is today."

The musical comedy takes place in 1968 at the Harper's Hardware Holiday Party. When Santa Claus goes missing, the four-woman group uses its harmonies of more than 20 holiday classics to save the party.

Jennifer Mandala-Gravel plays Missy, Frida Söderdahl plays Suzy and Desiree Perez plays Betty Jean.

The performances are free.

"It was especially nice to watch the memory care residents with things like Alzheimer's come to life," said Lisa Roberts, enrichment coordinator at Spring Haven Retirement Center. "They knew every word to every song and just to see the awe in their eyes was really special."

The Winter Haven News Chief – Winter Wonderettes (cont.):

TheatreCares started when the National Endowment for the Arts approached TheatreWorks Florida about a grant opportunity, Cook said.

"It's not every day that this huge organization goes around calling people to take their money," he said.

But it reached out to TheatreWorks Florida to represent Central Florida in its Art Engagement in American Communities program.

The catch: TheatreWorks Florida had seven days to come up with a community project that would make them eligible for the \$10,000 matching grant.

Cook already was planning to take the holiday show on the road to assisted living facilities, but TheatreWorks Florida manager Abel Gonzales saw the potential of Cook's idea to become an ongoing project that reaches more audiences of needy people.

"The Winter Wonderettes" has been performed for residents at Grace Manor Suites and Spring Haven Retirement Center. Their next stops: Southern Gardens in Lake Alfred today and The Estates at Carpenters in Lakeland on Dec. 21.

"Memories are very important to me, and this was a good one," said Sue Brock, 83, a Grace Manor Suites resident.

She especially enjoyed the interaction between the performers and the residents. She said the actresses had a great instinct on which residents to bring on stage and how to hold the audience's attention.

"I loved the music, the costumes, the props were very festive," she said. "The performers were so upbeat and kept the tempo going."

The show's glitz and glamour were almost too big for the activity room at Grace Manor Suites, but Cook made it work.

"They brought the show to us for free and were able adapt it to our space, which is wonderful because some of the residents can't walk or physically make it to the theater, and some of them don't have the money to afford stuff like this," said Tiffany Barnhart, activities director at Grace Manor Suites.

Cook said the grant couldn't have come at a better time, not only allowing TheatreCares to bring some holiday joy to the assisted living facilities but also making the program eligible for another grant as soon as February.

"This is about bringing theater to anyone and everyone who doesn't have the opportunity to experience it," Cook said. "We definitely want to bring a performance to children in the next round, whether it's kids in hospitals or at-risk youth."

Madison Fantozzi can be reached at 863-401-6971 or madison.fantozzi@newschief.com.

Copyright © 2015 NewsChief.com — All rights reserved. Restricted use only.

Press Release – Winter Wonderettes:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Abel Gonzales
407-340-0473
abel@theatreworksfl.org

THEATREWORKS FLORIDA LAUNCHES THEATRECARES WITH WINTER WONDERETTES

DAVENPORT, FL (October 20, 2014) – TheatreWorks Florida is thrilled and extremely proud to announce they have been awarded a grant from the **National Endowment for The Arts** to launch their new program, **TheatreCares**. This unique outreach program will serve a vital role to our community by bringing full-scale theatrical experiences directly to venues with audiences who are physically, emotionally, financially or geographically challenged and may otherwise not have the opportunity to embrace and engage in the art of live performance.

As its inaugural project, TheatreCares will mount a touring production of the delightful holiday musical ***Winter Wonderettes*** and offer the show to select nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the Central Florida region free of charge this holiday season 2014! Target locations will serve both Orange and Polk counties, reaching over 1100+ people during the performance tour. The show will enjoy a special opening performance at Garden Theatre (Winter Garden FL) on **November 13, 2014** then begin its tour Thanksgiving weekend and run through the month of December.

Winter Wonderettes is the story of four best girl friends that make up the song leader squad “The Marvelous Wonderettes” and this seasonal celebration finds the girls entertaining at the 1968 Harper’s Hardware Holiday Party. Performing their signature four-part harmony with classic holiday favorites while interacting with the audience (who have been deemed Harper’s Hardware employees) they soon discover that Santa has gone missing and must use their talent and creative ingenuity to save the holiday party! Featuring great 60s versions of holiday classics such as “Santa Claus Is Comin’ to Town,” “Jingle Bell Rock,” “Run, Rudolph, Run,” and “Winter Wonderland,” the result is, of course, marvelous! This energetic and glittering holiday package is a scrumptious holiday confection! *Winter Wonderettes* is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Art Works. Key partnering organizations include Garden Theatre, School Board of Polk County, Dancewear Corner, Proforma Printing of Jacksonville, Florida Southern College and Theatre Winter Haven.

