



SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE



**CASE STATEMENT
2023-2024**



Hello.

There are few theatres left in Arizona, like Spotlight Youth Theatre, that are only dedicated to youth, families, and the community. This dedication strengthens the community as a whole by bringing performing arts to families throughout the Valley.

The great shows you see on our stage are only a small part of what our youth theatre gives these families and youth.

To keep a theatre as unique as Spotlight open takes more than “*go to the shows.*”

It takes sponsors, donations, and volunteers. It takes you.

We thank you for taking the time to read our “Case Statement.” We hope that you help us continue to strengthen our community and give the kids a stage not just to stand on but a stage where the kids stand out.

Youth Theatre *anywhere* is good for theatre *everywhere.*

Sincere regards,



Kenny Grossman
Artistic Director
Spotlight Youth Theatre



2022-2023 ariZoni Theatre Awards of Excellence

Spotlight Youth Theatre was honored with 15 wins and 47 nominations for ariZoni Theatre Awards of Excellence for the 2022-2023 season.

Best Overall Production — Youth Musical

- Won: *Once*

Best Overall Production — Youth Play

- Nominated: *Shakespeare's Macbeth*

Actress in a Major Role — Youth Musical

- Won: Zoey Waller for *Once*
- Nominated: Brooklyn Martin for *Disney's Moana Jr.*

Actor in a Major Role — Youth Musical

- Won: Braiden Lee for *Once*

Actress in a Major Role — Youth Play

- Won: Wardeh Hanna for *Shakespeare's Macbeth*

Actor in a Major Role — Youth Play

- Won: Patrick Mullen for *Shakespeare's Macbeth*

Actress in a Supporting Role — Youth Musical

- Won: Olivia Martinez for *Runaways*
- Nominated: Zoie Moller for *Oklahoma!*
- Nominated: Sophia Mengel for *Runaways*
- Nominated: Mia Hurley for *Shrek the Musical Jr.*

Actor in a Supporting Role — Youth Musical

- Won: Eeshan Kumar for *Once*
- Nominated: Braiden Lee for *Oklahoma!*
- Nominated: Corban Adams for *Once*
- Nominated: Owen Morris for *Runaways*
- Nominated: Shane Sedivy for *Runaways*
- Nominated: William Richardson for *Shrek the Musical Jr.*

Actress in a Supporting Role — Youth Play

- Won: Lyda Armistead for *Shakespeare’s Macbeth*
- Nominated: Zoie Moller for *Shakespeare’s Macbeth*

Director — Youth Musical

- Won: Kenny Grossman for *Once*
- Nominated: Luke Bader for *Disney’s Moana Jr.*

Director — Youth Play

- Nominated: Jack Taylor for *Shakespeare’s Macbeth*

Musical Direction — Youth Theatre

- Won: Elise Kurbat for *Once*
- Nominated: Heather Walker for *Disney’s Moana Jr.*
- Nominated: Josh Hontz for *Runaways*

Choreography — Youth Theatre

- Nominated: Falin Ossipinsky for *Disney’s Moana Jr.*
- Nominated: Katie Czajkowski for *Once*

Specialized Choreography — Youth Theatre

- Nominated: Kenny Grossman & Katie Czajkowski for *Once* (Set change choreography)
- Nominated: Jack Taylor for *Shakespeare’s Macbeth* (Fight choreography)

Scenic Design — Youth Theatre

- Nominated: Mike Armstrong for *Disney’s Moana Jr.*
- Nominated: Rob Adams for *Once*
- Nominated: Amber Suding, Brianna Funk, & Becky Funk for *Shrek the Musical Jr.*

Costume Design — Youth Theatre

- Nominated: ANJ, Inc. for *Disney’s Moana Jr.*
- Nominated: Heather Riddle for *Shrek the Musical Jr.*

