

# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

# 2020-2021

First Stage's 34<sup>th</sup> season was a virtual success, and we couldn't have done it without our creative and resourceful staff, forward-thinking Board of Directors, engaging young students, trusting families, and the unwavering dedication of our supporters.

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

AMPLIFY,  
FIRST STAGE'S  
IMPORTANT NEW  
INITIATIVE

SUCCESS WITH  
OUR VIRTUAL SCHOOL  
MEMBERSHIPS

HYBRID MODEL  
THEATER ACADEMY  
REACHES MANY

THE QUEST FOR SOLOMON'S TREASURE, 2020

First Stage touches hearts, engages minds, and transforms lives by creating extraordinary theater experiences for young people and families through Professional Theater Productions, Theater Academy Training and Theater in Education programming.

 **FIRST  
STAGE**  
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH THEATER

# 2020-2021 PRODUCTIONS

As a national leader in the Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) field, First Stage is committed to presenting professional theater productions that inspire and educate young people and families. Even during a global pandemic, First Stage was able to reach our community with innovative virtual productions that encouraged engagement, learning, and a whole lot of fun!



CHRISTMASTOWN COMES TO FIRST STAGE, 2020

## FIRST STAGE YOUNG PERFORMER VIRTUAL SHOWCASE

In conjunction with the Milwaukee Black Theater Festival

**STREAMED SEPTEMBER 6 - 13, 2020**

*Directed by N'Jameh Camara and Ann Joseph Douglas*

In support of the Milwaukee Black Theater Festival - Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Bronzeville Arts Ensemble, Lights! Camera! Soul!, and artists Sheri Williams Pannell, DiMonte Henning and Malkia Stampley - First Stage proudly offered the stage to our BIPOC Young Company and Theater Academy's Advanced Acting students to share their voices through monologues, songs and poetry in a virtual showcase. In addition, the showcase featured a virtual production of Idris Goodwin's short play **ACT FREE**, presented through Free Play: Open Source Scripts Toward an Antiracist Tomorrow - a collaboration between Idris Goodwin and [TYA/USA](#).

## APOLLO AND THE TRIALS OF HERCULES

A world premiere play by Joe Foust and John Maclay

**STREAMED SEPTEMBER 11 - 13, 2020**

with live online discussion with playwrights and directors on September 13 at 7pm.

*Directed by First Stage alumni Elyse Edelman and Hal Sansone*

Apollo's father has gone missing and the 14-year-old is trying to find answers - to who they are, who they will become, but mostly, what happened to their Mythology professor father? Suddenly Apollo is swept away on the adventure of a lifetime where all things become clear. OK - to be honest, things get really confusing for a while, I mean there's the Underworld, different gods appearing, a cyclops, but ultimately Apollo finds the path forward. From the writing team that brought you the rollicking adventure *Robin Hood* comes another instant classic filled with mischief, mayhem, fighting, fury and just pure fun.

## YOUNG COMPANY PRESENTS

Scenes and monologues from [Utah Shakespeare Festival's High School Competition](#)

**STREAMED OCTOBER 10 - 24, 2020**

The award-winning Young Company - First Stage's advanced actor training program for high school students - traditionally travels west to perfect their craft and perform the words of the Bard for many of their peers and adjudicators from around the country. This year, the competition went virtual and our students did great with all events placing in the top 3 and the group as a whole, placing first in their division. This showcase of scenes and monologues from Shakespeare's repertoire was performed by the most accomplished high school actors in our region.

## CHRISTMASTOWN COMES TO FIRST STAGE

Written by José Casas, Jeff Frank, and Samantha Montgomery  
with permission from Character Arts, LLC

**STREAMED DECEMBER 13, 2020 - JANUARY 2, 2021**

*Directed by Jeff Frank*

When the folks at Christmastown got the news that First Stage wasn't able to share Rudolph's story on stage for audiences this season, the Misfit Toys, the Elves and Sam the Snowman decided to come to Milwaukee to help out - sure that they could help First Stage find a way to spread some holiday cheer!

