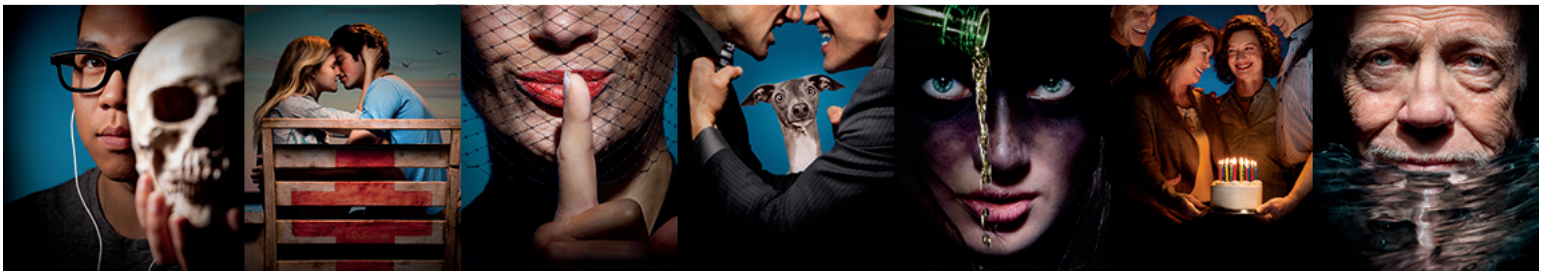




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PRESS KIT



MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE

2014-15 SEASON



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT

Performance Venue.....	1
MRT's Mission	1
Leadership	2
Audience Engagement Events.....	3

HISTORY

The Little Theatre That Believed It Could	4
Lowell's Theatre.....	4
MRT Timeline.....	6
Production History	7

EDUCATION

Student Matinees and Partners in Education (PIE)	10
MRT Young Company	10

MEDIA RELATIONS

For More Information	12
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ABOUT MRT

PERFORMANCE VENUE



MRT's Sage Bank Lobby in Liberty Hall

The **Nancy L. Donahue Theatre** is located in Liberty Hall, at 50 E. Merrimack St. in Lowell. The 279-seat theatre offers views of its proscenium stage from three tiered sides, without a bad seat in the house. From the hall's colorful interior, audiences are treated to intimate theatre with world-class production values.

In 2012, the theatre underwent an extensive renovation; audiences now enjoy brand new, wider seats offering more leg room, as well as new carpets, paint, and lighting. The lobby and box office were also renovated to provide a better patron experience.

MRT'S MISSION

"To advance the cause of human understanding by creating theatrical productions at the highest level of artistic excellence and making them affordable to the broadest possible community."

Consistent with its mission, MRT is dedicated to:

- Developing and presenting new plays that **address contemporary issues and reflect the community's diverse heritage** with a broad range of topics and styles
- Ensuring the most expansive reach and **deepest involvement of the community** by subsidizing ticket costs and offering a variety of outreach programs
- Creating a **collaborative environment for artists and staff** in order to **encourage artistic growth and excellence**
- Developing **young, diverse audiences** through its educational programs.

MRT is a member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) and employs members of the Actors' Equity Association, the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, and the United Scenic Artists. A recipient of the New England Theatre Award for Excellence, its productions have also received awards from the Independent Reviewers of New England, The Elliot Norton Awards, the Boston Drama Critics Awards, and more. Since 1979, MRT has served over one million theatergoers with 236 productions, including 21 world premieres and 32 regional premieres.

MRT produces seven plays each year from September through May. Each production rehearses for three and a half weeks, followed by a four-week run of 28 performances in the Nancy L. Donahue Theatre.