Winter Wonderettes is produced and directed by Scott A. Cook, the artistic producer of TheatreWorks Florida. Cook has developed show designs and concepts for companies such as Universal Studios Florida and the Walt Disney World Company, and won numerous producers’ honors including the Pierrots Award, Best Musical for *Cats* at Theatre Winter Haven in 2006 and 10 awards including Best of Fest at the 2012 Orlando International Fringe Festival (*Little Shop of Horrors*). In 2012, Scott brought Elle Woods to life with *Legally Blonde: The Musical* (Central Florida Regional Premiere), which won Best Musical 2012-13 with BroadwayWorld Orlando.

TheatreWorks Florida chose this show as the inaugural production for TheatreCares because it's an outrageously fun, good old-fashioned musical comedy. The antics of the strong four-woman cast are sure to pull the audience in to the story, allowing them to de-stress from everyday life. It's outrageous, and shall we say, “marvelous”!

TheatreWorks Florida is proud to announce the outstanding cast of *Winter Wonderettes*:

Missy – Jennifer Mandala Gravel
Suzy – Frida Söderdahl
Betty Jean – Desiree Perez
Cindy Lou – Candy Marilyn Heller

Those who have previously appeared in TheatreWorks Florida past productions include Candy Marilyn Heller (*Sweeney Todd*), Desiree Perez (*Sweeney Todd*, *Nunsense*, *Little Shop of Horrors*) and Frida Söderdahl (*Sweeney Todd*).

Tickets to the special opening performance at Garden Theatre will be **free of charge** and take place on THURS NOV 13, 2014 @ 7PM. For tickets, visit gardentheatre.org or contact the Garden Theatre Box Office at 407-877-GRDN (4736).

Tour venues include the following: Westminster Towers, Winter Park Care and Rehabilitation Center, Spring Haven Retirement Community, Southern Gardens, Grace Manor, Westchester of Winter Park, Health Central Park and The Estates at Carpenters. **Media attendance at any of the performance venues is strongly encouraged.** For further information on venue dates and times or to find out how you can help and support TheatreCares, please contact Abel Gonzales, TWF Company Manager, at: theatrecares@theatreworksfl.org or (407) 340-0473.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Roger Bean is the creator of the long-running off-Broadway smash hit *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, which has played in hundreds of theaters around the world. Mr. Bean also created two popular sequels for these four delightful song leaders from Springfield High: *The Marvelous Wonderettes: Caps and Gowns* and the holiday celebration *Winter Wonderettes*. Original cast albums for all three *Wonderettes* shows are available online at Amazon and iTunes. Additional audience-pleasing jukebox hits from Mr. Bean include *Summer of Love*, *The Andrews Brothers*, *Why Do Fools Fall In Love?*, *Route 66* (over 100 productions throughout the country), and the long-running Los Angeles hit *Life Could Be A Dream*, the '60s doo-wop musical that received the LA Drama Critics Circle Award, the LA Weekly Theatre Award and the Backstage Garland Award for Outstanding Musical of 2010. www.rogerbean.com

ABOUT THEATREWORKS FLORIDA

TheatreWorks Florida is a professional Central Florida-based theatre company. Formed in 2007, TheatreWorks offers some of the finest theatrical musicals available today as well as produces new, original works from area artists and artists from around the country. For more information, visit www.theatreworksfl.org.

AT A GLANCE

Winter Wonderettes

Written and Created by Roger Bean

Produced by TheatreWorks Florida • Presented by TheatreCares

Special Opening Performance: Garden Theatre (Winter Garden, FL) – Nov 13, 2014

Tour Venues: Various – Nov 29 – Dec 21, 2014

Celebrate the holidays in style with a good old-fashioned musical comedy, *Winter Wonderettes*. Hilarity ensues when a four-girl song leader squad performs at the 1968 Harper's Hardware Holiday Party and Santa goes missing! The girls must use their talent and creative ingenuity to find Santa and save the holiday party! This glittering holiday package is a scrumptious holiday confection!