“The show was funny and heartwarming. A wonderful window into the struggles of live theatre during this difficult time.”

- FIRST STAGE PATRON

Sponsored by Associated Bank

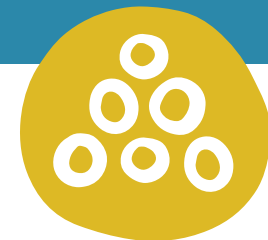
## 2020-2021 VIRTUAL SEASON OF PLAYS



Thank you for all of the forward-thinking and amazing things First Stage is doing during these wild and crazy times.

First Stage goes beyond being a source of inspiration, comfort, and family; it is a beacon of light and transformation for the entire Milwaukee and TYA community.

FIRST STAGE PATRON, PARENT,  
AND MILWAUKEE EDUCATOR



26,212

approximate  
total audience  
members



46

total  
performances



9

adult actors



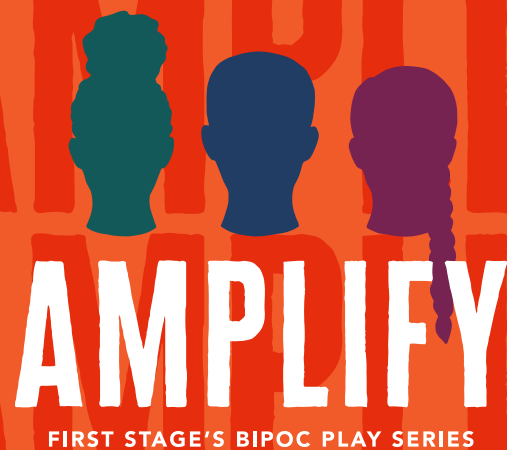
86

young  
performers



The brief love letter to Milwaukee children's theatre may not be able to perfectly capture the energy of a live children's show, but it does bring the stage a bit closer to its audience for the holiday season.

[RUSS BICKERSTAFF, SHEPHERD EXPRESS](#)



We were excited to create this series featuring newly commissioned work from Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) playwrights and directors. Amplifying their voices offers us an opportunity to expand our artistic horizons and develop our audience's perspective.

The AMPLIFY series was supported in part by a grant from the Milwaukee Arts Board and the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin.



## THE QUEST FOR SOLOMON'S TREASURE

Developed by John Maclay and Jeremy Tardy

**STREAMED OCTOBER 4, 2020 - MAY 30, 2021**

Directed by Jeremy Tardy

This seven-episode world premiere web series streamed exclusively for First Stage audiences. Directed by First Stage alum and Hollywood actor Jeremy Tardy and written by First Stage Resident Playwright John Maclay, *The Quest for Solomon's Treasure* followed six Milwaukee young people as they worked together to solve clues in the ultimate treasure hunt to save the day. With new clues revealed each week in these 15-20 minute episodes, audience members were invited to help solve the mystery. This original series was a little bit *Goonies*, a little bit *National Treasure*, and one hundred percent Milwaukee!

“ We loved episode 1 and are greatly looking forward to episode 2! The quality was impeccable (visual and audio), as was the talent, of course. The short length was fantastic, as it was just long enough to get us excited but not so long we lost focus. The fact that it is set in Milwaukee is FABULOUS! I loved being able to tell things to my kids things that were mentioned in the episode. ” – FIRST STAGE FAMILY AUDIENCE

On February 17, First Stage hosted a Facebook LIVE event and guests joined for a [Reunion of the QUEST cast](#).