Hair and Makeup Design — Youth Theatre

- Nominated: Vicki Jensen for *Shrek the Musical Jr.*

Lighting Design — Youth Theatre

- Won: Josh Hontz for *Once*

Sound Design — Youth Theatre

- Won: Anthony Rozzen for *Disney’s Moana Jr.*
- Won: Josh Hontz for *Once*

Property Design — Youth Theatre

- Nominated: Kenny Grossman & Vicki Grossman for *Once*

Artistic Specialization — Youth Theatre

- Nominated: ANJ, Inc. for *Disney’s Moana Jr.*

Original Script — Youth Theatre

- Nominated: Bobby Sample for *The Last Chance Angels*

Original Score — Youth Theatre

- Nominated: Bobby Sample & Katie Sample for *The Last Chance Angels*

Media Design — Youth Theatre

- Won: Luke Bader & Anthony Rozzen for *Disney’s Moana Jr.*
- Won: Josh Hontz for *Once*

Rising Star — Youth Theatre

- Nominated: JR Riddle for *Disney’s Moana Jr.*
- Nominated: Kinlee Adams for *Disney’s Moana Jr.*
- Nominated: Reagan Little for *Shrek the Musical Jr.*



SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

2023-2024 Case Statement

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SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

Spotlight Youth Theatre began in 2004 in an effort to fill a gap in the Northwest Valley. The theatre is on the eve of celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Since its inception, Spotlight has produced over 150 musicals and plays, hosted countless workshops and camps, and many performance troupe events as well.

Over time, Spotlight has grown substantially, both in terms of staff and the number of programs and opportunities for youth in the valley. We are proud to be an award-winning theatre that offers a unique theatre experience for all.

The potential our future holds motivates us to strive for excellence daily.

Spotlight Youth Theatre's Mission

Spotlight Youth Theatre's mission is to provide youth and their families a safe, welcoming environment where the individual is supported, teamwork is embraced, and creativity is encouraged through high quality performing arts and educational programs that enrich and strengthen our community.

Spotlight Youth Theatre's Vision

- A program grounded in the belief that every child deserves a chance to shine, a place that is safe and free from negativity, and an environment where fun and hard work combine into amazing experiences, both on and off stage.
- A theater program that is as diverse as the community we serve and where all members of the family can join in the endeavor to produce high quality theater productions that amaze and entertain.
- A place where a child can be their authentic self, exploring the creative arts without fear, and be embraced and encouraged to grow and flourish.



"I love Spotlight Youth Theatre more than you can imagine. Spotlight is where I started, and those experiences made me grow as a performer and an all-around person. This theatre group is also a family, and everyone is so talented.

"I feel so lucky to call SYT my home theatre."

Jaxyn Damasco

Young Nala in
The Lion King National Tour





“My years performing at Spotlight Youth Theatre were some of the most influential times of my life. The amount of work and dedication that Kenny and his team put into the process is truly amazing.

“The care that is given to making sure the actors understand the sometimes tough subject material they are given is amazing, and that care has made me a more understanding and thoughtful artist.

“I know I am the person and actor I am today because of my time at Spotlight, and I couldn’t be more grateful for everyone there.”

Sam Primack

Evan Hansen in *Dear Evan Hansen* on Broadway



Spotlight Youth Theatre Facts

- An average of 9,000 people attend our shows each season.
- In recent years, Spotlight Youth Theatre has produced popular classics such as *Oklahoma* and *Hair*, family favorites like *Shrek the Musical Jr.* and *Disney’s Moana Jr.*, challenging dramas like *Macbeth* and *The Miracle Worker*, and edgy material like *Runaways* and *Lizzie*.
- Each season, Spotlight Youth Theatre introduces topical new works such as *Emmett’s Art Project*, world and state premieres such as *The Last Chance Angels* and *Beat Bugs: A Musical Adventure*, and original plays by young adult playwrights in the annual Playfest competition.
- Located in Glendale and considered part of Phoenix District 1, Spotlight considers the Central West Valley home and a place to grow and inspire kids of all ages.
- Spotlight Youth Theatre partners with outstanding community organizations such as HopeKids, Teen Lifeline, Ryan’s House, Vet Tix, Imagine Theatre Company and One•n•ten.

