

# MetroSpective

VOL. XIX NO. 3

THE NEWSLETTER OF METRO THEATER COMPANY

Fall 2010

## NEW SEASON TO OFFER TOURING SHOWS, A ST. LOUIS PREMIERE AND NEW PLAY READINGS

**M**etro Theater Company's 38<sup>th</sup> season explodes with excitement, offering a host of lively programs that St. Louis audiences won't want to miss. Our touring repertoire features Mariah L. Richardson's captivating, one-woman show, *Delilah's Wish*.

New on the touring schedule this year is Wesley Middleton's magical play, *Tomato Plant Girl*. (See page 8 for dates of public performances.)

In January, Lois Lowry's haunting story, *The Giver*, comes to the stage at Edison Theatre for three weeks. Eric Coble's stage adaptation of

the Newbery Medal Award-winning book has garnered critical acclaim around the country. We're proud to mount the first St. Louis production with our partners at Edison Theatre. (See page 3).

## NEW WORKS NIGHT AT THE CENTENE CENTER IN GRAND CENTER

Our investment in commissioning and developing new plays takes center stage as part of the American Arts Experience—St. Louis, a 17-day celebration of all the arts as practiced in America. (See [www.americanartsstl.org](http://www.americanartsstl.org) for more information on this new annual festival.) Come to Metro's New Works Night at 7:30 p.m. Monday, October 11 at the Centene Center for a sneak peek at works-in-progress by two outstanding American playwrights, José Cruz González and Melissa Cooper.

*Super Cowgirl and Mighty Miracle*, by playwright José Cruz González, is set in a neigh-

borhood "where wild dandelions grow and foreclosure signs flourish." José began work on this play during our New Work Incubator last December. This summer, he and our own Emily Kohring were invited to New York University for a week of script development. José Cruz González will be back in St. Louis in October for another intensive workshop and our staged reading at the Centene Center. Audiences will be invited to participate in a feedback session following the reading.

A special bonus of New Works Night is the announcement of our newest project, a co-commission with The Coterie Theatre in Kansas City. Join Carol North and The Coterie's Artistic

Director, Jeff Church, as they introduce playwright Melissa Cooper, who will share part of an early draft of her emerging play. New Works Night is free and open to the public. Seating is limited, so come early!

## NEW WORKS NIGHT

**WHAT:** Staged Reading and Conversation with the Artists

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m., Monday, October 11

**WHERE:** The Centene Center for the Arts and Education, 3547 Olive Street in Grand Center

**ADMISSION:** FREE (\$5 donation suggested)



Playwright José Cruz González and Karen Sarat working on 3/7/11: *A Lincoln Heights Tale*, a project of Cornerstone Theater in Los Angeles.



Collaborating at a workshop on *Super Cowgirl and Mighty Miracle* are (from left) Nancy Swortzell, producer; Cecily O'Neill, dramaturg; Emily Kohring, director; and José Cruz González, playwright. The workshop was held in June at New York University's 13th Annual New Plays for Young Audiences program.

american  
ARTS EXPERIENCE  
St. Louis

**OUR MISSION:** Inspired by the intelligence and emotional wisdom of young people, we create professional theater, foster inclusive community, and nurture meaningful learning through the arts.



# Metro Theater Company

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kevin Farrell, President  
 Susan Z. Gamble, Vice President  
 Marcia Kerz, Secretary  
 John D. Weil, CFO & Treasurer  
 David Bentzinger  
 Judie Courtney  
 Nancy Garvey  
 Elizabeth Green  
 Barbara Harris  
 Sam Hausfather  
 Kristy Jackson  
 Ken Jones  
 Helen Lee  
 Margaret McDonald  
 Susan W. Nall  
 Matthew Neufeld\*  
 Carol North\*  
 Don Senti  
 Barbara Shuman  
 \*ex officio, non-voting

## EMERITUS MEMBERS

Zaro Weil, Co-Founder  
 Lynn Rubright, Co-Founder  
 Marlene Birkman  
 Terry Bloomberg  
 Bob Couch  
 Suzanne Couch  
 Mary Ellen Finch  
 Daniel Jay  
 Dianne Ladendecker  
 Ellen Livingston  
 James Moog  
 Philip W. Moses  
 Joseph Noelker  
 Peggy O'Brien  
 Janet Schoedinger  
 Mary Stigall  
 Anabeth Weil