LEADERSHIP

CHARLES TOWERS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Charles has served as MRT's Artistic Director since 2001. He previously served in the same capacity at Portland Stage Company (1977-1981) and Virginia Stage Company (1983-1991) and has been a guest director at theatres across the country. **London:** *Nixon's Nixon* (Russell Lees) West End premiere. **New York:** *Secret Order* (Bob Clyman) off-Broadway at 59E59 Theaters. **World Premieres:** *Beat Generation* (Jack Kerouac, staged reading), *The Exceptionals* (Bob Clyman) and *The Last Days of Mickey & Jean* (Richard Dresser) at MRT; *Vernon Early* (Horton Foote) at Alabama Shakespeare Festival; *The Dead-Eye Boy* (Angus MacLachlan) at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. **American Premieres:** *My Mother Said I Never Should* (Charlotte Keatley) at Huntington Theatre Company; *The Beastly Beatitudes of Balthazar B* (J. P. Donleavy) at Virginia Stage Company. **Regional:** Notable productions at MRT include *Stella and Lou*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Ghost-Writer*, *Four Places*, *The Seafarer*, *A Delicate Balance*, *Secret Order*, *Dinah Was*, *Augusta*, *The Homecoming*, *The Price*, *Rounding Third*, *Boston Marriage*, *The Drawer Boy*, *Gun-Shy*, and *Three Days of Rain*. Other regional work includes productions of Beckett, Pinter, Mamet, Williams, and Shakespeare at such theatres as The Old Globe, Alley Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Huntington Theatre Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Dallas Theater Center, and Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. **Opera:** Benjamin Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* at Virginia Opera Company. Mr. Towers has served on the Board of Directors of Theatre Communications Group (TCG) and the National Endowment for the Arts' Theatre Advisory Panel.



ELIZABETH KEGLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Elizabeth joined MRT as Executive Director in 2013. She previously served as Managing Director of Kitchen Dog Theater in Dallas, TX. Elizabeth received her MBA from Southern Methodist University's Cox School of Business and her Master of Arts in Arts Management from Meadows School of the Arts where she worked with The Dallas Opera, Dallas Business Council for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C. She spent a semester at Bocconi University in Milan studying cultural policy and international arts funding systems. An AEA Stage Manager for 10 years, Elizabeth worked with nationally-renowned companies including SITI Company, Signature Theatre, Atlantic Theater Company, Public Theatre/New York Shakespeare Festival and celebrated artists such as Anne Bogart, Bill Irwin, Philip Glass and David Henry Hwang. Elizabeth lives in downtown Lowell with her tiny dog, Paco.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Tom Larkin
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Jack O'Connor

Barbara Savitt Pearson
John H. Pearson, Jr.
Brian J. Stafford, CPA
Nicola Tsongas

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Merrimack Repertory Theatre hosts a number of events during the run of its shows. Audience members can enhance their theatre experience with:



Post Show Discussions

Following every Thursday performance, stick around after the performance for a Q&A with members of the cast or creative team.



Opening Nights

Join the cast, MRT staff, and other theatre lovers at the post-show champagne and dessert reception to celebrate the opening of each production.



Cookie Matinees

Join us for complimentary cookies and coffee in the lobby before the Wednesday Matinee performance. Courtesy of Brew'd Awakening Coffeehaus.



Ladies Nights

Enjoy a pre-show reception with wine and sweet treats, as well as the Post-Show Discussion.





HISTORY

THE LITTLE THEATRE THAT BELIEVED IT COULD



(Left to Right) Jack O'Connor, Niki Tsongas, Nancy L. Donahue, and David Kent at the 1992 Lobby Dedication.

If you were a Lowellian in the late 1970's, you were witness to formation of a National Historical Park, a wave of immigration from South Asia, and the establishment of the region's first—and to this day, only—professional theatre. For \$6.50, you could buy a ticket to top-notch live theatre from a company dedicated, from day one, to hiring the best professional actors, designers, directors, and stage managers.

The early years were funded on a shoestring and a prayer, but the company's unflagging commitment to contemporary, relevant work of the highest artistic quality kept it going, season after season. Today, **MRT remains a professional, Equity, non-profit company committed to bringing great contemporary theatre to the city of Lowell.** It is one of New England's nine LORT members. With an over \$2,000,000 annual operating budget and nearly 4,000 subscribers, the "little theatre that believed it could" has proved not only that it could, but that it did and will continue to for years to come.

LOWELL'S THEATER

When Merrimack Repertory Theatre opened its doors in 1979, the city of Lowell was in the early stages of an economic revival that would help it become the vibrant cultural center it is today. The Lowell National Historical Park had opened the year before with the mission of preserving the city's industrial past, and within the next twenty years the city

would welcome a host of new cultural institutions to its streets: the American Textile History and New England Quilt Museums, the Lowell Folk Festival, the Lowell and Brush Art Galleries, Angkor Dance troupe, minor league baseball and hockey teams; and even more art and performance spaces would arrive with the new millennium. An ever-evolving city, its motto rings true: "Art is the Handmaid of Human Good."

