A Look Back at 2013

2013 was an exciting year at Trollwood Performing Arts School and Bluestem Center for the Arts! Our students, families, audience members, volunteers, partners, and supporters made it a year to remember!

Trollwood’s youth programs experienced record numbers for the second year in a row with 1,108 students enrolled in eight summer programs. In 2013, Trollwood offered 103 arts learning opportunities for students from six years of age through graduated seniors. Students participated in a multitude of opportunities including writing plays, making films, honing their acting, singing, and dance skills, and growing their technical abilities in costuming, lighting, sound, make-up, and the scenic areas of technical theatre.

Using the arts as the catalyst, hundreds of students were able to learn and grow through their Trollwood experiences in 2013. Trollwood 2013 senior, Nathan Jacobson, shared with us, “Trollwood has allowed me to feel comfortable being myself. Coming into Trollwood my junior year, I was very shy for the first couple of weeks and I kept to myself. Trollwood helped me so much to feel comfortable with myself, what I stand for, and who I am.”

In addition to the youth programs, Trollwood worked with community partners to expand arts experiences to the lifelong learner starting in the fall of 2012. Through Moorhead Community Education, Bluestem hosted 11 sessions of ballroom dance classes, 23 sessions of Middle Eastern dance, and four sessions of swing dance from October 2012 through December 2013. Check out our web site for details on new classes available for both adults and elementary aged students starting in January!

Bluestem Center for the Arts hosted numerous events, concerts, and festivals for the entire community to enjoy in 2013. All totaled, over 36,000 audience members were entertained, as a result.

The season started off with a concert brought to us by our partner, Jade Presents. Trampled by Turtles took the stage on May 10 which brought audiences of over 2,400 to Bluestem. In June, the rock band, O.A.R. packed the house with 2,800 people in attendance. In July, Trollwood’s Mainstage Musical made the history books by setting the record for the largest crowd ever at Bluestem’s amphitheatre with 2,819 audience members enjoying Shrek The Musical on Thursday, August 1, 2013.

Other highlights of the summer included, national recording artist, Dwight Yoakam in July; a festival geared around the celebration of Minnesota in September, featuring several Minnesota based entertainers including The Gear Daddies, Astronautalis, Gary Louris of the Jayhawks, and Caroline Smith; and finally, the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony taking the stage in August with special guests, Post-Traumatic Funk Syndrome, and Poitin.

There was much to do, see, and experience at Trollwood and Bluestem Center for the Arts in 2013. Planning is moving forward full speed ahead for 2014! Visit our web site, www.trollwood.org, for exciting details of what is to come.
A Note From Kathy Anderson
Executive Director

I have one word for 2013. That word is “inspired.” The tag line on Trollwood’s logo is “Live Inspired.” The families, students, volunteers, generous supporters, community partners, artists, faculty, and staff that I have had the opportunity to work with in 2013 embodied this tag line, and as a result, I truly felt “inspired.”

I was inspired to work as hard as possible to make certain arts educational opportunities were made available for hundreds of young people throughout our community and beyond. More importantly, in turn, I found having the incredible benefit of watching these young people focusing intently on developing their talents and themselves as people, beyond, inspiring.

Every time I received a letter from a donor with a generous gift of money to make what we do possible, I found myself both humbled and inspired. To make certain Trollwood Performing Arts School and Bluestem Center for the Arts continue to be an organization that serves our community, and provides inspiration to thousands of people for decades to come. Thank you for your continued inspiration.

Shrek The Musical Comes to Life!

Record breaking attendance, sold out shows, and a magical backdrop.

As the sun set on eleven beautiful evenings in July of 2013, excitement filled the Imagine Amphitheatre. The larger than life characters stepped right out of a story book and landed on our stage. 140 young people, under the direction and mentorship of professionals from down the street to across the nation, produced one of the most memorable shows in Trollwood’s history, Shrek The Musical.

For the students involved, in addition to developing their artistic skills, creating life-long friendships and memories that will last a life-time is just as important. Trollwood 2013 senior, Kayln Schnabel, who played Fiona, stated, “Shrek, for me, was all about spending my senior year with friends while doing the one thing that I love. I learned not to be so serious, and I had a wonderful time putting together an amazing show with amazing actors. I got closer to old friends and made some incredible new ones. These are the summers I will always remember.”

DreamWork’s first musical has proven to be a fan favorite and undeniably sparked the heart of the Fargo-Moorhead community.

What is your vision for Bluestem in 2014?