## STAFF

Carol North, *Artistic Director*  
 Matthew Neufeld, *Managing Director*  
 Emily Kohring, *Education Director/Artistic Associate*  
 Nicholas Kryah, *Resident Artist/Technical Director*  
 Sarah Rugo, *Production Manager*  
 Nancy Tonkins, *Marketing Director*  
 David Warren, *Development Director*  
 Alan David, *Operations Assistant*  
 Beth Slepian, *Teaching Artist Fellow*  
 Lauren Garvey, *Intern*

## WE'RE GARDENING HERE...ORGANICALLY



We till the soil regularly. We plant new seeds each year. Rainfall can be unpredictable, so we water carefully, but not too much. Each growing thing has its own particular needs, so

we take our lead from the growing things themselves. Periodic pruning can promote new growth, but we know it's critical to look closely to determine if and when that's appropriate. A good gardener combines close observation, respectful attention, and a healthy dose of intuition.

Metro Theater Company's garden is where new plays grow. We've been gardening for nearly four decades. Most of our audience members are more aware of the "harvest" when the collaborative efforts of playwright, director, designers and actors bear fruit in performance.

But long before any new play is ready for production, months and months of tilling and tending take place. Typically, early stage work is shielded from outside eyes, and with good reason. A play in process is fragile. Its roots are

reaching down into the soil, seeking their deep connection to the earth. Simultaneously, its shoots are working their way upward toward the light. The growing play knows where it wants to go, but the stems haven't found their full strength. A tender, young play can be sensitive to too much attention, and it certainly can't bear extremes of heat and cold.

Metro Theater Company takes care of new plays in the early stages of their development. But we have discovered that when friends are invited into our garden to learn more about the process of cultivation, they help nurture new plays gently toward the light. That's why we're opening the doors to new play development with more regularity. We want you to share in the wonder of it all.

I hope to see many of you on Monday, October 11 for the first of two New Work Nights this season. Meet José Cruz González, Melissa Cooper and Jeff Church. See what's sprouting in our garden. Help us nurture the new growth.



Carol North, *Artistic Director*

P.S. No garden tools or gloves are required!

## BOARD NEWS

Metro Theater Company welcomes two new directors elected to the Governing Board for a three-year term. **Barbara Shuman**, an executive at SAGE Marketing, brings a wealth of professional public relations experience to her new post. **David Bentzinger**, senior vice president at PNC Bank, provides insight with fiscal management, as well as a keen interest in Metro Theater Company's dual mission in the fields of arts and education.

**Ellen Livingston** and **Peggy O'Brien** accepted invitations to join the Emeritus Board. Both have given years of dedicated service to Metro Theater Company. We are grateful for their willingness to serve in this new capacity, reserved for individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership and commitment.

With gratitude for their service, we bid a fond farewell to **Camille Greenwald** and to **Suzie Fox**, who recently completed two terms on the Board of Directors. They will be missed, but we're pleased that each has pledged her ongoing support and involvement.

## STAFF NEWS

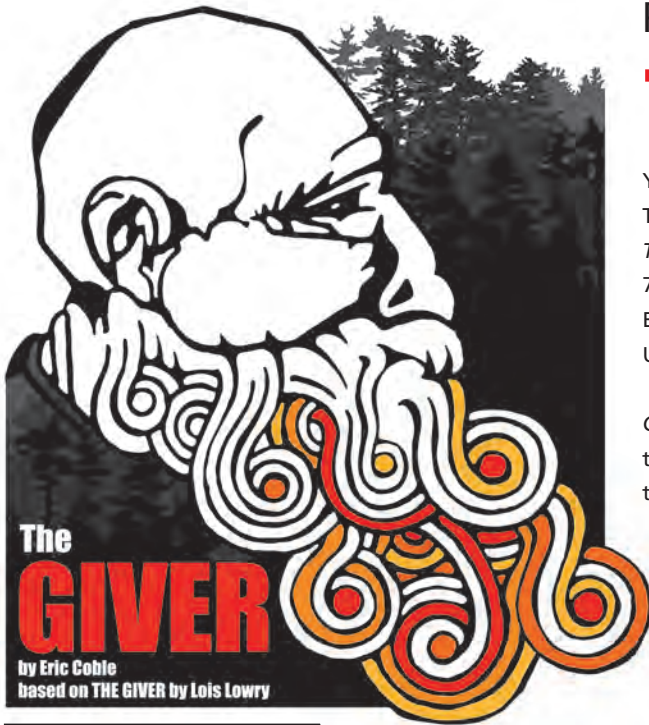


Meet our new operations assistant, Alan David. Working with us in a part-time capacity, Alan helps keep all our programs running smoothly. Chances are you've already spoken with him on the phone, but do introduce yourself when you see him at one of our events this fall.