Set on the banks of the Merrimack River, the city's life has been perpetually intertwined with its waters. Though the first English settlers arrived in 1635, it was the 1800's that forged its true character. The recently-dug Pawtucket Canal through rural "East Chelmsford" channeled water to facilitate transportation and industry. The first water-powered cotton machinery appeared in 1801, with fully operational mills and factories following; in 1826, the town was officially incorporated, named after industrial pioneer Francis Cabot Lowell.



Audience gathers near Shattuck Street for "Lowell Summer Theatre," 1980.



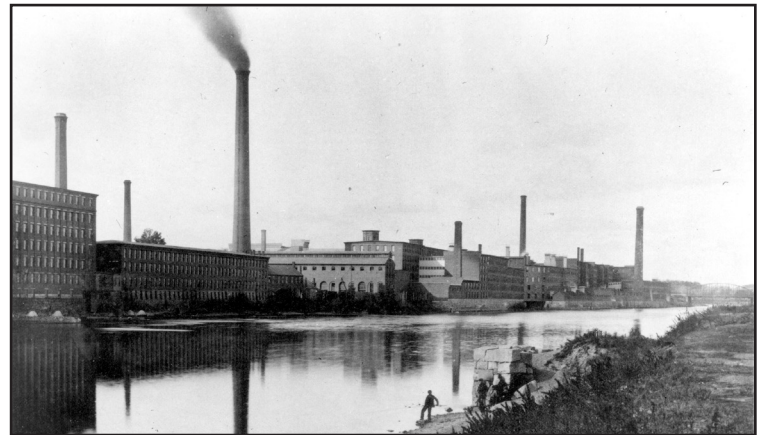
Snow, 2012 (Lei Han) - <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/legalcode>

left their farm homes and went to live in the mills' boardinghouses. The labor movement found early footing in Lowell with an 1834 strike led by the mill girls, followed by more fights for fair treatment of the city's workers, including the Ten Hour Movement of the 1840's. Most early workers were of English heritage, but as the country's demographics began to shift, so did Lowell's: wave after wave of immigrants earned a living in Lowell's red brick buildings: the Irish, Eastern European Jews, French Canadians, Armenians, Portuguese, the Polish and the Greeks.

The legacy has continued: Vietnamese arrivals in 1975 made their home here, as did Cambodians in 1979, the year of MRT's first season. Though manufacturing began its decline in the late 1920's, Lowell has survived, and flourished. **Over 90% of its downtown mill space is now rehabilitated for new use**, and art galleries, performance spaces, restaurants, businesses and housing fill the long brick corridors. Lowell is a diverse city, its rich ethnic tapestry enhancing its arts scene. Still a destination for immigrants and refugees from around the world, it boasts the second largest Cambodian population in the U.S. **Lowell is committed to letting creativity and art drive its business and its future**, providing resources for artists and an environment where creative work can thrive. **Merrimack Repertory Theatre is the only professional theatre in the Merrimack Valley**, and it finds itself right at home in Lowell; like the company's namesake river, powering the city, and nurturing the citizens that are its heart.

The population boom was astounding: in the year of its incorporation, the Town of Lowell had 2,500 residents. Ten years later that number had grown over six times, to 17,663. Just the second incorporated city in Massachusetts, its population continued to skyrocket for nearly a century, with over 112,000 people living in Mill City, as it was known, by 1920. Cotton and other textiles were Lowell's primary output, but its workers also produced glass, gunpowder, shoes, and more. Textile production was the way of life for the people of Lowell. Ten mill complexes sat on nearly six miles of canals, where thousands upon thousands of workers packed the mills, averaging 73-hour work weeks.

While the river and its mills drove the city's rise, **Lowell's heart has always been its people**. Desperate for a larger workforce, the textile companies offered meals, housing, churches, and libraries to draw workers; many were "mill girls" who



Lowell, ca. 1910. Courtesy of Lowell National Historical Park.



Lowell, ca. 1910. Courtesy of Lowell National Historical Park.

MRT TIMELINE

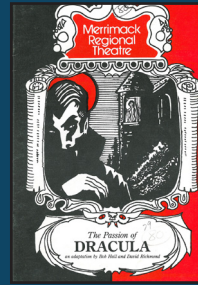
1979

MRT founders John R. Briggs, Mark Kaufman, and Barbara and Al Abrahamian meet at a summer stock theatre in Salem, NH and for the "Committee for Legitimate Theatre in Lowell." Nancy L. Donahue becomes the first Board President.