Supported in part by



## THE GIRL WHO SWALLOWED A CACTUS (IN YOUR HOME)

By Eric Coble | Featuring Milwaukee actress and First Stage alumna Karen Estrada

**STREAMED NOVEMBER 2 - 22, 2020**

Directed by Jeff Frank

School was out. Which was great except... there was nothing to do. In this play, Sheila and her friends were searching for something interesting to explore. Somehow a walking, talking, and surprisingly well-dressed coyote showed up and the kids found themselves on the adventure of a lifetime! It was exciting, fun, and magical! Families loved this innovative, streamable production!

“ It's an excellent entertainment deal for children and parents alike. ” – SHEPHERD EXPRESS

## SHE KILLS MONSTERS: VIRTUAL REALMS

By Qui Ngyuen

**STREAMED NOVEMBER 13 - 22, 2020**

Presented by First Stage Theater Academy's Advanced Acting students

A comedic romp into the world of fantasy role-playing games, *She Kills Monsters* was a high-octane dramatic comedy laden with homicidal fairies, nasty ogres, and 90's pop culture - a heart pounding homage to the geek and warrior in us all.

## COPPER HORNS IN WATER

By Ty Defoe

**STREAMED APRIL 16 - MAY 16, 2021**

Directed by Johamy Morales

North is a curious Underwater Creature who has earned their Copper Horns, a coming-of-age ritual that gives these young creatures power under water. North soon learned the importance of their horns when they needed to summon their strength - and with the collective power of their friends - to save the day. Based in an Anishinaabe storytelling tradition, First Stage was thrilled to work with the students from Milwaukee's Indian Community School, who performed in this fun-filled story for the entire family.

“ As an artist, a lot of my work operates at the intersections of cultural traditions as well as being very much alive as a contemporary native person. For future generations to come to really understand and know at this time during Zoom and the virtual ways we need to connect, what could really be a prolific offering for them? That was the impetus of this work. ” – TY DEFOE

On April 16, First Stage hosted a Facebook LIVE event for a [Talk-Back with the Artistic Team behind COPPER HORNS IN WATER](#).

## UNMUTED

By Alvaro Saar Rios  
Music and Lyrics by Deborah Wicks La Puma

**STREAMED APRIL 30 - MAY 30, 2021**

Directed by Anna Skidis Vargas

When the substitute gym teacher is kicked out of the Zoom Room of a virtual gym class, the students take over! As the group starts a game of "SorD" (Secret or Dare), they discover more about each other's lives on the other side of the screen - their frustrations with online school, their love for tacos on Tuesdays and, most importantly, what they miss. Performed in English with some Spanish lyrics.

On April 30, First Stage hosted a Facebook LIVE event for an [Extended Talk-Back with the Artistic Team behind UNMUTED](#).



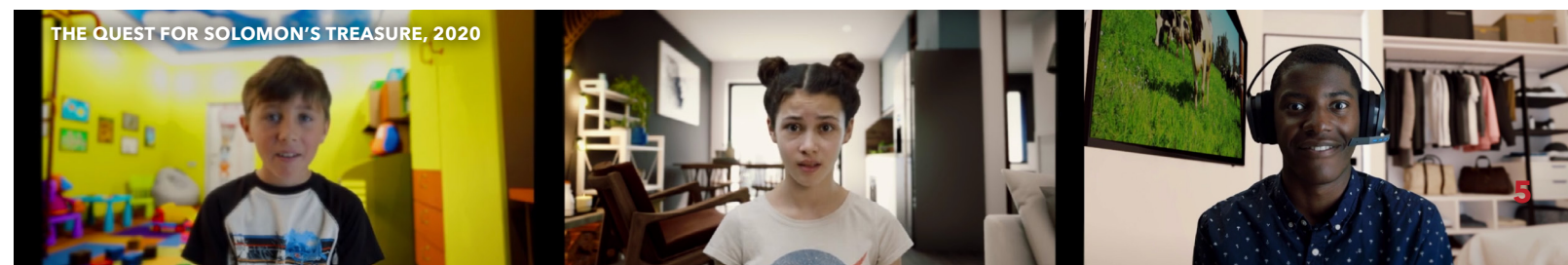
Youngsters will be able to relate to the student performers, who peek into their uncharted world of remote learning in an entertaining and timely way.