Tickets: Free of charge* * * * * *

Media Inquiries / Further Information:

Abel Gonzales, TWF Company Manager

407-340-0473 • abel@theatreworksfl.org

Impact – Winter Wonderettes:

Organization Impact

- Heightened the awareness of the TheatreCares program in the Central Florida community
- Strengthened key partner relationships for continual support of the TheatreCares program
- Gained a qualified grant writer and development director for TheatreWorks of Central FL
- Gained additional key partner corporate sponsorship awareness and interest
- Increased TheatreWorks of Central FL's social media following by 24%
- Initiated the need for TheatreWorks of Central FL to establish permanent residence at the defunct Davenport School of the Arts campus for successful growth and operation of the TheatreCares program
- Initiated further growth planning for TheatreWorks of Central FL to create more cultural arts experiences in its home community of Davenport, FL that will cultivate continued participation in the arts by developing a small theatre season in a 188-seat theatre space, master class workshops with associated Broadway veterans and a year-round youth theatre training company that will tour a musical revue presentation through the TheatreCares program and will be affiliated with Showstopper Productions (Utica, NY; est. 1959) of which TheatreWorks of Central FL's own Artistic Producer is an alumni

Community Impact

- Received several requests to bring the TheatreCares program to other underserved communities with future projects validating the importance and need for the program
- Gained wide spread news media coverage about our organization's progress and the impact of providing this particular type of service to the Central Florida community
- Cultivated a greater interest for the cultural arts in our local community of Davenport, FL by introducing an ongoing vision of the TheatreCares program to community leaders that will result in continued engagement and participation in the arts
- Motivated the Davenport City Commission to develop the "Davenport School Task Force Committee" after observing TheatreWorks of Central FL's utilization of the defunct Davenport School of the Arts building as a rehearsal space; this committee has been established to discuss further use of this building including a potential first-ever cultural center hub for the city of Davenport
- Inspired the Davenport Creative Arts and Cultural Alliance to actively participate in helping TheatreWorks of Central FL establish permanent residence at the defunct Davenport School of the Arts campus
- Sparked the attention of the Executive Director of Polk Vision, Sara Roberts, who has committed to furthering the mission and goals of TheatreWorks of Central FL and the TheatreCares program throughout the Polk county region.



November 9, 2015

Dear National Endowment for the Arts:

It is with great enthusiasm that the Garden Theatre relay its support of TheatreWorks Florida's TheatreCares program. The TheatreCares program of *School House Rock Live!* this past September was a testament to the incredible difference this program is making on our community.

TheatreWorks Florida's production of *School House Rock Live!* was outstanding, with a professional, knowledgeable, and courteous staff and crew. The Garden Theatre is honored to present their quality work in Winter Garden, and looks forward to many more years with this valued production company. As an active partner of the Garden Theatre, TheatreWorks Florida has shown its involvement in the surrounding community by delivering professional productions and quality entertainment to Central Florida.

Thank you for supporting life-changing programs such as these.

Sincerely,

Alauna Friskics
Executive Director, Garden Theatre
407-877-4736 x202
alauna@gardentheatre.org
gardentheatre.org



SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE! – FALL 2015

Produced by TheatreWorks Florida • Presented by TheatreCares

COMMUNITY SUPPORT - EMAILS

BETHUNE ACADEMY – HAINES CITY, FL

Thanks to TheatreWorks/TheaterCares Florida, our ESE student population at Bethune Academy were able to experience firsthand a live theater production, and loved it.

Not only was *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* A great performance, but the cast members kept the audience captivated and engaged. The performance was well put together and well performed by its individual characters.

My students had such a great experience. They talked about it the next day during class to their classmates. The parents as well as the students were able to create family memories with an event that was affordable and educational at the same time. Our students/parents most definitely enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to been able to be invited to participate in your next venture.

We will like to recommend TheatreWorks/TheaterCares in providing quality family friendly performances.

Kind Regards,
Janet E. Gomez
K-5 ESE Teacher/Zumba Instructor
Bethune Academy

MILDRED FLEISCHER – MEMBER OF DAVENPORT ARTS & CULTURAL ALLIANCE

WOW! We were so impressed with the whole production and the professionalism shown. That includes the sets and all the props. No amateur production!!

I was most enthralled with the educational principles included and the reaction of the audience, but mostly the kids. By the educational principles I mean things like:

- 1. Appealing to all the senses for learning...visual, auditory, kinesthetic, etc.*
- 2. Drawing audience into the "show"...including all ages.*
- 3. Maintaining interest for over an hour..and that includes antics, visual contact with audience.*
- 4. Most important to me was the follow up at the end, "closure" so to speak. The cast sat and assumed a conversational Q & A about the production and the learning that took place. I was very pleased with the quality of answers and retention of the "lessons". I was amazed that the kids were so comfortable responding to the cast.*

BRAVO! to you, the cast, the staff and the total production. Thank You! Goals and objectives well met!!