Lauren Garvey, our volunteer intern and a theater major at St. Louis University, remembers seeing Metro Theater Company performances when she was a child. Thanks for lending a hand, Lauren!

# METRO BRINGS MODERN CLASSIC 'THE GIVER' TO EDISON THEATRE



## Playwright Eric Coble Will Attend on Opening Night

**T**he story is haunting. The play is riveting. The production will be stunning. You won't want to miss Metro Theater Company's production of *The Giver*, which opens January 7 and will run for three weeks at Edison Theatre on the Washington University campus.

Set sometime in the future, *The Giver* tells the powerful story of twelve-year old Jonas, selected by the elders of his community to be the new Receiver of Memory. The old man known as the Giver has held the memory of all that has been stripped away—poverty, pain, war, strife—and now he must pass on that burden. Little by little Jonas discovers the community has systematically given up much of what gives life its meaning: Color, music, truth and love. At the end of the story, Jonas faces a decision that will define him and set a path toward hope.

Cleveland-based playwright Eric Coble, who adapted Lois Lowry's book for the stage, will be in the audience on opening night. "*The Giver* is a modern classic that should be read and discussed by any thinking person, regardless of their age," says Tim Wadham, assistant director for Youth and Community Services for the St. Louis County Library. "*The Giver* is a book that brings generations together."

Twenty-six performances, including school day matinees, are scheduled. Following each performance, audiences will be invited to participate in conversation about the provocative



Eric Coble, Playwright

questions raised by the story. Tickets are on sale now.

The cast includes Nicholas Kryah in the title role, Stephanie Strohman, David Wassilak and eight young actors who were cast after highly competitive auditions. Mitchell List and Christian Probst share the role of Jonas. Joining them on stage are Elijah Brown, Sydney Dorton, Berklea Going, Stephanie Koo, Ian Miller and Anna Nielsen.

Composer and percussionist Lance Garger serves as guest artist. The design team includes Lou Bird, Dunsai Dai, John Wylie and Rusty Wandall. Artistic director Carol North directs the production.

Throughout the fall, HEC-TV will host a four-part series leading up to opening night. On October 7, novelist Lois Lowry will talk about her book with area students via a live satellite connection. Three subsequent programs will focus on story themes, the process of bringing the story to the stage, and the production itself. Check the HEC-TV website for all the details.

The excitement continues into the spring when Lowry will deliver the prestigious Arbuthnot Honor Lecture on Friday, April 15, hosted by the St. Louis County Library. Check the library's web site ([www.slcl.org](http://www.slcl.org)) for details about this and other events linked to *The Giver*.

## TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

**WHEN:** January 6-23, 2011

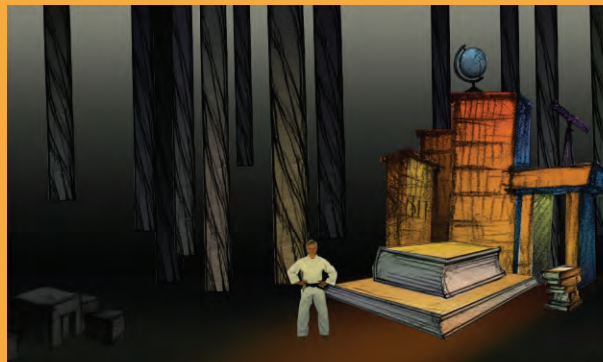
\*Special Opening Night Performance at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, January 7

**WHERE:**  
Edison Theatre at Washington University

**TICKETS:**  
\$16, adults; \$12, seniors;  
\$10 groups of 10 or more

**BOX OFFICE:**  
Edison Theatre Box Office  
at 314-935-6543 OR [www.metrotix.com](http://www.metrotix.com)

**SCHOOL MATINEES:**  
\$8 per student CALL 314-997-6777



This artist's rendering by set designer Dunsai Dai provides a sneak peek into our upcoming production at Edison Theatre.