MARILYN JOZWIK, WISCONSIN THEATER SPOTLIGHT



... [they] pull the script out of stiff sentimentality throughout...firmly rooting the drama in organic, heartfelt emotion.

RUSS BICKERSTAFF,  
THE SMALL STAGE



## THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

By William Shakespeare

**STREAMED DECEMBER 4 - 13, 2020**

Presented by the Young Company

Directed by Marcella Kearns

Betrayal. Love. Disguise. Our award-winning Young Company presented one of Shakespeare's earliest and least performed plays.

“Here's a vivid connection between ensemble, camera and audience which eliminates everything but the very nature of human action and interaction.” – [RUSS BICKERSTAFF, THE SMALL STAGE](#)



THE CRUCIBLE, 2021



ADVENTURES WITH THE THREE LITTLE PIGS, 2021

## ESCAPE FROM PELIGRO ISLAND

A Create Your Own Adventure play | By Finegan Kruckemeyer

**LIVESTREAMED PERFORMANCES ON JANUARY 22-24 & 29-31, 2021**

Each episode was available to stream through February 14, 2021

Directed by Jeff Frank

Callaway Brown – an unlikely young hero – had been stranded on a desert island, and YOU got to decide what happened on his journey! In this interactive production, audience members voted on Callaway's actions in an energetic romp through time and space. Through computers and phones, our audience voted on the path our hero should take in this create-your-own-adventure theatre.



...the play overall is a smart and super-fun choice for a stream-at-home piece of theater.

[BROADWAYWORLD](#)

## THE CRUCIBLE

By Arthur Miller

**LIVESTREAMED FEBRUARY 19 AT 7 P.M., FEBRUARY 20 AT 7 P.M., AND FEBRUARY 21 AT 3:30 P.M.**

Recorded performance available to view through March 7

Directed by Ann Joseph-Douglas

Inspired by the McCarthy hearings of the 1950s, THE CRUCIBLE took us back to a fictionalized account of the Salem, Massachusetts witch trials. A tale of lies, revenge and mass hysteria as the citizens of Salem turned against each other as gossip became fact, lies became truth and innocence became guilt. This production was presented in the format of a radio drama, encouraging the audience to employ the power of their imaginations as they experience Miller's thrilling language.

## ADVENTURES WITH THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

Inspired by The Three Little Pigs by James Marshall

**LIVESTREAMED AND ON DEMAND VIEWING APRIL 30 - MAY 30, 2021**

Our First Steps series came right into your home with this 35-minute story that actively engaged young people through storytelling, songs, dances, and tactile experiences.

“The production excels at interacting with the audience, asking the kids to participate throughout, whether it's counting, showing various emotions, making various animal movements or just dancing along to the songs.” – [SHEPHERD EXPRESS](#)

Sponsored by 



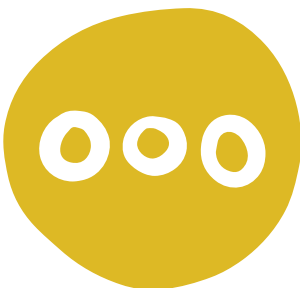
THE LEGEND OF ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS, 2020  
PHOTO BY PAUL RUFFOLO



**1,304**  
total  
enrollments



**743**  
unique  
students



**204**  
unique  
classes



**I CAN'T IS NOT IN  
MY VOCABULARY!**

**I TAKE RISKS!**



**I CONQUER MY FEARS!**

**I AM NOT AFRAID  
TO LEAD!**

## 2020-2021 THEATER ACADEMY



**“**  
The safety procedures  
for your in-person  
classes were excellent. I  
had no concerns about  
my daughter attending  
classes in person.  
**”**

One of the nation's largest high-impact theater training programs for youth, the Theater Academy teaches life skills through stage skills to young people ages 3-18 – offering a challenging curriculum taught by professional teaching artists.