1979

Opens first production: Bob Hall and David Richmond's *The Passion of Dracula*. The company is named "Merrimack Regional Theatre" and housed in Mahoney Hall at the University of Lowell. Without heat in the theatre, patrons keep warm around trash barrel fires outside.



1980

Presents free summer theatre on Mack Plaza. A passing storm drenches props, and an attempt to remedy the situation with a hair dryer causes a power outage.



1983

Moves to its current home at Liberty Hall (now called the Nancy L. Donahue Theatre), changing its name to "Merrimack Repertory Theatre."



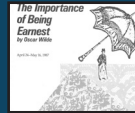
1986

Stages its first world premiere: Jack Neary's *First Night*.



1987

Wins its first Boston Drama Critics Award for *The Importance of Being Earnest*.



1997

Opens children's summer theatre program, now called "MRT Young Company."



1993

Premiers John Lipsky's *The Survivor: A Cambodian Odyssey*.

Launches "Partners in Education" program, offering free and subsidized tickets for middle and high school students, with a donation from Robert M. Ansin.



Season Tagline: "Once upon a time there was a little theatre that believed it could... and they did."

2004

On MRT's 25th anniversary, Mayor Rita Mercier presents the theatre a key to the city of Lowell.



2001

Charles Towers hired as Artistic Director.

MRT establishes partnership with local playwright Richard Dresser.



2008

Bob Clyman's *Secret Order* becomes the first MRT production to move to New York, at Off-Broadway's 59E59 Theatres.



2013

Elizabeth Kegley hired as Executive Director.

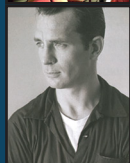


2012

Completes major renovation of its performance, seating, and lobby space.



Presents world premiere staged reading of *Beat Generation*, the only play by Lowell native Jack Kerouac. The production garners attention from *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times*, and NPR.



2014

Presents *Year Zero*, Michael Golumco's acclaimed Cambodian-American themed play.



PRODUCTION HISTORY

*World Premier
+Regional Premier

2013-14

God of Carnage by Yasmina Reza
Directed by Kyle Fabel
Mrs. Mannerly by Jeffery Hatcher
Directed by Mark Shanahan
Stella and Lou by Bruce Graham
Directed by Charles Towers
The Devil's Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith by Angelo Parra
Direction, Concept, and Musical Staging by Joe Brancato
+*Equally Divided* by Ronald Harwood
Directed by Charles Towers
Talley's Folly by Lanford Wilson
Directed by Kyle Fabel
The Complete History of Comedy (abridged) by Reed Martin and Austin Tichenor
Directed by Reed Martin and Austin Tichenor

2012-13

**Homestead Crossing* by William Donnelly
Directed by Kyle Fabel
**Beat Generation* (Staged Reading) by Jack Kerouac
Directed by Charles Towers
Memory House by Kathleen Tolan
Directed by Melia Bensussen
+*Half 'n Half 'n Half* by John Kolvenbach
Directed by Kyle Fabel
Shakespeare's Will by Vern Thiessen
Directed by Miles Potter
Red by John Logan
Directed by Charles Towers
Proof by David Auburn
Directed by Christian Parker
Glengarry Glen Ross by David Mamet
Directed by Charles Towers

2011-12

The Persian Quarter by Kathleen Cahill
Directed by Kyle Fabel
This Verse Business by A.M. Dolan
Directed by Gus Kaikkonen
**The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged)* by Reed Martin & Austin Tichenor
Directed by Reed Martin and Austin Tichenor
The Voice of the Turtle by John Van Druten
Directed by Carl Forsman
+*Daddy Long Legs* by Paul Gordon & John Caird
Directed by John Caird
+*Mrs. Whitney* by John Kolvenbach
Directed by Kyle Fabel
+*Ghost-Writer* by Michael Hollinger
Directed by John Kolvenbach

2010-11

**The Complete World of Sports (abridged)* by Reed Martin and Austin Tichenor
Directed by Reed Martin & Austin Tichenor
Four Places by Joel Drake Johnson
Directed by Charles Towers
+*Beasley's Christmas Party* by C.W. Munger
Directed by Carl Forsman
Tryst by Karoline Leach
Directed by Joe Brancato
**The Exceptionals* by Bob Clyman
Directed by Charles Towers
+*Two Jews Walk into A War...* by Seth Rozin
Directed by Melia Bensussen
+*A Picasso* by Jeffrey Hatcher
Directed by Charles Towers

