



**ARTS
EDUCATION
OUTREACH**

**STRAY DOG
THEATRE**
unleashing the art





Welcome to the world of **Stray Dog Theatre** (SDT). As SDT looks to the future with enthusiastic plans to grow our **artistic, education, and outreach programs**, we take a moment to reflect and share the numerous accomplishments we have achieved throughout the years. As you explore the pages of this booklet, you will see that SDT overflows with **vision, passion, and innovation** and continues to inspire Saint Louis and its surrounding communities. SDT realizes that our community faces arduous challenges at times, including accessibility, diversity, and safety – but, with your financial and emotional support, SDT is confident that together we can forge ahead and overcome our adversities.

My wish is that we can work together to **build a more vibrant and successful Saint Louis** for everyone. I hope this invitation in partnership leads you to join the Stray Dog Pack.

With warmest wishes for a successful future –

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Gary Bell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Gary F. Bell
Artistic Director



COMEDIES - DRAMA

THE ART OF THEATRE

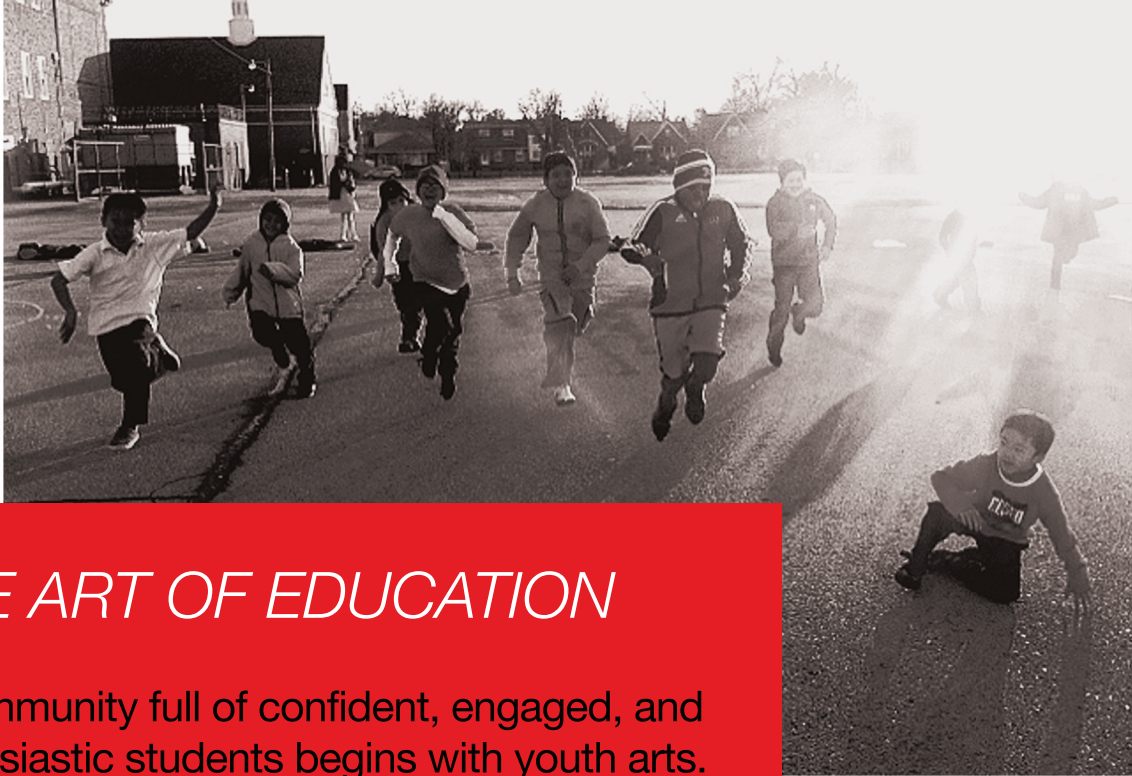
Recognizing that theatre, at its highest level, has the capacity to **touch and move the human spirit**, SDT aims to create productions that challenge, **educate**, **entertain**, and **inspire** audiences and artists alike. Reflecting the human experience by bringing social awareness to universal issues is paramount. Toward these ends, SDT vows to honor diversity and embrace inclusiveness, all the while showcasing local talent, making theatre more accessible, and serving as a creative shelter for artistic freedom and expression.



“Stray Dog Theatre is one of the most versatile troupes in town, mixing up comedy and drama and musicals, classics and avant-garde works.”

-Judith Newmark, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

MAS - MUSICALS



THE ART OF EDUCATION

A community full of confident, engaged, and enthusiastic students begins with youth arts. Arts education encourages **communication** and **problem solving skills, social and emotional development,** and **endless self-expression** and **creativity.**

Through daily after-school programming, **Arts-In-Mind (AIM)** is committed to cultivating the safe and positive development of children, families, and communities.