Mildred Fleischer



Orlando

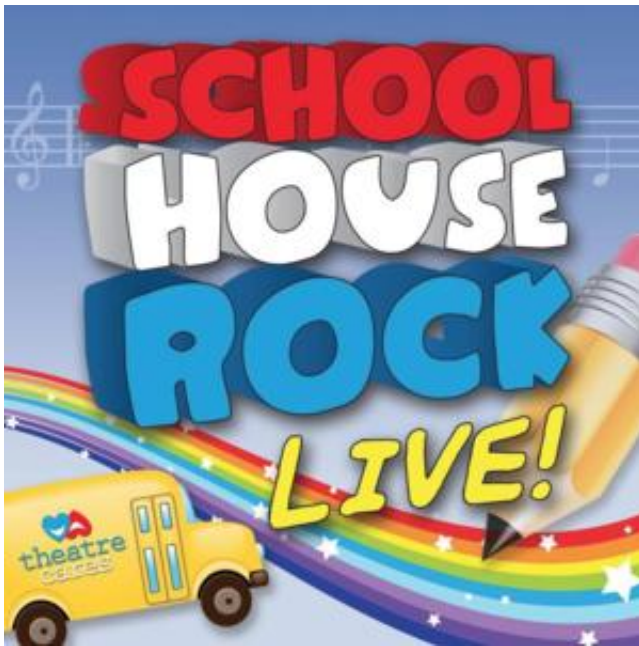
TheatreWorks Florida's TheatreCares to Bring SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE! to Underserved Youth This Fall

by

BWW News Desk

August 13

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/orlando/article/TheatreWorks-Floridas-TheatreCares-to-Bring-SCHOOLHOUSE-ROCK-LIVE-to-Underserved-Youth-This-Fall-20150813>



TheatreWorks Florida is thrilled and extremely proud to announce they have been awarded grants from the National Endowment for The Arts and United Arts of Central Florida to continue their successful community outreach program, TheatreCares. This unique outreach program serves a vital role to our community by bringing full-scale theatrical experiences directly to venues with audiences who are physically, emotionally, socially, financially or geographically challenged and may otherwise not have the opportunity to embrace and engage in the art of live performance.

This Fall 2015, TheatreCares will mount a touring production of the pop culture phenomenon Schoolhouse Rock Live! and perform the musical for underserved youth at 9 select community centers in the Central Florida region free of charge! Target locations will serve both Orange and Polk counties, reaching over 1100+ people during the performance tour. The show will enjoy special VIP opening performances at the Davenport Community Campus (Davenport, FL) on September 8 & 9, 2015, a full theatrical experience at Garden Theatre (Winter Garden, FL) on September 10, 2015 then tour to various venues through October 4, 2015.

Schoolhouse Rock Live!, based on the 1970's cartoon, is a fast-paced musical that teaches

lessons with clever, catchy tunes. The story follows Tom, a nerve-wracked schoolteacher who is worried about his first day of teaching. He tries to relax by watching TV when various characters representing facets of his personality emerge from the TV set and show him how to win his students over with imagination and music, through such songs as "Just A Bill," "Lolly, Lolly, Lolly," and "Conjunction Junction."

Schoolhouse Rock Live! is directed and choreographed by Scott A. Cook, the artistic producer of TheatreWorks Florida. Cook has developed show designs and concepts for companies such as Universal Studios Florida and the Walt Disney World Company, and won numerous producers' honors including the Pierrots Award, Best Musical for Cats at Theatre Winter Haven in 2006 and 10 awards including Best of Fest at the 2012 Orlando International Fringe Theatre Festival (Little Shop of Horrors). In fall 2012, Scott brought Elle Woods to life with Legally Blonde: The Musical (Central Florida Regional Premiere), which won Best Musical 2012-13 with BroadwayWorld Orlando. This past year, his TWF production of Sweeney Todd won Best Set, Best Musical Direction and Best Lead Actress In A Musical (BroadwayWorld Orlando 2013-14). Cook and TWF are poised to produce yet another Central Florida Regional Premiere with Hands on A Hardbody, opening at Garden Theatre (Winter Garden, FL) Jan 29, 2016.

TheatreWorks Florida chose Schoolhouse Rock Live! as the next TheatreCares production because they wanted to give back to the youth in our community with something fresh, energetic and educational. "The powerful mix of contemporary music and live theatre is an exceptional way to reach the youth of today and make a difference in their lives," says Cook.