First Stage innovated the Theater Academy by facilitating more than 50% of classes through the virtual platform of Zoom, and maintaining CDC safety protocols for the rest of our classes provided in-person with class sizes reduced by 50%.

Some of our most popular classes included:

### VIRTUAL MASTER CLASS SERIES

The series enabled middle/high school students to learn specific theater topics from professional theater artists – including Auditioning, Acting for the Singer, Comedy Writing and Satire, and Puppetry.

### PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE CLASSES

Offered in-person at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center following CDC protocols, the classes provided students (third grade and up) the opportunity to broaden performance skills and perform a popular show as their final (virtual) presentation in a time when we had less on-stage opportunities for our young performers.

**“** We thought it wasn't going to be that interactive but we were wrong. The teachers were so amazing with the kids. My son loved it so much he felt brave enough to go in person in fall. **”**

**“** We were so very surprised at how willing people were to be flexible and accommodating to changing needs. It was impressive and speaks highly of the way your staff works together and interacts with students. **”**

**“** First Stage did a FANSTASTIC job of ensuring the safety of their students and staff. Regular temperature checks, social distancing, and mask requirements put us at ease in our decision to move forward with in-person instruction. **”**

**“** Please keep up the in-person programming. The teamwork and socialization my child learned is so important. Thanks. **”**

**“** We loved that the classes incorporated stories from around the world. We appreciated learning multi-cultural topics. **”**

**“** Programming is always timely and appeals to students at the age they are at, and that is a good thing. **”**

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, 2019  
PHOTO BY PAUL RUFFOLO

## YOUNG COMPANY

This season, Young Company members completed 50-300 hours of college-level instruction in Voice, Movement, and Shakespeare as well as electives ranging from Auditioning to Stage Combat to Dialects.

**60** Young Company members      **2** virtual performance projects

## BARD-O-THON

On April 24, 2021, First Stage Theater Academy held its 11th annual, and second virtual, Bard-O-Thon.

In celebration of Shakespeare's birthday, the First Stage Theater Academy challenged members of Young Company to stretch their artistic endurance by performing as many memorized Shakespearean monologues in a row as possible.

Fifty-five Young Company members performed a total of **556 monologues** this year. A presentation of some of their work was viewed in a Facebook Live event, where their incredible depth of understanding was displayed for all to enjoy. As this event is a fundraiser, these students also collected more than **\$17,000** in pledges from friends and family to help support Shakespeare programming at First Stage.

If you missed out, we invite you to [view the recorded presentation.](#)



## NEXT STEPS

11 UNIQUE STUDENTS  
(47 ENROLLMENTS)

NEXT STEPS CLASS, 2018  
PHOTO BY LINDSEY ABENDSCHEIN

To ensure the safety of our students and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic, First Stage transitioned all of our Next Steps classes to the online and mobile-friendly platform of Zoom.

Although virtual, our Next Steps classes continued to be taught by professional teaching artists with special education training, and followed our same theater-based curriculum – the exploration of acting, singing, dancing and improvisation, through which students improved their social understanding, fine and gross motor skills, empathy, conversation skills, public speaking and confidence.

First Stage provided the following Next Steps classes:

**SUMMER SATURDAYS:** These 45-minute classes used classic children's literature as inspiration for creative play and expression.

**SUMMER PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE CLASS:** This class met daily from August 17-21, to concentrate their work on DISNEY'S FROZEN, THE MUSICAL. In this show clinic, students worked with theater professionals to broaden their performance skills, deepen their knowledge of theater, and perform a popular show as their final presentation.

**SCHOOL YEAR CLASSES:** From September 26, 2020 through May 8, 2021, First Stage offered twenty-four, 45-minute classes that explored the Theater Academy curriculum of Acting, Voice and Movement, and Musical Theater.