St. Louis County Library

**HEC** TV IT MAKES YOU THINK  
ST. LOUIS' HOME OF EDUCATION, ARTS & CULTURE

# THANK YOU! METRO THEATER COMPANY GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE

This listing acknowledges support from July 1, 2009 through August 15, 2010. We apologize if we have inadvertently omitted anyone who should have been included or have spelled incorrectly any names. Please let us know so that we can correct future listings.



► **VISIONARIES**  
**\$20,000 and above**  
 Arts and Education Council  
 Missouri Arts Council  
 National Endowment for the Arts  
 and the Recovery Act  
 Regional Arts Commission  
 Anabeth C. and John D. Weil

► **IMPRESARIOS**  
**\$10,000 – \$19,999**  
 Emerson  
 Employees Community Fund  
 of Boeing St. Louis  
 Kresge Arts in St. Louis  
 Monsanto Fund  
 The Saigh Foundation  
 The Trio Foundation of St. Louis  
 The Westin St. Louis, Official Hotel  
 of Metro Theater Company  
 Whitaker Foundation

► **PRODUCERS**  
**\$5,000 – \$9,999**  
 Mary Ellen Finch  
 Elizabeth L. Green  
 Mary and James Moog  
 PNC Foundation  
 Target  
 In honor of Loretta I. Valentine  
 Whole Foods Market

► **CREATORS**  
**\$2,500 – \$4,999**  
 Cardinals Care  
 Commerce Bancshares Foundation  
 Fox Performing Arts  
 Charitable Foundation  
 Susan Z. and James P. Gamble  
 Camille and James Greenwald  
 Heartland Bank  
 Katy and Joe Kaufman\*  
 Ellen L. Livingston\*\*

► **DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE**  
**\$1,000 – \$2,499**  
 AT&T Foundation Matching  
 Gifts Program  
 Terry Bloomberg\*\*

Children's Theatre Foundation  
 of America  
 Susan and Christopher Fox  
 Nancy and Tom Garvey  
 Jane and Ken Jones  
 Suzy Gorman\*  
 Marcia Kerz  
 Mary Ann Lazarus and Daniel G. Jay  
 Kim Lloyd\*  
 Bridget and Earl McDaniel  
 Margaret O'Brien  
 Janet Schoedinger and Jim Mann

► **CREATIVE PARTNERS**  
**\$500 – \$999**  
 Britni Eggers\*  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Elsesser  
 Kevin Farrell and Molly Walsh  
 Christopher Gurr  
 Barbara Harris  
 Nancy and Ken Kranzberg  
 Jack J. Lane  
 Margaret McDonald  
 Gail Thoele

► **COLLABORATORS**  
**\$250 – \$499**  
 Lenore Albee and Charles Daniel  
 Christine and John Berg  
 Marlene Ann Birkman  
 Megan and Deever Bradley  
 Judie Courtney  
 Mark Deany  
 Lawrence and Karen Goering  
 Lois J. Gould  
 Samuel Hausfather  
 Martha Henry  
 Kristy Jackson  
 Phyllis and David Kim  
 Sandra and H. Davis McCarty  
 Monsanto Matching Gift Program  
 Carol North and Nicholas Kryah  
 Margaret North  
 Janaki and Gary Patrik  
 Kathe and Edgar Rasch  
 Don Senti  
 Nancy Tonkins and Laurie Whelan  
 Dr. and Mrs. Lionel G. Warren  
 Lisa Orden Zarin