Spotlight Youth Theatre Timeline

- 2006: Spotlight Youth Theatre opens at 43rd Avenue and Peoria.
- 2007: Spotlight Youth Theatre becomes an official non-profit under 501(c)(3) status.
- 2007: SYT Performance Troupes are formed. Spotlight’s multiple performance troupes include all ages and skill levels and are showcased in concerts throughout the year.
- 2020: Playfest starts. Our annual Playfest competition is for young adult playwrights to create a one-act play for young actors. Three winners see their script produced in our black box studio.
- 2022: Spotlight Studio opens. Spotlight Studio is a unique space dedicated to new works, workshops, and events.



WHY YOUTH THEATRE?

Youth theatre not only educates and inspires, it offers growth on so many levels

- At-risk middle school students engaged in an after-school musical theatre program demonstrate improved confidence, creativity, resiliency, responsibility, collaboration, and sense of community.
- Students who took four years of arts classes in high school scored an average of 92 points higher on their SATs than students who took only one half year or less.
- 72% of employers say creativity is of primary concern when they're hiring.

Source: americansforthearts.org

Why Spotlight?

Spotlight never turns away kids based on financial need. In fact, 10-15% of kids in each show and program are on a scholarship. We'd like to expand our scholarship offerings. Spotlight believes in inclusion and theatre for all!

In the 2022–2023 season, over 375 talented young people shined brightly on the Spotlight Youth Theatre stage.

Spotlight believes in growing not only performers, but leaders who inspire teamwork, self-confidence, and creativity.



Hands on a Hardbody
May–June, 2023



“Youth theatre had the biggest impact on my teen’s positive growth.”



“My son found his ‘Wonderland’ at Spotlight Youth Theatre.

“Growing up gay in the world, it can be very difficult to find acceptance; but, not at Spotlight.

“He was welcomed and allowed to become his true self. Before long, he was part of the group and felt at home.

“I believe Spotlight may have saved his life, and if not, they definitely saved his childhood.”

GET INVOLVED!

You are invited to be part of the Spotlight Vision. Join us in shaping the future.

Spotlight Youth Theatre's Budget Plan:



School of Rock

April, 2017

"SYT helped me meet an incredibly diverse group of people that has not only resulted in many long-term friends but also taught me a lot of social skills and reinforced how important working together is, whether it be as a cast or crew.

"I think Kenny does an outstanding job making people want to improve of their own volition.

"I remember during School of Rock he pulled me aside because...well...we both knew I could do better. And I did the unthinkable: I practiced and was able to play up to and eventually pass both of our expectations.

"It wasn't through yelling or being upset. He just reinforced what was already there."

Mina H.

Projected Income

Programming: Show fees, ticket sales, and camps	\$210,000
Donations: Individuals and corporate sponsors	71,000
Grants	36,350
Fundraising	40,000
Income	\$357,350

Projected Expenses

Hard costs: Staff, rent, utilities, misc. overhead	\$223,000
Flex costs: Show rights, fees, equipment, technology, directors, etc.	154,000
Safety net (10%)	38,000
Expenses	\$415,000

Projected Shortfall: \$57,650

Let's shine a spotlight on our financial reality. The arts, and in particular, youth theatre, rely on the generous donations of people like you. The life lessons and confidence these young people gain from acting and interacting with their theatre family cannot be understated. No donation is too small...or too large, for that matter.

Consider a one-time gift or a year-long pledge; every donation ensures that Spotlight Youth Theatre can continue inspiring and nurturing the talent of kids of all ages and backgrounds.



"Spotlight Youth Theatre is the best activity in my child's life."



Once

January–February, 2023



PLAY A ROLE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Reach thousands of theatre fans of all ages!

SPOTLIGHT SEASON SPONSOR: \$10,000+

Exclusive! One spot available

- Your company thanked as part of the nightly curtain speech
- Promotional poster featured in the lobby for the run of every production crediting your company as a Spotlight Season Sponsor.
- Six complimentary tickets per mainstage production.
- Full-page ad in all mainstage production playbills – front or back inside cover. The potential reach of 9,000+ patrons.
- Your Company logo on the back of each production t-shirt for the season.
- Signed and framed cast photo for your company's place of business.
- Your company logo on the Spotlight website and promoted multiple times on all social media platforms for the season.

