“In the same way that our work on the mainstage reflects our ever changing society, I feel passionately that all of our programs for young people should reflect our commitment to developing new work. I am proud that we continue to commission writers to address important issues for young people and that our work in the schools engenders important dialogue that is both educational and inspiring.” – David Saint, Artistic Director

During the 2016-2017 academic year, George Street Playhouse’s Education Department captivated the hearts and minds of over 40,000 children and adults in New Jersey. Our Artist-in-Residence, Educational Touring Theatre, Academy, and Mainstage Audience Initiatives explored complex themes of the human experience; cultivating a spirit of inquiry, collaboration, imagination, and artistry.

What makes each of our distinct programs unique is a commitment to create and tell stories that are relevant to society: stories that raise awareness, understanding, and achievement, as well as those that reflect the strength of the diverse communities that comprise our state. 2016-2017 was a year of impact and growth for the Education Department, and we are excited to share that story with you.

Sincerely,
Jim Jack
Director of Education and Outreach

Our Mission

The mission of George Street Playhouse is to enrich people’s lives by producing world-class theatre. To accomplish our mission, we seek:

• to produce the highest quality of intellectually and emotionally challenging new works, re-imagined classics, and educational programs that speak with relevance to society;
• to serve as a vital cultural institution in New Jersey and a creative force nationally;
• to positively shape and be shaped by the diverse character of our community; and
• to create a nurturing home for the highest level of professional in the arts.
ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMS:
Creating intellectually and emotionally challenging new plays in the classroom

In 2016-2017, George Street Playhouse’s Artist-in-Residence programs created theatre in 129 classrooms across New Jersey. These programs strengthened content knowledge in English language arts, science, and social studies for over 3,000 students. Our staff of teaching artists used theatre to help students read and respond to texts, imagine and embody characters to create original pieces of theatre based on their classroom curricula. By creating theatre together as an ensemble, students gained confidence as speakers and empathetic learners. As effective collaborators, students forged meaningful social/emotional relationships with their peers. Each residency worked in partnership with classroom teachers and school administrators to foster a learning environment where students were able to develop academic and artistic achievement.

111 Residencies
2,305 Students
2015/16

129 Residencies
3,010 Students
2016/17

2016-2017 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Academy for the Performing Arts
Civic League of Greater New Brunswick
Community Development Institute: Somerset Head Start
Greater Brunswick Charter School
Highland Park Public Schools
New Brunswick Public Schools
New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association
Foundation for Educational Administration
New Jersey School Development Council
North Brunswick Township Public Schools
Rutgers University, Graduate School of Education
South Plainfield Public Schools
Teaneck Public Schools

“The students not only learned about the injustices of slavery, but they also learned about perseverance and overcoming unthinkable adversity.” – Educator, New Brunswick, NJ
EDUCATIONAL TOURING THEATRE:
Performances that speak with relevance to society

George Street Playhouse Educational Touring Theatre commissions and produces issue-driven theatre for young audiences. For many of the over 38,000 students that experienced our work in 2016-2017, it was their first time seeing live theatre. This opportunity, and the conversations with the actors that followed each performance, allowed our audiences to understand theatre as an art form and imagine themselves in the circumstances of the characters. Each of the three productions that we toured to 114 schools and community centers this past year reflected issues that students face every day in their lives, such as health and wellness, bullying, immigration, and climate change.

“Everyone benefits from a reminder to take care of our planet.” – Educator, Franklin, NJ

Gabi Goes Green!

135 Performances
2015/16
32,760 Students

163 Performances
2016/17
38,855 Students
ACADEMY PROGRAMS:  
Create a nurturing home for Theatrical Expression

This past year, over 250 Academy students from ages 5 – 85 studied the art of acting and play writing at George Street Playhouse. While creating theatre that was responsive to their world, students focused on specific skills such as improvisation, script analysis, or musical theatre performance. Throughout the year, students in our youth classes created original plays and musicals that reflected their unique point of view on thematic issues or well-known stories. The curriculum for our adult classes connected students GSP Mainstage productions by taking an in-depth look at *American Son* and attending a performance. Students analyzed and performed select scenes from the play, focusing on character motivation and development. Academy programs were offered year-round, attracting and cultivating passionate individuals who worked together to create complex, beautiful theatre.

$28,425 
Awarded in Scholarships
2015/16

$40,000 
Awarded in Scholarships
2016/17

“What this whole experience showed me was that when I push myself to my limits I can go above and beyond. I’m going to try to take this experience and use it not only in acting, but in my everyday life.”
– Arianna, Inspirers’ Circle Scholar, Grade 7.
I learned that we can really analyze text on a higher level by being actively engaged. Using our bodies to create scenes offers students deeper perspectives and insights into the texts we read. I feel confident about doing this in my classroom.”