► **FRIENDS**  
**\$100 – \$249**  
 Marcia and Neil Bernstein  
 Sally Boggeman  
 Jocelyn Botkin  
 Joan T. Briccetti and Kathy Greminger  
 Janet Brown and Paul Reuter  
 Dr. Wanda C. Clay  
 Laura Cohen  
 Anne Cohn  
 Milly Cohn  
 Shirley M. Cordry  
 Patricia A. Corrigan  
 Betty and Richard Crumpton  
 Kitty and Tim Daly  
 Diane and Roger Davenport  
 Mary Dicken  
 Larry Dunphy  
 Sara and Fred Epstein  
 Linda and Joseph Ferro  
 Marilyn Fox  
 Frankie M. Freeman  
 Connie and Jerry Fritz  
 GlaxoSmithKline Foundation  
 Emily L. and Michael P. Grady  
 Susan and Ed Grooms  
 Judy and Scott Guerrero  
 Nancy and Bruce Halverson  
 Ruth and Scott Hanson  
 Barb and Jeff Homar  
 Joanne G. and Joel S. Iskiwitch  
 Jim Jost  
 Lynne Kipnis and Steven Rothman  
 Kuna Foodservice  
 Dianne Ladendecker

Helen Lee and Peter Tao  
 Carolyn and Joseph Losos  
 Marylen Mann and Franklin Jacobs  
 Phyllis M. Maritz  
 Virginia and David McDonald  
 Stacey, Patrick, Conor, and  
 Harlan McMackin  
 MEDEX  
 Leonard Landsbaum and  
 Donna Moog  
 Patricia and Philip W. Moses  
 Charles Dean Mueller  
 Dr. Julia Muller and  
 Mr. Earl Shreckengast  
 Susan W. Nall  
 Shelli Netherton  
 Matthew Neufeld  
 Juli Niemann  
 Cynthia and Stephen Patton  
 Julie and Steve Plax  
 Gerry Puglisi and Tom Krauska  
 Helen Rager  
 Beth and Rick Remming  
 Greg Roberts  
 Lynn and Robert Rubright  
 Lydia Ruffin and Bonnie Taylor  
 Sonja and David Saar  
 Robert N. Sandberg and  
 Virginia A. Zakian  
 JoAnn and Ted Sanditz  
 Teresa Sarai  
 Leslie Scheuler  
 Chris and Al Schmitz  
 Ann M. Shaw  
 Pat Simons  
 Rose-Lynn Sokol





LAUREN GARVEY



LAUREN GARVEY

Lucie and Steve Springmeyer  
Joan and George Thomas  
Robin and Dan Wald  
Pat and Larry Walter  
Nadine and Ray Whelan  
Paige and Daniel Whelan  
Sue Wilde  
Nancy L. Williams and Mary E. Hizer  
Steven Woolf  
Kim and John Wylie and Family

► **BOOSTERS**  
**\$99 and below**

Drama Department,  
Affton High School  
Maryellen and Bill Amos  
Jim Andris and Steve Nichols  
Linda S. Atwell  
Bank of America Foundation  
Nancy Berg and Stan Braude  
Barbara and Bob Bishop  
Deb Bixler  
Alice Bloch  
Marilyn and Donald Blum  
Elaine and Eric Bly  
Drs. Nanci and James Bobrow  
Martha and Mark J. Bogart  
Lynn Bolin  
Sherry and Terry Brakhane  
Margaret and Christopher Brooks  
Louise C. Bullock  
Anne and Jerry Capps  
Beverly Clarkson  
Annie Watts Cloncs  
Mary Ann Coker

Suzanne Costello  
Michael Daft  
Joan Dellbring  
Jackie and David Dimmitt  
Pat Dolan  
Allison Felter  
Vernon Flakes  
Robin and Rich Frank  
Janet and Paul Fredstrom  
Scott, Ashley and Alison Gill  
Denise R. Giuffrida  
Golterman Historics, LLC  
William Grivna  
Frances R. Hamilton  
Jackie Heitland  
Myrna and Arnold Hershman  
Gary and Mimi Hirshberg  
Cindy and Robert Kahn  
Jeanne Klein  
Kathy and Geoffrey Knapp  
Katherine A. and Charles F. Kneedler  
Kohl Wholesale  
Joanne and Alan Kohn  
Kopytek, Inc.  
John Langfeld and Dennis Grabowski  
Hannah S. and Lawrence E. Langsam  
Bill Larson  
Peggy Ledbetter  
Barbara Lehocky and Samuel Marwit  
Liz Lippa  
Ariel Lyons-Warren  
Reta A. Madsen  
Annelise Mertz  
Jill Meyers  
Mark Moloney