TheatreWorks Florida is proud to announce the outstanding cast of Schoolhouse Rock Live!:

Tammy - Vicky Campadonico

George - Ryan Mobley

Joe - Robb Ross

Dori - Candy Marilyn Heller

Dina - Katrina Johnson

Shulie - Karissa Barber

Those who have previously appeared in TheatreWorks Florida past productions include Candy Marilyn Heller (Sweeney Todd, Winter Wonderettes), Ryan Mobley (Legally Blonde: The Musical), Robb Ross (Forever Plaid, Legally Blonde: The Musical, Sweeney Todd) and Katrina Johnson (Little Shop of Horrors).

Tour venues include the following: Garden Theatre, Davenport Community Campus, Parramore Kidz Zone, Kauses4Kids, Sunshine Foundation, Haines City Leisure Services, and Boys & Girls Club of Central Florida.

For further information on venue dates and times or to find out how you can help and support TheatreCares, contact Abel Gonzales, TWF Company Manager, at:

theatrecares@theatreworksfl.org or (407) 340-0473.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT - Scott Ferguson's background covers it all: director, actor, teacher and writer. THE MAIN STREET KIDS' CLUB was first workshopped at Northwestern University, which is also his alma mater. Scott is a veteran teacher and director for the NU National High School Institute. He is also the co-founder and artistic director of TheatreBam Chicago, where he conceived, co-wrote and directed the hit shows SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE! and SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE TOO!

ABOUT THEATREWORKS FLORIDA - TheatreWorks Florida is a 501.c3 professional Central Florida-based theatre company. Formed in 2007, TheatreWorks offers some of the finest theatrical musicals available today as well as produces new, original works from area artists and artists from around the country. For more information, visit www.theatreworksfl.org.

© 2015 Copyright **Wisdom Digital Media**. All Rights reserved.



Orlando

BWW Interview: Rockin' SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE with TheatreWorks Florida's Scott A. Cook 8/27

by

Kimberly Moy

August 28

<http://www.broadwayworld.com/orlando/article/BWW-Interview-Rockin-SCHOOLHOUSE-ROCK-LIVE-with-TheatreWorks-Floridas-Scott-A-Cook-827-20150828>



TheatreWorks Florida is known throughout the Orlando theater scene for putting on hit productions like Legally Blonde in 2013, Sweeney Todd in 2014, and Nunsense in 2015. If you've seen any of those shows you know that the quality of theater is best in the business. This year, TheatreWorks Florida was awarded grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and United Arts of Central Florida. These grants will support their community outreach program TheatreCares, which brings full-quality productions to

education locations that may not otherwise be able to experience live theater.

This year TheatreCares presented by TheatreWorks Florida will bring SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE! to nine select community locations throughout Central Florida. The best part? These performances are free of charge for the students and organizations. The tour will reach more than 1100 people. The tour takes place throughout September and ends on October 4th. BroadwayWorld Orlando sat down with TheatreWorks Florida's Artistic Director, Scott Cook to talk about SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE!

I grew up watching Schoolhouse Rock. I fondly remember "I'm Just a Bill." Do any of these songs appear in the show?

Scott A. Cook: So did I. I think I was more in love with Schoolhouse Rock than the actual mainstream cartoons! The live stage show, Schoolhouse Rock Live!, includes "I'm Just A Bill", "Conjunction Junction", "Sufferin' Til Suffrage" and a host of other iconic songs that turned the animated musical educational shorts into a pop culture phenomenon which spanned several generations of audiences. TheatreWorks Florida (TWF) is so excited to have the opportunity to produce this energetic live stage musical through their community outreach program, TheatreCares. The show will play to underserved youth groups throughout Central Florida free of charge.

Do you think that this content is still relevant to kids these days? Does the live show still have an old school vibe from the cartoons?

The content is still extremely relevant because the original subject matter has not changed. Topics include grammar, American history, mathematics, science and civics. These topics are presented through song and cover the basic educational foundations in each subject chosen. As far as an "old school" vibe, this is where TWF's vision of the show takes over with a fresh, original concept. We simply analyzed the title - Schoolhouse Rock Live! - then made the creative decision that this was a live performance, not the cartoons. This led us into a completely original take on the show where we've developed it as a first time experience that does not require you to have ever seen the animated shorts. Although we certainly have used the cartoons as a basis for research, we emphasize the live stage show story and stay in the world of the play as it is happening. We've kept enough nostalgia for anyone who remembers the cartoons but filled it with all new visual presentations for the younger generation!

What do you hope the children who see this production takeaway?