2009-10

**Flings & Eros* by The Flying Karamazov Brothers
Directed by Paul Magid
The Seafarer by Conor McPherson
Directed by Charles Towers
+*Heroes* by Gerald Sibleyras, adapted by Tom Stoppard
Directed by Carl Forsman
Fabuloso by John Kolvenbach
Directed by Kyle Fabel
+*Black Pearl Sings!* by Frank Higgins
Directed by Benny Ambush
**The Last Days of Mickey & Jean* by Richard Dresser
Directed by Charles Towers
+*The Blonde, the Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead* by Robert Hewett
Directed by Melia Bensussen

2008-09

The Fantasticks by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt
Directed by Jonathan Silverstein and John Bell

Skylight by David Hare
Directed by Charles Towers
+*A View of the Harbor* by Richard Dresser
Directed by Charles Towers
+*Tranced* by Bob Clyman
Directed by Kyle Fabel
Bad Dates by Theresa Rebeck
Directed by Adrianna Krstansky
A Moon for the Misbegotten by Eugene O'Neill
Directed by Edward Morgan

2007-08

+*The Pursuit of Happiness* by Richard Dresser
Directed by Charles Towers
**Tunney/Shakespeare in Six Rounds* by David E. Lane
Secret Order by Bob Clyman
Directed by Charles Towers
2 Pianos 4 Hands by Ted Dykstra and Richard Greenblatt
Directed by Richard Greenblatt
+*The Missionary Position* by Keith Reddin
Directed by Tracy Brigden
A Delicate Balance by Edward Albee
Directed by Charles Towers
**The Four of Us* by Itamar Moses
Directed by Kyle Fabel

2006-07

+*Augusta* by Richard Dresser
Directed by Charles Towers
Aunt Dan & Lemon by Wallace Shawn
Directed by Melia Bensussen
Completely Hollywood (abridged) by Reed Martin, Austin Tichenor
Directed by the Reduced Shakespeare Company
Trying by Joanna McClelland Glass
Directed by Kyle Fabel
Dinah Was by Oliver Goldstick
Directed by Charles Towers
Syncopation by Allan Knee
Directed by Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill
+*Secret Order* by Bob Clyman
Directed by Charles Towers

2005-06

The Breadwinner by W. Somerset Maugham
Directed by Carl Forsman
**The Art of Sacrifice* by Anthony Clarvoe
Directed by Charles Towers
Squeeze Box by Ann Randolph
Directed by Alan Bailey
+*Intimate Apparel* by Lynn Nottage
Directed by Jane Page
+*Auntie and Me* by Morris Panych
Directed by Munson Hicks
+*Real Hush Hush* by John Corwin
Directed by Charles Towers

2004-05

The Complete History of America (abridged) by Adam Long, Reed Martin, and Austin Tichenor
Directed by the Reduced Shakespeare Company
The Price by Arthur Miller
Directed by Charles Towers
**The Kreutzer Sonata* by Leo Tolstoy, adapted by Larry Pine
Directed by Larry Pine
+*Quartet* by Ronald Harwood
Directed by Gavin Cameron-Webb
+*Constant Star* by Tazewell Thompson
Directed by Tazewell Thompson
The Homecoming by Harold Pinter
Directed by Charles Towers
Pouring the Sun (special event) by Jay O'Callahan
Directed by Jay O'Callahan

2003-04

Three Songs by Craig Warner
Directed by Michael Canavan
+*Boy Gets Girl* by Rebecca Gilman
Directed by Charles Towers
+*Looking Over the President's Shoulder* by James Still
Directed by Seret Scott
+*An Infinite Ache* by Jon Marans
Directed by Greg Leaming
Boston Marriage by David Mamet
Directed by Charles Towers
+*Something in the Air* by Richard Dresser
Directed by Melia Bensussen
+*Rounding Third* by Richard Dresser
Directed by Charles Towers