Tomi Norris  
Yvonna and Aubrey Owen  
Sarah Anne Patz and  
Howard Nathanson  
Virginia L. and Myron Peck  
Donna and Richard Pelikan  
Pfizer Foundation Matching  
Gifts Fund  
Cliff Price and Nedra Price Hinchman  
Laura Rainey  
Diane and F. Scott Regan  
Eloise and Kent Reynolds  
Rudin Trust  
Ann Marie and Andy Ruhlin  
Betty Schmelzer  
Ben Senturia and Bronwen Zwirner  
Sylvia Silver  
Dr. and Mrs. Saul Silvermintz  
Grace Spruiell  
L. Marie and Wayne E. Stafford  
Lois and Godfrey Standing  
Alice and Perrin Stifel  
James Still  
Geri Sullivan  
Judy Sweeney  
Tina Telthorst  
The Rome Group  
Diane Thomas  
Mr. and Mrs. William Scott Thompson  
Barbara and John Tolch  
Enid D. and Orlin D. Vandeventer  
Nancy and Bob Wagoner  
Ayako and Haruka Watanabe  
Dorothy Webb  
Eddie Webb  
Ms. Patricia Weiss  
Sharon and Robert Whitely  
Alys and Terry Wilmot  
Susan and Mark Wolf  
Pat and Mike Wolff  
Colleen Wyss  
Arlene Zarembka and  
Zuleyma Tang-Martinez  
Luanne and Steve Zwolak

\*Includes in-kind support  
\*\*Includes generous support of  
New Works / Future Fund



RUSSELL VANACEK



RUSSELL VANACEK



LAUREN GARVEY

**TRIBUTE GIFTS**

**In Memory of Marsha Bandy**  
Geri Sullivan

**In Memory of Linda Behrends**  
Maryellen and Bill Amos  
Linda S. Atwell  
Barbara M. and Bob Bishop  
Elaine and Eric Bly  
Martha and Mark J. Bogart  
Anne and Jerry Capps  
Beverly Clarkson  
Annie Watts Cloncs  
Shirley M. Cordry  
Betty and Richard Crumpton  
Larry Dunphy  
Connie and Jerry Fritz  
Cliff Price and Nedra Price Hinchman  
Katy and Joe Kaufman  
Katherine A. and Charles F. Kneedler  
Kohl Wholesale  
Kuna Foodservice  
Sandra and H. Davis McCarty  
Tomi Norris  
Carol North and Nicholas Kryah  
Yvonna and Aubrey Owen  
Janaki and Gary Patrik  
JoAnn and Ted Sanditz  
L. Marie and Wayne E. Stafford  
Lois and Godfrey Standing  
Joan and George Thomas  
Enid D. and Orlin D. Vandeventer  
Pat and Larry Walter  
Sue Wilde  
Alys and Terry Wilmot  
Pat and Mike Wolff

**In Memory of Alexis Carlson Curry**  
Diane and Roger Davenport  
Katy and Joe Kaufman  
Carol North and Nicholas Kryah

**In Honor of Camille Greenwald**  
Rose-Lynn Sokol  
Lisa Orden Zarin

**In Honor of Jane and Ken Jones**  
Ben Senturia and Bronwen Zwirner

**In Honor of Emily Kohring**  
Katy and Joe Kaufman

**In Honor of Margaret McDonald**  
Virginia A. and David P. McDonald

**In Memory of Loretta Valentine**  
Carol North and Nicholas Kryah

# EDUCATION PROGRAMS SERVE ST. LOUIS REGION AND BEYOND

**M**etro Theater Company's education work continues to flourish throughout the St. Louis region, and this year, our reach extends as far as Greenville, South Carolina. Carol North will spend two days in September with teachers from Greenville area schools in a professional development program hosted by the Peace Center for the Performing Arts. Carol will share strategies for integrating creative drama and movement into the academic curriculum. She will return to the Peace Center in November for additional workshops offered in conjunction with our touring performances of *Tomato Plant Girl*.

The education team is busier than ever this year. Headed by Education Director/Artistic Associate Emily Kohring, Metro's programs include residencies with all fifth- and sixth-grade students in Webster Groves schools, classroom partnerships with teachers in St. Louis Public Schools (made possible by Interchange), creative learning with preschoolers at the Clayton Family Center, a second year of programming at the Children's Home Society of Missouri and a year-long program at the brand new Grand Center

Arts Academy. We're pleased to offer after-school drama programs this year in the Francis Howell and Clayton school districts and we will introduce a theater camp in Webster Groves over spring break.