SUPPORTING ROLE SPONSOR: \$3,000+

Multiple spots available

- Promotional poster featured in the lobby for the run of one production crediting your Company as a Supporting Role Sponsor.
- Two complimentary tickets per main stage production.
- Quarter-page ad in four mainstage production playbills.
- Signed and framed cast photo for your company's place of business.
- Your company logo on the Spotlight Youth Theatre website and promoted on all social media platforms for the season.

STILL LOOKING?

Custom options are available, just ask!

IN-KIND OPPORTUNITIES

Personalized & Variable

Each season, Spotlight Youth Theatre has a variety of needs. Current needs include water, paper products, clothing and storage racks, etc. We would love to help create a package that best fits your organization!

LEADING ROLE SPONSOR: \$6,000+

Three spots available

- Your company thanked as part of the nightly curtain speech for one show.
- Promotional poster featured in the lobby for the run of one production crediting your Company as a Leading Role Sponsor.
- Four complimentary tickets per main stage production.
- Half-page ad in all mainstage show playbills - inner page. The potential reach of 9,000+ patrons.
- Signed and framed cast photo for your company's place of business.
- Your company logo on the Spotlight website and promoted once on all social media platforms for the season.

UNDERSTUDY SPONSOR: \$1,500+

Multiple spots available

- Your company logo on the Spotlight Youth Theatre website and all social media platforms for the run of the sponsored show.
- Your Company logo on event posters and signage.
- Four complimentary tickets for the production of your choice.



SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

10620 N 43rd Ave
Glendale, AZ 85304
(602) 843-8318 • sytaz.org



THANK YOU TO SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE'S GENEROUS DONORS!

The success of Spotlight Youth Theatre and that of its productions and programs depends entirely on volunteers, sponsors, and donations.

Here are just a few of our kind and generous donors:



Spotlight Youth Theatre



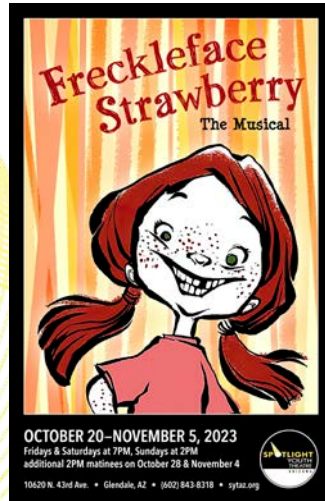
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|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pepper Aguilar | Craig Froomickx | Meribeth Reeves |
| American Express | Frys Food | Lori Reger |
| Arrowhead Montessori | Kathryn Fulmer | Caroline Richardson |
| Dina Anderson | Brianna Funk | Shelly Riddle |
| Anonymous | Angela Gass | Bobby Sample |
| Lyda Armistead | Eric Hassler | Beth Sawyer |
| Mark & Sarah Armistead | Janey Henze Cook | Schneider Foundation |
| Sara Bader | Winona Herrin | Gwen Schultz |
| Jeromy Beaver | Wayne Holden | Deborah Sego |
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| Finnegan Clisham | Kevin Koop | Falin & Jack Taylor |
| Patrick Clisham | Eric Labas | Thunderbirds |
| Esther Conort | David Laidig | Torosian Foundation |
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| Maria Cruz | John Marino | Laurie Van Atta |
| Dr. Heather Cucchetti | Diana Martinez | Heather & Michael Walker |
| John & Janet Culbertson | Brian & Shelby Maticic | Tammy & Robert Waller |
| Debra Czajkowski | Glenda Matson | Heidi Watson |
| John Damasco | Karen McColleston | Shanan Winters |
| Eileen Delamater | Bruce & Amie Moller | Judy & Jim Wolfe |
| Jaime Dion | Michael & Teri Momeyer | Stephanie Yampolsky |
| Karen Dolyniuk | Julie Nelson | Christopher Zager |
| Tyler Dolyniuk | Heather Neubauer | Steven Zell |
| Michael & Julie Donick | Amanda Newton | |
| Lisa & Seth Donsker | Tina Nuziato | |
| Kevin Dumcum | Eileen Ossipinsky | |
| Andrew Filipowicz | Lori Palmero | |
| Gina Flores | Jennifer Parker | |
| Intel Foundation | Steven Peters | |
| Jonah Fried | Lisa Poorman | |



SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE



A musical comedy about big Broadway stars, a small town, and a love that unites them all.