That's a loaded question. It's vital to understand that TWF's TheatreCares program is presenting Schoolhouse Rock Live! TheatreCares is a unique outreach program serving a vital role to our community by bringing full-scale theatrical experiences directly to venues with audiences who are physically, emotionally, socially, financially or geographically challenged and may otherwise not have the opportunity to embrace and engage in the art of live performance. TheatreCares is sponsored in part by the National Endowment for Arts - Artworks (NEA). The TWF program TheatreCares has been selected for the 2nd year in a row to be the Central Florida representative for the NEA program "Arts Engagement in American Communities" (AEAC). The AEAC mission is to 'increase arts understanding by enhancing the arts experience through engagement'. Staying true to the AEAC mission, not only does TWF produce a show but also a well-crafted post show talk back to get audiences to take part in the experience they just had. TWF chose Schoolhouse Rock Live! as the next TheatreCares production because we wanted to give back to the children in our community with something fresh, energetic and educational. The powerful mix of contemporary music and live theatre is an exceptional way to reach the youth of today and make a difference in their lives. We hope the children will take away not only the enjoyment and education of the material itself, but will want to become more involved in the arts throughout their young lives

and on into adulthood.

Where can people see the show before it goes on tour?

There will be 2 public shows on Wed Sept 9 and Sat Sept 12 at 7PM at the Davenport Community Campus, 8 W. Palmetto St., Davenport, FL 33837. Seats are free but must be reserved in advance. Seating is limited. If these dates are inconvenient, the tour will be playing at select community centers for underserved youth in both Orange and Polk counties. Several of our tour venues have expressed an open arms invitation, if space allows. To book reservations for public shows or for further information on tour venues, dates and times, please contact Abel Gonzales, TWF Company Manager, at: theatrecares@theatreworksfl.org or (407) 340-0473.

If someone loves the idea of non-profit theater and would like to support your mission of TheatreCares, where could they learn more or donate?

As the TheatreCares program grows, we hope we will find a wide variety of support from our home community of Davenport, FL, Polk County and all of Central Florida - maybe even beyond. To find out how you can help and support TheatreCares, please contact Abel Gonzales, TWF Company Manager, at: theatrecares@theatreworksfl.org or (407) 340-0473.

Ever since the first BroadwayWorld Orlando Regional Awards took place in 2013, your productions have won. What makes TheatreWorks Florida so special?

TWF was founded in 2007 on one very important core principal: everyone coming to the table would be here to produce top-notch, professional theatrical experiences. Simply put: we are here to work and work very hard for our audiences. Our reputation for setting the bar extremely high results in a complete team commitment to quality. Along the way, we have been incredibly blessed with seasoned professionals that are an integral part of our success story. I am humbled to continue to have the opportunity to bring together such amazing and hard working individuals that believe in TWF's vision of quality theatre.

As an Artistic Producer, how do you select the shows each year?

It's not just me making choices. The process is a complete team effort. Each year, the TWF core staff and designers look at show titles that have, first and foremost, great marketing potential. Second, we consider current trends, national reviews and local audience draw. Third, we make sure we can actually design the show in a particular space with professional quality production values. What this really means is once we are seriously considering a show title we go through the entire initial design and budget process with every department before any serious commitment occurs. Interestingly, each year we all bring up the same shows on our "personal wish lists" but many of them end up on the cutting room floor because we feel local area audiences won't support them or our reputable TWF production quality cannot be achieved in a certain space. In the end, our decisions are all about what the

audience wants - top notch, quality, professional theatre. TWF makes the commitment to deliver just that, every single time.

What do you have on deck for the upcoming season?

Next up, TWF is very excited to be producing the Central Florida regional premiere of *Hands On A Hardbody* for Garden Theatre (Winter Garden, FL) opening Jan. 29, 2016. It is Everyman's story with country and rock music infused into every character. At its heart, the show is the blue-collar America's A Chorus Line - the quintessential American Dream story for our times. It is based on the acclaimed documentary from 1997 of the same name. The story revolves around 10 Texan characters all brought together at a contest to win a Nissan hardbody truck at the Floyd King Nissan dealership in Longview, Texas. To compete, they each place one hand on the truck. Last person to remove their hand wins the truck. Simple, right? Wrong. The show is a complete production challenge in some very unique ways. First, we decided to build our own truck that must spin and move all over the stage magically. Second, it is a choreographic challenge keeping the 10 actors moving dynamically while never removing one hand from the truck. Tons of fun! We are also gearing up for the 25th anniversary of the Orlando International Fringe Theatre Festival in 2016. But that's a whole other story...

Where do you see the company going in the next few years?