Thanks to funding from the Kresge Arts in St. Louis initiative, administered by the Arts and Education Council and the Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation, sixth-grade students from Our Lady of Guadalupe School and Jefferson Elementary School in St. Louis will have an in-depth experience researching, writing and celebrating their own St. Louis stories. "I am thrilled that Jefferson students will have the opportunity to work with Metro Theater Company once again in partnership with Kresge Arts as they celebrate St. Louis stories through storytelling and oral histories," says Nathalie Means, principal at Jefferson. One of just ten projects selected for Kresge Arts in St. Louis support this year, Metro's project will bring students from the schools together twice, as they visit each other's neighborhoods for the culminating event.



Teen participants in the Diversity Arts Program enjoy a Capoeira class with guest instructor Trelen Jesse. Capoeira is a Brazilian art form that combines martial arts, music and dance. Metro Theater Company and Diversity Awareness Partnership have nurtured this summer leadership program for area young adults for the past three years.



Welcome to our new Teaching Artist Fellow, Beth Slepian, who joins the education team this year. A native of Connecticut, Beth is completing her master's degree and dual teacher certification in theater and social studies at New York University.

“

It has been a pleasure to partner with the artists from Metro Theater Company in St. Louis Public Schools. The quality of their work and their commitment to the teachers and students of SLPS is outstanding. I look forward to many years of collaborative work with MTC.

”

**Mark E. Cross, Director of Interchange**  
*A Collaborative Program of COCA*

“

Metro Theater Company and Carol North partnered with the Parkway School District for the last two summers to develop and implement a highly successful program for fifth grade gifted and talented fine arts students. The two-week Mosaics Academy stretched student skills and included mentoring for participating Parkway music teachers, giving them new strategies for their classrooms. Many teachers commented that it was the best professional development they had ever had. Strong testimonials also came from students and parents.

**Cassandra Collins, Fine Arts Coordinator**  
*Parkway School District*

”

“

The professional development Metro Theater Company provided was a content-rich, community-building experience for all staff.

”

**Katie Paul, Quality Program Coordinator**  
*Vacation Station Out of School Time Enrichment Program, Francis Howell School District*

“

We value our collaboration with Metro Theater Company because they custom-design programs to meet the needs of the children we serve. Children love Metro Theater Company programs because they bring relationships to life through drama and theater in a way children can understand.

”

**Sarah Boeker, MSW, LCSW**  
*Children's Home Society of Missouri*

# COMING SOON: NICHOLAS KRYAH'S 5,000<sup>th</sup> PERFORMANCE

**N**icholas Kryah is a triple threat in the theater world—and more. He acts, sings and dances—but Kryah, resident artist and technical director at Metro Theater Company, also directs, writes plays, designs and builds sets, teaches workshops and plays numerous musical instruments.

"For the past 30-some years, I've been in awe of Nick. He is Metro's Renaissance Man," says John Weil, the company's CFO and treasurer. "Nick is the embodiment of Metro's history and its mission, and he has been a critical element of our continuing success."

Kryah, 61, will celebrate his 5,000<sup>th</sup> performance on January 22, on stage in the title role of Metro Theater Company's production of *The Giver* at Edison Theatre. (See page 3.)

Asked which job in his 34 years with the company is his favorite, Kryah replies, "It's all

career for someone who always wanted to be an adventurer," says Kryah.

"Nick is one of the best actors I have ever worked with," says Rita Washington, a former company member who now works for the Special School District of St. Louis County. "I've never known someone so versatile, so musical, so engaging to watch and perform with."

Kryah holds an undergraduate degree from the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University and he earned an M.A. in dramatic theory, literature and criticism from Michigan State University. He built sets for the Goodman Theatre in Chicago and then took a job as technical director and coordinator of the Loretto-Hilton Center at Webster University.

Kryah joined Metro Theater Company—then known as Metro Theater Circus—in 1977, the same year as Carol North, the current artistic



PHOTOS BY JIM BALMER, ELIZABETH GORLA, CAROL NORTH, BRUCE SUMMERS, RUSSELL VANACEK.