In the musical version of the best-selling book, Freckleface Strawberry must learn to love her freckles and herself.

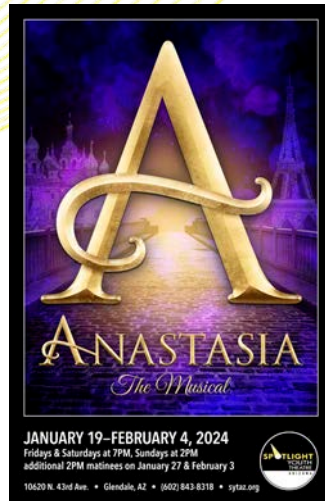


The holiday classic soars off the screen in this musical adaptation of the beloved television special.

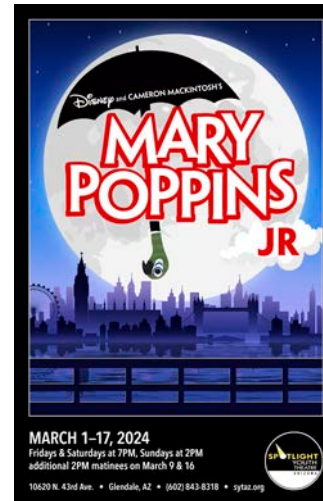


Celebrate the circle of life in this timeless story of courage, friendship, and destiny.

Part of SYT's 2023-2024 Holiday Camp.



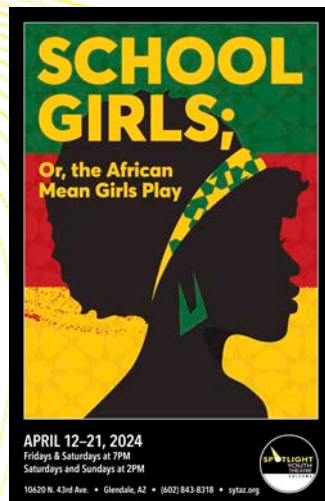
Anastasia transports us from the twilight of the Russian Empire to the euphoria of Paris in the 1920s, as a brave young woman sets out to discover the mystery of her past.



Your favorite practically perfect nanny takes center stage in this Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious adventure.



Three new one-act plays in one exciting show, featuring the scripts that won SYT's annual young playwrights' contest.



This buoyant and biting comedy explores the universal similarities (and glaring differences) facing teenage girls across the globe.



A young girl takes refuge in a London Tube station during WWII and confronts grief, loss, and love with the help of her favorite book.

2023-2024 SEASON

Spotlight's 2023-2024 season contains a strong mix of old classics, recent hits, family favorites, and all-new works.





SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

Board of Directors

President	Robert Waller
Vice President.....	Kelly Swope
Secretary	Karen Dolyniuk
Treasurer	Kevin Parker
Members	Shelly Boucher
	Chanel Bragg
	Deb Czajkowski
	Kenny Grossman
	Vicki Grossman
	Josh Hontz
	Sabrina Hurley
	Amanda Newton
	Heather Walker
	Steve Zell

Administrative Team

Artistic Director for Spotlight Youth Theatre	Kenny Grossman
Managing Director for Spotlight Youth Theatre	Deb Czajkowski
Theatre Manager	Jack Taylor
Graphic Designer, Headshot Photographer, & Webmaster	Robert Waller
Social Media Specialist.....	Katie Czajkowski
Newsletter Specialist.....	Amie Moller
Volunteer Manager.....	Vicki Grossman
Break-a-Leg Table Coordinator	Tammy Waller



Runaways
April-May, 2023