Last year when we were chosen to accept our 1st NEA grant, our home base community of Davenport, FL began to show unprecedented support in all our endeavors for the first time on our 8-year existence. The Polk County School Board, in particular, opened their arms and partnered with us to donate space at a defunct School of the Arts building. We used the space strictly for rehearsals in 2014 but as we rounded the corner in 2015, we saw much more potential. The school facility has a beautiful dance studio, a small theatre, shop space, storage space and office areas. In Jan 2015, TWF made a commitment to this space and our hometown to begin the process of building a strong arts community in the City of Davenport. Our efforts sparked incredible interest and we have gained great momentum with many local organizations and the City of Davenport itself. That being said, we still intend to create main stage productions and tour them to venues like Garden Theatre or the Orlando International Fringe Theatre Festival but our long term goals now include developing the old School of the Arts space into a cultural arts center with multi-faceted programming, expansion of a year round production schedule for TheatreCares, adding additional classes to our existing ClassWorks educational program and adding a full theatre season at the School of the Arts facility. TWF has become part of a much larger picture and we are proud to be leading the way towards a vibrant arts community in the City of Davenport for the very first time. TWF has even developed a Facebook marketing initiative called "Imagine Davenport" which brings all sorts of organizations in Davenport under one roof where we can educate the public on everyone's efforts to improve the quality of life in our city. Imagine Davenport information can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/imaginedavenportfl>. Time will tell how successful we

will be.

Thank you for your time Scott!

For more information on TWF and TheatreCares visit www.theatreworksfl.org or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/theatreworksfl

THEATRECARES and the SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE! project is supported in part by awards from the National Endowment for the Arts - Art Works and United Arts of Central Florida.

SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE! is presented through special arrangement with [Music Theatre International](#) (MTI).

© 2015 Copyright [Wisdom Digital Media](#). All Rights reserved.

TheatreWorks Florida offers free 'Schoolhouse Rock Live!' shows



By **Matthew J. Palm** • Contact Reporter

The TheatreWorks Florida cast of Schoolhouse Rock Live! rehearses for its tour. Cast (from left): Vicky Campadonico, Karissa Barber, Katrina Johnson, Candy Marilyn Heller, Robb Ross and Ryan Mobley. (Andrea Cruz).



SEPTEMBER 2, 2015, 2:56 PM

Through its TheatreCares program, TheatreWorks Florida is offering free public performances of "Schoolhouse Rock Live!" -- the kids' show based on the popular Saturday-morning cartoon series.

"I'm Just a Bill" and "Lolly, Lolly, Lolly, Get Your Adverbs Here" and "Conjunction Junction" are just three of the memorable tunes featured in the show. In the stage adaptation, nervous teacher Tom is shown how he can win over his students using the catchy jingles.

Although admission is free, seats must be reserved in advance; there is no walk-up seating. Performances are at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9, and Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Davenport Community Campus, 8. W. Palmetto St., Davenport.

To reserve a seat, contact Abel Gonzales at: theatrecares@theatreworksfl.org or 407-340-0473.

Article continues below ↓

Future performances are planned for Parramore Kidz Zone, Orlando's Boone Middle School and through Kauses4Kids.

The "Schoolhouse Rock Live!" tour is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and United Arts of Central Florida. Scott A. Cook, TheatreWorks artistic director, is directing the show, which stars Vicky Campadonico, Karissa Barber, Katrina Johnson, Candy Heller, Robb Ross and Ryan Mobley.

Keeping the curtain raised: TheatreWorks Florida using old Davenport School of the Arts campus

By [Madison Fantozzi](#)

The Ledger

Published: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at 1:10 p.m.

DAVENPORT — The curtain hasn't closed on the old Davenport School of the Arts campus.

TheatreWorks Florida moved in late last year and now the nonprofit theater company is planning performances of "Schoolhouse Rock Live!" in the school's theater that hasn't been used in four years.

The company is making use of the dance studio, black box theater and amphitheater that seats up to 180 people, which has sparked new conversations about the old school's future.

"Theater companies search years for something like this," said Scott Cook, TheatreWorks Florida's artistic producer. "The school left behind an incredible building."

The Davenport School of the Arts moved to its new, \$38 million campus near Loughman in 2011.

Other organizations want to find uses for the old campus, too.

In July, Abel Gonzales, TheatreWorks Florida's company manager and a member of Davenport's School Task Force Committee, presented the City Commission with a proposed plan for the school — now being referred to by residents as the Davenport Community Campus — that goes beyond TheatreWorks Florida.