– Educator, North Brunswick Township, NJ

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:
Theatre Arts Integration Training for Educators

George Street Playhouse’s professional development for veteran and emerging teachers demonstrates how theatre arts integration contributes to creative approaches in instruction that lead to improved student achievement. Teachers learn how to effectively integrate theatre arts strategies into K-12 classrooms to strengthen content knowledge, enhance literacy, and foster collaboration in English language arts, science, and social studies.

229 TEACHERS
252 TEACHERS
16 SCHOOLS/ORGANIZATIONS
23 SCHOOLS/ORGANIZATIONS
MAINSTAGE AUDIENCE INITIATIVES:
Insight into Issues; Exploration of Artistic Process

GSP offers opportunities throughout each season for audiences to share their reflections on our mainstage productions and participate in experiences that deepen their understanding of theatre and the artistic process.

Our production of *American Son* asked audiences to look at issues of inequality and racial justice facing our community, state, and nation. This production included a special installation in our Cabaret that explored the diverse identities of our American Sons.
George Street Playhouse’s Education Department relies on the support of our passionate individual, foundation, corporate, and government donors. Their generosity and belief in the power of theatre arts education to make a positive impact on communities throughout New Jersey make all of our programs possible. This list reflects gifts of $1,000 and above made to GSP Education during the 2017 fiscal year.

**CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION FUNDERS**

- **Horizon Foundation for New Jersey**
- **Victoria J. Mastrobuono**
  New Work Development Program
- **Bristol-Myers Squibb**
  Together we can prevail.
- **RWJ Barnabas Health**
- **Bank of America**
- **Bloomberg Philanthropies**
- **TD Charitable Foundation**
- **AMBOY Bank**
- **COLGATE-PALMOLIVE COMPANY**
- Music Theatre International
- **PNC Bank**
- **The Fred C. Rummel Foundation**
- **Infineum USA, LP**
- **Rutgers Community Health Foundation**

**INCOME FISCAL YEAR 2017**

$852,335

- **Earned Income** - $421,440
  - Tour - $62,660
  - Academy - $90,560
  - Artist-in-Residence / Professional Development - $268,220

- **Contributed Income** - $430,895
  - Government - $39,000
  - Individuals - $70,020
  - Corporate - $128,000
  - Foundations - $193,875

**EXPENSE FISCAL YEAR 2017**

$852,335

- **Mainstage Audience Initiatives** - $45,000
- **Program Development** - $107,095
- **Direct Student and Educator Programming** - $700,240

Reach of Education Programs
- Tour
- Academy
- Artist-in-Residence
Inspirers’ Circle Members are core funders for GSP’s Education Department who make annual gifts of $1,000 and above. Their support strengthens GSP’s theatre arts education initiatives and provides scholarships for students to attend Academy and Artist-in-Residence programs.

During GSP’s 2017 Summer Theatre Academy, students of Rising Company created and performed an original play based on the myth of Perseus. Working collaboratively to build trust and respect among the company, the cast brought characters to life through ensemble-based exercises in acting and playwriting. One of the students participating in this ensemble was Arianna, an Inspirers’ Circle Scholar, who grew into an incredible risk-taker, an expressive performer, and a natural leader among her peers.
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Kenneth M. Fisher
James N. Heston
Penelope Lattimer, Ph.D.
Jocelyn Schwartzman
Frances C. Stromsland, Ed.D.
Lora Tremayne

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Jim Jack, Director of Education and Outreach
Christa Cillaroto, Assistant Director of Education
Diana Gundacker, Manager of Tour and Academy Programs
Annie Rutherford Lutz, School-Based Project Coordinator
Angela Peletier, Education Administrative Assistant

2016-2017 EDUCATIONAL TOURING COMPANY

Erica Leigh, Stage Manager
Carol Foose, Actor
Desmond Martin, Actor
Christian James Potterton, Actor
Auriel Thompson, Actor

TEACHING ARTISTS

Dustin Ballard
Laura Bozzone
Maddie Calandrillo
Christa Cillaroto
Sara Giacomini
Heather Holmes
Jim Jack
Ellie Kahn
Sam Leichter
Annie Lutz
Rachel Matuszewicz
Katharine McLeod
Angela Peletier
Lucas Pinner
Sandy Sainvil
David Seamon
Heidi Schoenenberger
Jamie Ward

2016-2017 SUMMER ACADEMY INTERNS

Brooke Garfinkel
Kayla Childs
Loretta Adams-Licklider
Michelle Lane
Miles Friedman
Savannah Lloyd