**PRIVATE COACHING SESSIONS:** Next Steps students had the opportunity to meet virtually with a First Stage teaching artist weekly or as needed/requested to hone their acting skills in these 30-minute sessions.

Although we were physically apart this past season, First Stage's Next Steps classes remained a place where students were encouraged to take risks and conquer their fears, and actively engage in developing and strengthening their acting skills.

Feedback from Next Steps families:

“ Overall, we were very impressed with the programming offered during this unique and challenging time period! ”

“ I will give a shout out to all the teachers who did all they could to keep the kids engaged and inspired. It was truly a joy to witness their love for what they do. ”



My daughter just started [Next Steps] and I can already see the difference in her confidence. It's pretty amazing.

“ First Stage should open up a school. [Next Steps] was great for our daughter. Her confidence has grown and she is really developing. It has been a great experience for her! ”

“ I was very impressed with the resiliency of the First Stage educators who made this transition seem seamless. Thank you. ”

“ I love seeing my son's huge smile and those happy, flapping hands! Thanks for your excellent programming, First Stage! You have helped my son to be a more confident human. ”

## FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Through our Family Partnership Program, First Stage aims to remove the barriers that can get in the way of program participation. No student is turned away for a family's inability to pay for classes.

**57** students received **145** scholarships

**\$17,000+** total scholarships awarded

# 2020-2021 THEATER IN EDUCATION

First Stage serves as Wisconsin's leader in arts-in-education programming. By cleverly blending the arts with standard curriculum, First Stage Theater in Education programs provide the opportunity for students to learn traditional academic subjects through creativity and self-expression. All of First Stage's programs are directly linked to the Common Core State Standards, Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills, and ReadyGen Standards.

## SCHOOL MEMBERSHIPS

Thanks to the support from the community, 70 schools were given unlimited access to our incredible library of pre-recorded workshops during the school year through our new School Membership Package—which included the following residencies:

**EARLY LITERACY PROGRAM (GRADES K-3):** These 20 to 30-minute workshops utilized picture books to engage students in drama-based activities while reinforcing their understanding of fundamental language comprehension skills. Each story was divided into two chapters, ending with prompts meant to encourage creative thinking, problem solving, and making personal connections.

**INTRO TO ACTING RESIDENCY (GRADES 4-8):** These 15-minute workshops introduced students to the basic building blocks of theater, and helped students develop their actor tools of body, voice, and imagination. Students dove into the story of THE LION KING, as they explored a key element of the drama process each session, and were encouraged to actively participate along with the teaching artists. Sessions concluded with a prompt meant to help students put into practice the skills they just learned, and included group activities for the class to engage in together.

**ARTS INTEGRATED WORKSHOPS (GRADES 5-9):** These 30 to 50-minute workshops used dramatic activities to teach lessons throughout the elementary and middle school curricula, and were directly linked to the Common Core State Standards and the National Core Arts Standards in Theatre. Each workshop was divided into smaller chapters, ending with prompts that teachers could use to assess for understanding. For example: After actively exploring Ruby Bridges' story, students are asked to create a storyboard sequencing key moments in her story to deepen their understanding of how Ruby's strength and courage influenced a nation.

*All workshops also included supplementary materials and extensions for educators to utilize.*



89

schools



70

Schools and  
Community  
Organizations  
Received School  
Membership  
Package for FREE



74%

City of  
Milwaukee  
Schools



30

Virtual  
Workshops  
in School  
Membership  
Package

“ I love First Stage—it gives my students who are shy and normally do not express themselves a chance to. My students loved participating! ”

First Stage received the following feedback from educators regarding our virtual workshops:

“ Thank you for creating something we could offer our students in this time. ”

“ Virtual school has been very hard on my students. Many keep their cameras off but since they talked about the First Stage workshops, I think they liked them. ”

“ Having the workshops on-demand is really nice, because I could fit them into our schedule and it allowed for flexibility. ”

“ I enjoy incorporating theater into the literacy curriculum. It is giving them exposure to arts that I would not know how to incorporate in the classroom otherwise. ”

“ My students enjoyed the active participation and moving around. ”

“ Students who struggle in the 'regular' subject areas thrive through the arts. ”

THEATER IN EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

## EVALUATION RESULTS

**72%** of educators felt that the virtual workshops strongly connected to the related key academic standards.

**72%** of educators felt that the virtual workshops supported the standard based skills they were teaching their students.