The company, along with organizations including the Davenport Historical Society and Davenport Arts and Cultural Alliance, have joined TheatreWorks Florida under one marketing campaign called Imagine Davenport. Its goal is to develop the campus into an arts, culture and recreation center.

What TheatreWorks Florida is already doing at the campus serves as the first phase of a three-phase plan the committee asked commissioners to take to the Polk County School Board.

The company started its TheatreCares program there in October.

TheatreCares is a community outreach program that receives funding from National Endowment of the Arts and United Arts of Central Florida grants to put on full-scale theatrical performances for audiences that are physically, financially or otherwise challenged. The company's first show, "Winter Wonderettes," toured local senior



MICHAEL WILSON / THE LEDGER

The cast of TheatreWorks Florida's production of "Schoolhouse Rock Live!" are, from left, Robb Ross, Katrina Johnson, Candy Marilyn Heller and Kariss Barber.

homes in December.

"Schoolhouse Rock Live!" will tour theaters in Polk and Orange counties free of charge in September. The show, based on the 1970s cartoon with the popular songs "Just A Bill" and "Conjunction Junction," targets underserved youth. The show also will have two public performances in the old school's theater.

The company also uses space at the campus for rehearsals and storage.

"The old school is especially useful to us because these shows aren't for profit, they're for the community," Cook said.

A similar rehearsal space would cost at least \$3,000, he said.

The School Task Force Committee's proposal includes the Davenport Arts and Cultural Alliance using a building for art classes and the Davenport Historical Society using the media center for cultural and historical exhibits. It also wants the city to fix up the basketball courts and baseball field, and give permission to use the cafeteria as a banquet hall for special events.

The campus is still property of the School Board, which lends the space to TheatreWorks Florida. The Ridge Career Center uses eight classrooms, operating its Fresh Start, ESOL, GED and adult education programs.

The committee doesn't know how much it would cost to turn the old campus into a community center, but if the School Board wanted to reopen the campus as a school it would cost \$8.5 million, according to Greg Rivers, the district's associate superintendent of operations.

"It does have a lot of potential, but we can't invest any money in it," Mayor Darlene Bradley said.

Commissioners agreed to keep the old school on their radars, but the presentation ended with its future still unclear.

"We don't know what the School Board will do before we get both sides talking, but we can continue to run with the idea," Commissioner Crystal Williams said.

— Madison Fantozzi can be reached at madison.fantozzi@newschief.com or 863-401-6971. Follow her on Twitter @madisonfantozzi.

Copyright © 2015 NewsChief.com — All rights reserved. Restricted use only.



SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE! 2015



ROA: The Rock Of Ages Experience: Reviews: written on 12/27/16

“Rock Of Ages: The Experience” was held at Full Sail University for 2 workshops on Sat 9.1.16.

I was invited by TheatreWorks Florida to bring 24 of my high school theater students to a free interactive workshop at Fullsail University. The students thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on experience of operating the sound, light and video equipment as the band from ‘Rock Of Ages’ performed several songs from the show. For many of the students, it was their first opportunity to encounter a professional recording studio. Afterward, the same students got to attend the show itself, and they have been talking about it ever since. Several of the students have begun pursuing their new interest in theater technology based on what they experienced on this field trip---so I would consider it a huge success. Thanks so much for making it possible!

James Brendlinger, Theatre Dept. Director | Lake Howell HS (Winter Park, FL)

This program was amazing! My children were riveted from the moment they entered the studio until we got home. They loved every aspect of the show. Not only was the music outstanding but my kids learned about the technical aspect of putting on a show and what goes into a shows production. They had no idea about the complexities of the equipment that makes everything happen and what appears to be so easy on stage, really takes a team of people working together. The question and answer time with the band and cast was wonderful because it helped my children understand what it means to be a performer and to have to work for something that you love. This program was worth its weight in gold to us.

David Goldstone, Parent (Orlando, FL)

The Rock of Ages Experience, offered by TheatreWorks Florida and Full Sail University, was a free, unique experience offered to the Orlando community that was not available to someone like myself when I was young. I was able to bring my pre-teen son to an afternoon event that allowed him to see and experience what goes on behind the scenes both in a live, concert environment and during a televised event first-hand. As someone that comes from the entertainment industry, it made me very proud to offer my son an opportunity to perform many of the tasks I had performed and was already familiar with – and to see him do them successfully. Whether he chooses this path for himself or not, this opportunity allowed him to experience the entertainment world in a way that he can’t normally. It showed him all the work that actually goes on to present what appears to be a simple show either on a stage or on some other media channel.

Barry Nadler, ROA Official Show Photographer & Parent (Orlando, FL)