

Jamie A. Hulley Arts Foundation



Winter 2014 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1208 • Orange, CT 06477-7208 • (203) 891-8869

A letter from Jamie's family ...

In our last newsletter we shared the exciting news that Wesleyan University commissioned a portrait of Jamie to hang alongside her painting, *Captured Beauty*, in the Usdan University Center's meeting room 108. The dedication took place on October 31, 2013. It is exquisite! Portrait creator, Olivia Parkes (class of 2011), use of vibrant golden hues is reminiscent of Jamie's unique use of color in her own work and aptly captures Jamie's effervescent personality, her welcoming smile and the hint laughter in her eyes.



Jamie's portrait at Wesleyan

Our 2013 *Evening for the Arts* gala benefit was a tremendous success. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the benefit committee for their unwavering support and hard work, to our army of volunteers who made the event run like clockwork, to the Quick Center staff, to our front-of-house maven Sonja Schmidt, to our behind-the-scenes wizards Patrick Laffin & Steve Rignoli, registration goddess Jodie Fitzpatrick, auction organizers Chris Rowland & Val Spinaci, to our silver-tongued auctioneer David Raffauf, and last but not least, to our very talented Master of Ceremonies, Jared Andrew Brown.

The evening's event showcased a sampling of the foundation's programs including the Orange All Star ballroom dancers, Amity Creative Theatre, and Square Foot Theatre's youth and adult companies. Our featured performers, The Broadway Boys, rocked the house with perfect harmony, cool dance moves, and witty banter for a second year in a row. The highlight of the evening was the premiere performance of Broadway Boys founder, Jesse Nager's arrangement of *For Good*, from the Broadway musical, *Wicked*, which was dedicated to Jamie. For those of us who were fortunate enough to have known Jamie, the lyrics capture our experience perfectly ... *because I knew you; I have been changed for good.*

~ Judy Primavera, Fred Hulley, Kari Hulley



SUPPORT THE ARTS!

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2013 in Review

First we would like to thank all of our donors for your generous outpouring of monetary donations, auction items, and volunteer time. A special thank you to our two "angel" families who provided us with the \$10,000 matching funds at our 2013 *Evening for the Arts* gala benefit and to our New Jersey "angel" whose consistent support allows us to follow Jamie's vision and "dream big." Here is a brief overview how your support was transformed into action:

Our grants to schools program funded 20 projects included using classical music to bring to life curriculum themes, making tile murals depicting favorite books, learning flamenco dancing to bring Spanish lessons to life, and a group of suburban high school students running an afterschool arts



School grant project

program for inner city middle schoolers. This year over 1,600 students were directly involved with these hands-on learning through the arts experiences.



SFT's *Once Upon a Mattress*

As a part of our community grants program, we sponsored four theatre productions with Square Foot Theatre, one with Orange Players, as well as the independent student project with Theatre Fairfield. One early career grant was awarded to 2008 scholarship recipient Ryan LeMere to launch his OutLoud greeting card line (www.outloudgreetings.com).

This year we provided 7 partial scholarships and 2 summer internships for college students pursuing careers in studio art and theater. Fifteen youngsters were given full scholarships to summer theater camp and one young percussionist received a year of drum lessons through our Maria & Stanley Gellis Scholarship fund.



Summer theater camp

At Jamie's alma mater Amity High School, we sponsored two Amity Creative Theater productions, provided over \$2,500 in scholarship prizes for the annual Amity Film Festival, and brought in five visiting artists in studio art, theater, and music. We also sponsored the arts-related philanthropic efforts of the Memory Project which created portraits for orphans in Mexico and the Empty Bowls Project which sold student-made bowls and soup to benefit the New Haven Food Bank. At Jamie's college alma mater Wesleyan University, we helped defray the costs of 3 senior studio art thesis projects and awarded 2 Italian travel stipends.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jamie A Hulley Arts Foundation's
TWELFTH annual gala benefit ...

An Evening for the Arts

Saturday, September 6, 2014

Regina A. Quick Center at Fairfield University

featuring

DR. K'S MOTOWN REVUE

6 p.m. pre-show reception & silent auction; 7 p.m. performance

\$40 in advance \$45 at the door

For information: 203-891-8869, jamiart@snet.net

Square Foot Theatre's Summer 2014 Productions

Once on This Island - Teen Company – July 23, 24, 26

Cinderella – Youth Company – August 6, 7, 9

Les Miserables – Adult Company – August 14, 15, 17

for information: www.squarefoottheatre.com

And The Show Goes On ...



Jared Brown & David Raffauf

Our 2013 annual *Evening for the Arts* was a bittersweet event as co-founder and Board of Directors Vice President David Raffauf passed the Masters of Ceremonies baton to Square Foot Theater's Artistic Director, Jared Andrew Brown. The announcement was made in true theatrical style as David and Jared launched into a dueling rendition of *Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better*. Words cannot begin to capture the profound impact David has had on the foundation's growth over the past twelve years. We would not be where we are today without him.

Jared is a member of Actors' Equity and, along with his partner Patrick Laffin, founded The Square Foot Theatre in Wallingford which produces five full-scale musicals per year, features both adult and youth theater companies, offers a full range of classes in the performing arts, and provides arts-enrichment programs to area schools. What is most special is the fact that Jared and Jamie performed together during their high school days. The only question that remains is who will take over as our auctioneer. David's quick wit and hyper drive banter is a hard act to follow but we have no doubt that Amity High School's dynamic duo, Rob and Andrea Kennedy, will come through with their own unique and entertaining style that will endear them to your hearts and loosen your purse strings.

"The first time her laughter unfurled its wings in the wind, we knew that the world would never be the same."

Things to be Proud of

In selecting the recipients of our school grants, we look for projects that stretch young artist's imaginations and encourages them to try new things and discover a new talent. Prendergast School in Ansonia engaged in a particularly exemplary project where 4th grade students explored the theme of perseverance in the face of life's difficulties through the work of Roald Dahl. The students read *Matilda*, *James & the Giant Peace*, and *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* and then created and performed their own scripts modeled after Dahl's characters. The students designed the scenery, handled publicity, and created the playbill. The students were given an opportunity to participate in an essay contest based on the theme of perseverance. The project also included a mentoring component where 6th grade students served as script editors, casting directors, costume & scenic design advisors. The entire school community, teachers, and parents were treated to a live performance.



Prendergast's Willie Wonka



TF's How I Learned to Drive

The foundation also prides itself in promoting the spirit of *Paying It Forward* and using the arts as a vehicle for social change and helping others. The next two stories certainly capture that spirit. Theatre Fairfield's independent student production of *How I Learned to Drive* explored the important social issue of child sexual abuse and raised \$770 that was donated to rKids Family Center in New Haven (www.rkidsct.org), a non-profit specializing in securing permanent, safe homes for children.

Research from our *School Readiness through Dance* program at Bridgeport's Bulls Head Hollow Head Start site was presented at the New England Psychological Association annual meeting in October 2013. The 20-week dance program had a significant impact of the children's language, cognitive and social emotional school readiness skills. New England Ballet Company is our collaborator on this project (www.newenglandballet.org). Extra special good news is that two students from Theatre Fairfield's independent project, Maggie Greene & Kaitlyn Premus, requested and received 140 new ballet shoes for the children from Capezio.



Ballet shoes from Capezio

Visit Jamie's Arts Foundation Website

www.jamiehulleyartsfund.org