2002-03**Fallen* by Craig Warner

Directed by Charles Towers

The Woman in Black by Stephen Malatratt

Directed by Charles Towers

Sanders Family Christmas by Connie Ray and Alan Bailey

Directed by Alan Bailey

Old Wicked Songs by Jon Marans

Directed by Martin Platt

Women Who Steal by Carter W. Lewis

Directed by Martha Banta

The Drawer Boy by Michael Healey

Directed by Charles Towers

The Pavilion by Craig Wright

Directed by Brendon Fox

2001-02*Cookin' at the Cookery* by Marion J. Caffey

Directed by Marion J. Caffey

+Three Days of Rain by Richard Greenburg

Directed by Charles Towers

+Sanders Family Christmas by Connie Ray and Alan Bailey

Directed by Alan Bailey

**Short Haired Grace* by Bill Bruehl

Directed by Charles Towers

The Bible: The Complete Word of God (abridged) by Long, Martin & Tichenor

Directed by Reed Martin

The Weir by Conor McPherson

Directed by Burke Walker

Gun-Shy by Richard Dresser

Directed by Charles Towers

2000-01*Last of the Red Hot Lovers* by Neil Simon

Directed by David Zoffoli

A Walk in the Woods by Lee Blessing

Directed by Alex Dmitriev

The Founder of the Feast by David G. Kent

Directed by David G. Kent

From the Mississippi Delta by Dr. Endesha Ida Mae Holland

Directed by Kaia Calhoun

King of the Moon, Over the Tavern Pt II by Tom Dudzick

Directed by Steve Stettler

Visiting Mr. Green by Jeff Baron

Directed by Danny Gidron

ART by Yasmina Reza

Directed by David G. Kent

1999-2000*Picasso at the Lapin Agile* by Steve Martin

Directed by David Zoffoli

Awake and Sing by Clifford Odets

Directed by David G. Kent

The Rainmaker by N. Richard Nash

Directed by Tom Markus

Cloud Tectonics by José Rivera

Directed by David G. Kent

Avenue X by Ray Leslee & Jon Jiler

Directed by John Ruocco

The Front Page by Ben Hecht & Charles MacArthur

Directed by Russel Treyz

Defying Gravity by Jane Anderson

Directed by David Zoffoli

1998-99*+Don't Dress for Dinner* by Marc Camoletti, adapted by Robin Hawdon

Directed by David Zoffoli

Racing Demon by David Hare

Directed by David G. Kent

The Boys Next Door by Tom Griffin

Directed by Danny Peak

+Full Gallop by Mark Hampton & Mary Louise Wilson

Directed by David Zoffoli

Twelve Angry Men by Reginald Rose

Directed by David G. Kent

K2 by Patrick Meyers

Directed by Robert Walsh

A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare

Directed by Russel Treyz

1997-98*Laughter on the 23rd Floor* by Neil Simon

Directed by David Zoffoli

Long Day's Journey Into Night by Eugene O'Neill

Directed by David G. Kent

Shirley Valentine by Willy Russell

Directed by David Zoffoli

Nixon's Nixon by Russell Lees

Directed by David G. Kent

+Over the Tavern by Tom Dudzick

Directed by Geraldine LiBrandt

Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune by Terrence McNally

Directed by Vincent Murphy

Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grille by Lanie Robertson

Directed by Rob Ruggiero

1996-97*Italian American Reconciliation* by John Patrick Shanley

Directed by Eli Simon

'night Mother by Marsha Norman

Directed by David G. Kent

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Directed by David Zoffoli

Three Viewings by Jeffrey Hatcher

Directed by David G. Kent

Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grille by Lanie Robertson

Directed by Rob Ruggiero

Later Life by A.R. Gurney

Directed by Robert Walsh

Travels With My Aunt by Graham Green, adapted by Giles Havergal

Directed by David Zoffoli

1995-96*Light Up the Sky* by Moss Hart

Directed by David Zoffoli

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? by Edward Albee

Directed by David G. Kent

The Nightingale by Hans Christian Anderson

Directed by John T. Farrell

The Great Holiday Dinosaur Mystery by Dino Rock

Directed by Dino Rock

The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe by Jane Wagner

Directed by David Zoffoli

Speed-The-Plow by David Mamet

Directed by David G. Kent

All in the Timing by David Ives

Directed by David Zoffoli

Hamlet by William Shakespeare

Directed by David G. Kent and David Zoffoli

1994-95*The Illusion* by Tony Kushner

Directed by David G. Kent

**Open Window* by Brad Korbmesmeyer

Directed by David G. Kent

Holiday Memories by Truman Capote

Directed by Robert Walsh

All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten by Robert Fulghum

Directed by David Zoffoli

Oleanna by David Mamet

Directed by David G. Kent

Once Removed by Eduardo Machado

Directed by David Fox

Avner the Eccentric by Avner Eisenberg

Directed by Avner Eisenberg

1993-94*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* by Stephen Sondheim & Larry Gelbart

Directed by Daniel L. Schay

God's Country by Steven Dietz

Directed by David G. Kent

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Directed by Richard McElvain