Arts-In-Reach (AIR) offers a unique theatre experience to local children through an imaginative and comprehensive summer camp experience. AIM and AIR use theatre as their unifying focus to integrate the dynamic aspects of theatre (reading, writing, performance, and design) through age-appropriate activities to promote total development **academically, physically, socially,** and **emotionally.**

EDUCATE - ENTE



ERTAIN - INSPIRE



CREATE - EXPL



THE POWER OF CREATIVITY

Stray Pups Youth Theatre is a distinctive professional arts experience where the child is the star on stage, performing for **friends, family, and community**. This is a unique opportunity for Saint Louis area students who rehearse and perform their own **professional theatrical productions**. Cast members work with industry professionals, learning everything it takes to stage a full-scale production. From the audition process to the final curtain call, these students take center stage, developing techniques of seasoned performers. Children express themselves creatively every day in every direction. Stray Pups will channel that creativity into **rewarding performances** that build skills students will **draw upon for life**.

LORE - DREAM



THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

Silver Stage Senior Theatre presents an annual production featuring a cast of actors exclusively **over the age of 60 years old** and a production team largely composed of professional and pre-professional young adult artists.

Each production offers an experience of **intergenerational collaboration** by giving young people and their elders a chance to work together and share ideas through the limitless creative potential of the plays of **William Shakespeare**. The seniors are able to utilize their **unique experiences** and skill sets in ways that **celebrate the challenges** they may face.

TIMELESS - CLASSIC



SSIC - ORIGINAL



EMBRACE - AFF

THE POWER OF INCLUSION

Our art challenges the society we live in and dares to dream of and work toward **a better future**. We strive to create theatre that resonates with our audiences by connecting to our **shared human experience** while celebrating what makes each of us unique. Since the beginning, Stray Dog Theatre has dared to explore and challenge these differences - **gender, ethnicity, race, sexuality, religion, disability** - through fearless, relevant storytelling. Our **unique local artists** allow us to explore new ideas, challenge norms, and engage with diverse perspectives. Additionally, our productions offer opportunities for accessibility to include everyone into our family. Our community is built on **respect, belonging, collaboration, and creativity**.



STRAY DOG - ADVANCE



THE POWER OF SERVICE

Reflecting the human experience by bringing awareness to universal social issues is vital. Stray Dog Theatre has consistently expanded its **Arts-In-Deed** (AID) community initiatives since its 2003 inaugural season. SDT partners with **community-focused organizations** to collect non-perishable food and distribute free client performance tickets in support of our lesser-advantaged neighbors. Through these and similar initiatives, SDT helps **raise awareness** and ensure participation by many who might otherwise never have the opportunity to **experience the arts**.

ENGAGE - S



SERVE - GIVE



HISTORY - FAMIL

THE POWER OF HERITAGE

Emulating the historic Saint Petersburg art movement of early 20th century Russia, **Stray Dog Theatre** derives its name from Brodyachaya Sobaka (Stray Dog), the legendary bohemian café frequented by the area's most **cutting edge artists**. Every evening during the 1900s, diverse audiences gathered to enjoy a night of eclectic entertainment as the café played host to a vast array of seasoned and aspiring **actors, musicians, playwrights, poets, and technicians**. In recognition of the café's legacy, SDT aims to concertedly enhance the **theatre, education, and community experience** through its own uniquely collaborative approach.



LY - COMMUNITY



The background image shows the interior of a church, likely Tower Grove Abbey. It features a large, ornate archway with intricate carvings. To the left, there is a wooden altar with a cross on the wall above it. The ceiling is high and arched. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur. A large red rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text.

THE ART OF PRESERVATION

Tower Grove Abbey is a center for **performing arts, theatre education, and community programs** with a century-long history.

The Abbey was originally home to **Saint Lukas Church of St. Louis**, a German Evangelical congregation who built the church hall, now used as the main entryway and lobby, in 1906. Construction of the glorious sanctuary designed by architect Herman J. Bergdorf began in 1910. The building was completed in 1912, including two sets of **25-foot stained glass windows** still intact today. Since purchasing the church in 2008, **Stray Dog Theatre** has remained committed to the legacy of the space, including hosting an array of **community and cultural events, providing free summer camps for local youth, and restoring and maintaining the original architecture and ornate decoration.** The building was renamed Tower Grove Abbey to reflect its dedication to the community.

SDT celebrated its 10th year anniversary of serving the greater Saint Louis area from its Tower Grove Abbey venue in September 2017. SDT received Resolutions from the **Saint Louis City Board of Aldermen** and the **Missouri House of Representatives** commemorating SDT's anniversary and its ongoing commitment to arts, education, and community. SDT also received a **Mayoral Proclamation** designating September 16, 2017 as "**Tower Grove Abbey Day**" in the City of Saint Louis.



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PRODUCTION PHOTOS BY JOHN LAMB AND JUSTIN BEEN