# 5



one. Directing is the hardest thing I do, trying to pull all the elements together to make a cohesive unit." Currently, Kryah is directing and designing Metro's production of *Tomato Plant Girl*. "I've designed a conservatory for an exotic garden set—it looks good on paper, but I have to build it to fit in the touring van."

Writing and acting are the jobs that Kryah enjoys the most. "I have so many ideas for plays," he says, "and writing lets me go into worlds intellectually and emotionally." Kryah has written four productions for Metro Theater Company: *Beowulf* (1990), *A Short Hike on a Long Trail* (1998), *Iceman* (2000) and *Stix & Stonz* (2005). He has a dozen or more scripts in the works.

The oldest of seven, Kryah grew up in Akron, Ohio. His dad was an aerospace engineer. His mother shared her interests in the arts with her children. "When my brothers and I played, we created mini-dramas about explorers or soldiers or cops and robbers. Acting is a perfect

director. The two were married in 1991. "Nick and I 'joined the circus' the same year," says Peter Hesed, music director and pastoral associate at St. Margaret of Scotland School. "I had a rich and exciting interlude with Metro; Nick discovered the great loves of his life: Carol and the creative work of MTC. I have had the pleasure of working with him since then, and of seeing his work. As an actor, a designer, a *mensch*, Nick is pure bedrock."

As he approaches his 5000<sup>th</sup> performance, for the Renaissance Man and *mensch* (honorable person) known for his versatility, it's still all about the work. "There is a wonderful sense of accomplishment when a lot of people come together to work on making a play—and watching, audience members feel the hair stand up on the backs of their heads," says Kryah. "I love being a part of making that happen."

**HELP HONOR NICK!** Join us in celebrating Nick Kryah's 5,000<sup>th</sup> performance on January 22 by making a \$100 donation in honor of Nick and his longtime commitment to Metro Theater Company and the arts in St. Louis. Make your gift by November 15 and be listed on a special tribute page in the program book for *The Giver*. For more information, contact David Warren, Development Director, at 314-997-6777 x105.



# MetroSpective

## Metro Theater Company

8308 Olive Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63132-2814  
www.metrotheatercompany.org  
(314) 997-6777

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
St. Louis, MO  
Permit No. 3580



Metro Theater Company is professional theater for young people and families. It is a member of Missouri Citizens for the Arts, Theatre Communications Group, Inc. (the national service organization for non-profit professional theaters), and Theatre for Young Audiences/USA. Metro Theater Company receives financial assistance from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; Missouri Arts Council, a state agency; the Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis; the Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis; numerous corporations; foundations; and individuals.

## Don't Miss Out! Save These Dates!



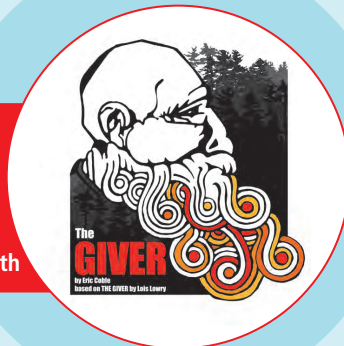
**NEW WORKS NIGHT**  
Monday, October 11 at 7:30 p.m.  
Centene Center in Grand Center  
3547 Olive Street

Tuesday, October 12 at 6:30 p.m.  
Little Theatre at Clayton High School  
1 Mark Twain Circle



Saturday & Sunday,  
October 16-17 at 1 p.m.  
Old North St. Louis  
2700 N. 14th Street  
(Near Crown Candy Kitchen)

January 7-23, 2011  
Friday & Saturday at 7:30 p.m.,  
Sunday at 2 p.m.  
Edison Theatre  
at Washington University • 6445 Forsyth



### IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ News of the 2010-11 Season
- ▶ Artistic Director's Report
- ▶ *THE GIVER* at Edison Theatre
- ▶ Metro's Work in Schools
- ▶ Kryah Celebrates Milestone

CHECK OUT OUR  
BRAND NEW WEBSITE AT  
[www.metrotheatercompany.org](http://www.metrotheatercompany.org)

JOIN US NOW ON



### HELP US GO GREEN

Send us your email address at  
[community@metrotheatercompany.org](mailto:community@metrotheatercompany.org)  
and we'll send you our next  
newsletter electronically!



Give the gift of *THE GIVER*.  
Tickets make wonderful gifts!

BOX OFFICE: (314) 935-6543 or visit METROTIX