In 2011, we did five shows at Bluestem and they learned a little more towards an older demographic. Then in 2013, we geared things more towards a younger demographic. Our goal for 2014, is to merge the two. To produce a full summer of events that appeal to a wide variety of people. We have about six or seven offers already out to artists for 2014.

How has your experience been, working with the Bluestem team?

The Trollwood experience for us last year was really great. I commend Kathy and the whole production team. They worked around some things for us, which was key in making the events work smoothly.

What do you think Bluestem is valuable to the FM area?

As a promoter, we have the mindset during the summer months you can’t book artists because everyone wants to be at the lakes. I think with the partnership at Bluestem, we have proved that wrong. One of the values is, Bluestem gives people something fun and exciting to do outside in the summer. I think from an arts and entertainment perspective it’s a great summer offering for this community.

Jade Nielsen of Jade Presents

Tell me a little about yourself and how you got started?

I’ve been doing this for 22 years. Way back, I was just a music fan; I worked at a record store so I was exposed to a lot of different music. I happened to know a lot of local bands and I was asked to put together a benefit concert. Soon after that, I started to get calls from agents who wanted to route shows through Fargo. My hobby turned into a career and now we do about 300 shows per year.

What is your opinion of Bluestem?

Johnny Cash, which I never got the chance. I have Johnny Cash tattoos and my son’s name is Cash. I did have offers in during his later years, unfortunately they never happened.

Shrek, for me, was all about spending my senior year with friends while doing the one thing that I love. I learned not to be so serious, and I had a wonderful time putting together an amazing show with amazing actors. I got closer to old friends and made some incredible new ones. These are the summers I will always remember.”

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Trollwood Performing Arts School, in partnership with Kennedy Elementary, produced the 2nd annual Trollwood Children’s Theatre. In November, over 40 students participated in the production of Annie KIDS. Kennedy students were able to participate in singing, dancing, and acting sessions. Special thanks to students, teachers and parents at Kennedy Elementary for another great year!
12/7: 3 P's in a Pod Art Show & Sale
10:00 am - 6:00 pm

12/13: Trollwood Children's Theatre, Annie KIDS Registration Deadline

12/14: Signing Santa Holiday Party
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

12/17,19: Trollwood Children's Theatre, Annie KIDS Auditions

3/27: Information Open House
Marcol Commons
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Parents & Students welcome to come ask questions about summer programs!

4/11-15: Mainstage Musical Auditions

6/5: Student Orientation For All Summer Programs
6/5: June Programs Begin
6/9: Box Office Opens
6/16-20: ArtSpark
6/23-27: ArtSpark

7/10,11: Totally Trollwood Auditions
7/14: Totally Trollwood Rehearsal Begins
7/15: Mainstage Musical Family Preview
7/16: Mainstage Musical OPENS!
7/27: Momentum Dance Convention
7/21-25: ArtSpark
7/28-8/1: ArtSpark

8/5,6: Totally Trollwood Musical Performance
8/7: Mainstage Musical Production Party
8/14: Fargo Moorhead Symphony Rocks Bluestem Concert

* Summer program details will be available online starting in January. Also, additional events will be added throughout the year. Watch our website, www.trollwood.org for exciting opportunities for 2014!

*This time line was conveniently created to be hung on your fridge!
Alumni Spotlight: Dawn Trautman

Where do you currently live?
I have lived in New York City for 10 years, but I leave to do three or four regional shows each year.

Where did you receive your training?
I started taking dance class when I was three. In eighth grade my family moved to Fargo and I started at Trollwood. I have a minor in ‘the arts’ from Valparaiso University, but most of what I have learned since then has been a result of me seeking out various classes. Right now I take dance classes in New York, sometimes from fellow Trollwood alum, Bob Richard!

What years were you at Trollwood?
I was at Trollwood from 1986 through 1990. I was in the orchestra for Fiddler on the Roof in 1987, and part of the cast for Sound of Music in 1989 and Peter Pan in 1990.

What is your favorite memory at Trollwood?
Honestly, the alumni show we did as Trollwood was making the transition from Fargo to Moorhead. It was life-giving to perform again with people I started out with, and inspiring to see performances by all of the people who weren’t “my era.”

Why is Trollwood important to you?
Trollwood gave me quality friends, creative, smart, and hard-working. It also gave me access to adults who really cared, expected the best, and connected us to the larger world of performing arts. We worked with professionals who had a rich history with theater outside Fargo, and that was extremely important to me.