**56%** of educators observed their students being actively engaged in the virtual workshop sessions.

**52%** of educators reported that they used some, if not all, of the supplemental materials First Stage made available to support further learning of the workshops' key academic standards.

## COMMUNITY EVENT

First Stage presented a livestreamed [interactive storytelling workshop](#) based on Ezra Jack Keats' THE SNOWY DAY on MLK Day on January 18, 2021.

# SPECIAL EVENTS



ON THE WINGS OF THE MARIPOSA, 2019  
PHOTO BY PAUL RUFFOLO

CLIP FROM MILWAUKEE BLACK THEATER FESTIVAL  
FEATURED AT THE IMPACT  
EVENT, 2021



## IMPACT EVENT



50+  
participants

On September 17, 2020, First Stage presented our annual ImpACT Event virtually. Host, Sheri Williams Pannell led guests through a 60-minute program, where they heard updates from First Stage's leadership and program staff, a keynote address from Jill Wiench, Child Life Specialist from Children's Wisconsin, inspiring performances by our students and alumni, and learned about our HOPE Fund. Guests kept the dialogue going in a post-event Zoom Room with program participants.

If you'd like to discover the ImpACT, you can [view our recorded presentation.](#)



## WINE TASTING & DINNER - IN YOUR HOME



100+  
virtual guests



\$70,000  
raised

On November 20, 2020, First Stage hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Wine Tasting & Dinner - virtually! Guests tuned in safely from home and enjoyed their crates of pasta and goodies, exclusive wines, and an exciting program, featuring videos about the event's food and wine, and inspiring testimonials and songs from some of our alumni and students. Thanks to renowned Executive Chef David Magnasco of [The Chef's Table](#) for his continued partnership on this one-of-a-kind event.

If you weren't able to join us, you can [view our recorded presentation.](#)

## MAKE BELIEVE... IT'S A BALL



400+  
guests



\$130,000  
raised

On March 6, 2021, First Stage held our 27th annual – and first-ever virtual – Make Believe Ball! Guests pre-ordered Party Packs and the night of the event, they decked out in PaGLAMas (glamorous pajamas). Families and Supporters tuned in from far and wide to experience an entertaining virtual program co-hosted by the dynamic duo and First Stage actor/director favorites, Kelly Doherty & Karen Estrada, including an exciting auction, performances from our past seasons with current and former students, and fun surprises to celebrate Jeff Frank's 25 seasons at First Stage! It concluded with an interactive dance party, a night not soon forgotten!

If you missed the Ball this year, we invite you to [view our recorded event.](#)



HOSTS KAREN ESTRADA & KELLY DOHERTY  
MAKE BELIEVE BALL, 2021

PROUD CORNERSTONE MEMBER



UNITEDPERFORMINGARTSFUND

## UPAF'S KASEY'S FUND

Thanks the generous support of Kasey's Fund, an initiative of the United Performing Arts Fund, First Stage was able to provide our on-demand, virtual [School Membership Package](#) for free this year to the following schools:

- Christ-St. Peter Lutheran School
- Dimensions of Learning Academy
- Dunwiddie Elementary School
- Forest Home Avenue School
- General Mitchell Elementary School
- Hartford Avenue Elementary School
- Horace Mann Elementary School
- Luther Burbank School
- Maryland Avenue Montessori
- Milwaukee Academy of Science
- Milwaukee College Preparatory - Lloyd Street
- Milwaukee Sign Language School
- Rocketship Southside Community Prep
- Saint Sebastian School
- Seeds of Health Elementary School
- U.S. Grant School
- Wilson Elementary School
- Woodlands State Street School



# DONOR LIST

This season, more than ever, demonstrates the incredible belief our donors have in our mission and First Stage could not be more grateful for our donors' support in this uncertain time. Thank you for your generosity and helping us continue transforming lives through theater!