The Convict's Return by Geoff Hoyle

Directed by Tony Taccone

Medea by Robinson Jeffers

Directed by Ted Kazanoff

**Maggie's Riff* by Jon Lipsky

Directed by David G. Kent

Jake's Women by Neil Simon

Directed by Paul Plum

1992-93*Rumors* by Neil Simon

Directed by David Fox

Our Town by Thornton Wilder

Directed by David G. Kent

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Directed by Richard McElvain

Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare

Directed by Steven McConnell

Talley's Folly by Lanford Wilson

Directed by Grey Johnson

**The Survivor: A Cambodian Odyssey* by Jon Lipsky

Directed by David G. Kent

Amadeus by Peter Shaffer

Directed by Ted Kazanoff

1991-92*A Moon for the Misbegotten* by Eugene O'Neill

Directed by Jonathan Epstein

Round and Round the Garden by Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Robert Walsh

**A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

Directed by Richard McElvain
Pack of Lies by Hugh Whitmore
 Directed by Steven McConnell
Uncle Vanya by Anton Chekov
 Directed by David G. Kent
**Living in Exile* by Jon Lipsky
 Directed by Jon Lipsky
Shirley Valentine by Willy Russell
 Directed by Richard Rose

1990-91
Ring Round the Moon by Jean Anouilh
 Directed by Richard Rose
The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams
 Directed by David G. Kent
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
 Directed by Richard McElvain
Filumena by Eduardo de Filippo
 Directed by Steven McConnell
Lovers by Brian Friel
 Directed by Nora Hussey
An Enemy of the People by Henrik Ibsen
 Directed by David G. Kent
Table Manners by Alan Ayckbourn
 Directed by Robert Walsh

1989-90
**The Anastasia Game* by Robert Wright & George Forrest
 Directed by Larry Carpenter
The Nerd by Larry Shue
 Directed by Michael Allosso
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
 Directed by Daniel L. Schay
Village Heroes by Jay O'Callahan
 Directed by Richard McElvain
Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett
 Directed by David G. Kent
The Mystery of Irma Vep by Charles Ludlam
 Directed by Patrick Swanson
The Immigrant by Mark Harelik
 Directed by Daniel L. Schay

1988-89
As You Like It by William Shakespeare
 Directed by Daniel L. Schay
Noises Off by Michael Flynn
 Directed by Michael Allosso
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
 Directed by Daniel L. Schay
Pill Hill Stories: Coming Home to Someplace New by Jay O'Callahan
 Directed by Richard McElvain
**To Forgive, Divine* by Jack Neary
 Directed by Daniel L. Schay
Betrayal by Harold Pinter
 Directed by David G. Kent
Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward
 Directed by Richard McElvain

1987-88
The Diary of Anne Frank by Frances Goodrich & Albert Hackett
 Directed by Daniel L. Schay
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
 Directed by Daniel L. Schay
Sizwe Bansi is Dead by Athol Fugard
 Directed by Tom Markus
Mrs. California by Doris Baizley
 Directed by Peter H. Clough
Angel Street by Patrick Hamilton
 Directed by Richard Rose
**Bertha, The Sewing Machine Girl* by Robert Emmett & Gordon Connell
 Directed by Maggie L. Harrer

1986-87
The Foreigner by Larry Shue
 Directed by Daniel L. Schay
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
 Directed by Daniel L. Schay
The Adding Machine by Elmer Rice
 Directed by Richard Rose
**First Night* by Jack Neary
 Directed by Joan Courtney Murray
Hostage by Brendan Behan
 Directed by Daniel L. Schay
The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde
 Directed by Richard Rose

1985-86
The School for Wives by Moliere
 Directed by Daniel L. Schay
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
 Directed by Daniel L. Schay
Educating Rita by Willy Russell
 Directed by Richard Rose
Requiem for a Heavyweight by Rod Serling

Directed by Daniel L. Schay
Crimes of the Heart by Beth Henley
 Directed by Judy Brahm
Something's Afoot by James McDonald, Robert Vos & Robert Gerlach
 Directed by Daniel L. Schay

1984-85
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
 Directed by Larry Carpenter
Monday After the Miracle by William Gibson
 Directed by Ted Davis
Stage Struck by Simon Gray
 Directed by Nora Hussey
A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry
 Directed by Daniel L. Schay
Strange Snow by Steve Metcalfe
 Directed by Grey Cattell Johnson
A Little Night Music by Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler
 Directed by Richard Rose