Where are you currently employed; what do you “do”?
I still do theater and run a business as a national board certified life coach. I coach online and on the phone so that I can take my business with me. As a coach, I help people launch big projects or make huge transitions in ways that align with who they are. The performing career and the coaching career work together well because they require different kinds of creativity. I also find ways to combine them. I have a Life Coach Medley of all of the happiest show tunes that commissioned for my coaching book release party, and I sing the medley in small concerts occasionally. You can see how it all fits together at http://www.DawnTrautman.com.

Give us the highlights of your career?
I played Mrs. Tottendale in the first New York City revival of “The Drowsy Chaperone.” We won four New York Innovative Theater Awards including Best Musical and Outstanding Ensemble. The energy of working with a whole team of people on stage and offstage who were all extraordinarily actually reminded me of Trollwood.

This summer, I did three shows in Pennsylvania. I played Marion Cunningham in Happy Days: The Musical, and Vicky in The Full Monty at Allentown Playhouse. Then I did a four person show at Gretna Theatre called The Bikinis: A New Musical Beach Party where we sang 60’s and 70’s music.

What do you feel is your greatest achievement?
One big achievement is moving to New York City by myself and launching both a coaching business and a performing career in the city. I guess that sounds like three things, but they are all tied together for me.

Why do you think Trollwood is important to the Fargo-Moorhead area youth?
Trollwood provides a community of caring and creative people during a key time in life for many children. The performing arts in general teaches so many skills beyond just singing and dancing: public speaking, cooperating with a large group of people, problem-solving, following through on a goal, and using other forms of communication to tell a story or even create change. Trollwood also connects youth to a larger vision, and helps them see beyond themselves and their immediate surroundings.

Trollwood Welcomes Two New Faces to the Team!

This fall, Trollwood Performing Arts School and Bluestem Center for the Arts have been working hard to build its management team. This team has been charged with the responsibility of meeting the new challenges of the organization, building a world class arts organization that serves the entire region in meaningful ways. When completed, the Trollwood team will consist of six administrative team members and one building engineer. Two of the newest positions were filled this fall with the final two slated to be filled by year-end. Joining Executive Director, Kathy Anderson; Program Coordinator, Nancy Glaser; and Building Engineer, Rich Cuffman, Trollwood is pleased to welcome Ryan Crane and Nicolette Jackson to the Trollwood family!

Ryan Crane
Administrative Assistant/Operations

Ryan started his career with Trollwood Performing Arts School in May of 2012 when he served as the summer business office assistant. In July of 2012, Ryan took on additional responsibilities when he stepped in as the manager of Trollwood’s box office, as well. Ryan returned to Trollwood in January of 2013, fulfilling a number of operational needs. Starting in May, he resumed his position as Business Office Assistant and Box Office Manager.

Ryan holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in business with a minor in economics from Concordia College. He graduated in record time from Concordia in 2013, fulfilling his four year degree in just three and a half years.

Ryan joined the Trollwood administrative team full time beginning in September of 2013 in the role of Administrative Assistant/Operations. In this role, Ryan oversees the coordination of accounts payables, accounts receivables, registrations, box office, customer services coordination, and serves as executive assistant to the executive director. In his free time, Ryan enjoys playing sports and is also pursuing modeling and acting work, regionally.

Nicolette Jackson
Marketing & Communications Specialist

Nicolette Jackson comes to us with a background in marketing and a passion for all things creative. For the past three years, Nicolette held the position of digital media coordinator at Valley Imports in Fargo. She was a key element in mainstreaming and revitalizing their online presence. Other significant roles include: digital communications, graphic design, social media, analytics and branding.

Nicolette has a Bachelor of Science degree in mass communications and a minor in art. While studying at Minnesota State University Moorhead, Nicolette had the opportunity to intern at Make-A-Wish of North Dakota and the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center. It was then, she realized she wanted to pursue a career in non-profit. She is looking forward to working with students, families, and volunteers. She is very excited for the opportunity to help Trollwood Performing Arts School make a difference in the lives of our Fargo-Moorhead area youth. In her spare time she enjoys thrifting, art projects, spending time with family and weight training with her husband, Kevin. Nicolette is excited to call Trollwood home!

Holiday Lights in Lindenwood Park to Benefit Trollwood

Please clip out and give to attendant when purchasing your ticket to view the Holiday Lights displays in Lindenwood Park December 1–31, 2013.

Trollwood Performing Arts School will receive a $2 donation from the F-M Sertoma Club for each coupon redeemed.