*Below is the list of donors of \$1,000 or more to First Stage's 2020/2021 Annual Campaign.*

## VISIONARY (\$500,000+)



## SPOTLIGHT (\$100,000-\$499,999)

The Burke Foundation  
The Molitor Foundation   
The Shubert Foundation, Inc.  
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## MARQUEE (\$20,000-\$99,999)

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*In honor of Rob Goodman*  
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## GOODMAN (\$10,000-\$19,999)

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Hauske Family Foundation   
Heil Family Foundation   
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Scott Penniston   
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Nancy Pinter and Max Samson   
Sprague Family Charitable Fund   
*In honor of Rob Goodman*  
We Energies Foundation  
Weyco Group

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR (\$1,000-\$2,499)

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The Franks Family   
Carol and Bill Gehl   
Martha Gienke   
*In memory of Mac Gienke*  
The Gilpin Family   
Mary and Rob Goodman   
Sarah J. Hammes   
Evan and Marion Helfaer Foundation  
H.H. Camp Foundation

Timothy Hoelter   
Dorothy Inbusch Foundation, Inc.  
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Becky and Dan Kempken   
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Ovation Society – Individuals who make a leadership gift  
of \$1,000 or more to First Stage's annual campaign are truly  
making a difference in the lives of children in our community!



The **HOPE Fund** was a special relief initiative to help First Stage endure the financial effects related to COVID-19 during our 2020-21 season.

First Stage is only as strong as our **talented team of artistic, administrative and teaching staffs**. Donations to this fund supported these individuals who provide HOPE for thousands of young people and families and make it possible for us to continue to transform lives through theater.

We were grateful for all of these donors who helped us raise more than \$300,000 last season, including a generous match from the Molitor Foundation.



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[Visit our website for a full listing of our donors.](#)

THEATER ACADEMY CLASS, SUMMER 2021  
 PHOTO BY PAUL RUFFOLO



# FINANCIALS

2020-21 SEASON



THE LEGEND OF ROCK,  
 PAPER, SCISSORS, 2020  
 PHOTO BY PAUL RUFFOLO

## 2020-2021 EXPENSE BREAKOUT

- 43% Production
- 18% Academy
- 17% Management & General
- 13% Fundraising
- 9% Education



## OPERATIONS BUDGET: \$2,970,000

YEARS WITH BALANCED BUDGET: 20

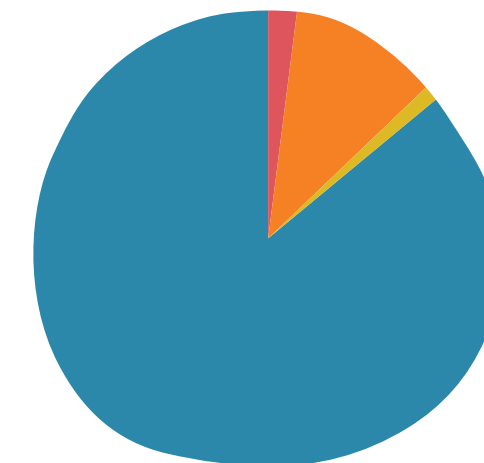
15%  
 Earned Revenue



85%  
 Contributed Revenue

## 2020-2021 INCOME BREAKOUT

- 86% Contributed
- 11% Academy
- 2% Tickets
- 1% Education



\*unaudited numbers



### 2020-2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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