1983-84
Arms and the Man by George Bernard Shaw
 Directed by Daniel L. Schay
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
 Directed by Larry Carpenter
Mass Appeal by William C. Davis
 Directed by Terence Lamude
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
 Directed by Brian Smiar
Chapter Two by Neil Simon
 Directed by Gavin Cameron-Webb
Working by Studs Terkel, et al
 Directed by Richard Rose

1982-83
Da by Hugh Leonard
 Direction by Daniel L. Schay
The Seven Year Itch by George Axelrod
 Directed by Larry Carpenter
Talley's Folly by Lanford Wilson
 Directed by Josephine Abady
Veronica's Room by Ira Levin
 Directed by Robert W. Tolan
Tintypes by Mary Kyte
 Directed by Daniel L. Schay

1981-82
The Miracle Worker by William Gibson
 Directed by Mark Kaufman
The Lion in Winter by James Goldman
 Directed by Nora Hussey
Two for the Seesaw by William Gibson
 Directed by Ted Davis
The Price by Arthur Miller
 Directed by Mark Kaufman
The Gin Game by D.L. Coburn
 Directed by Arif Hasnain
The Mouse Trap by Agatha Christie
 Directed by Mark Kaufman

1980-81
Sleuth by Anthony Schaffer
 Directed by Mark Kaufman
Side by Side by Sondheim by Stephen Sondheim, et al
 Directed by Bick Goss
The Sea Horse by Edward J. Moore
 Directed by Stephen Zuckerman
The Gingerbread Lady by Neil Simon
 Directed by Sandra C. Hastie
Gentle Catapults by Bill C. Davis
 Directed by Mark Kaufman
On Golden Pond by Ernest Thompson
 Directed by Mark Kaufman

1979-80
The Passion of Dracula by Bob Hall & David Richmond
 Directed by Mark Kaufman
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
 Directed by D.J. Maloney
Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
 Directed by John R. Briggs
The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams
 Directed by Mark Kaufman
Same Time, Next Year by Bernard Slade
Vanities by Jack Heifner



EDUCATION

STUDENT MATINEES AND PARTNERS IN EDUCATION (PIE)



Students get an inside look at of The Devils Music, January 2014

Merrimack Repertory Theatre's Student Matinees provide many students with their first exposure to professional theatre. It gives them the opportunity to experience literature in a different way, often resulting in a deeper connection to the story and characters. Attending MRT meets many **MCAS** and **NHCF** requirements.

Student Matinees start at 10:30 am, allowing plenty of time for the students to be bussed to MRT and back to school again by the end of the day. Student Matinee tickets are \$8.50 each. Teachers are provided with copies of the script and our PlayGuides, which contain background material so that the play may be easily integrated into the classroom curriculum. Following each performance there is a Post-Show Discussion with members of the cast.

Each year, Merrimack Repertory Theatre receives a generous grant from the **Ronald M. Ansin Foundation** and other sponsors to provide student tickets to schools facing economic hardships. Through the **PIE program**, students attend a matinee at low or no cost. The program may even cover the cost of transportation.

MRT YOUNG COMPANY

MRT strives to serve the communities of the Merrimack Valley by bringing great theatre to its citizens; it also recognizes the critical value of reaching the youngest of those citizens to ensure the future of quality theatre in the region.

Every summer, MRT's subscription series packs up until fall, and **Young Company** takes the stage. The youth program engages local kids in the production and appreciation of the theatrical arts, including acting, movement, voice, and set and costume design.

Young Company serves students in grades 1-12. The youngest groups focus on theatrical play, mixing games in with their rehearsal time.

In an increasingly screen-focused world, creating theatre meets an important need for Young Company's kids: time for social, creative, face-to-face human interaction.



Performance, 2014



Rehearsal, 2013.



Rehearsal, 2011.

Most sessions are two weeks and focus on the entire process of creating theatre, from script writing through rehearsals, design, and performance. Having the kids generate their own material is a democratizing process that produces an age-appropriate and personally relevant show. Young Company also offers week-long specialty programs in **Improv** and **Musical Theatre**.

Young Company Director **Chandra Pieragostini** has been running the program since 1998. A professional actress and early childhood educator, she is representative of the people MRT seeks to work on the program: experienced theatre professionals with a natural love of teaching.

Kids begin a legacy of theatrical involvement at Young Company. Alumni will often intern, working with the younger generation. In turn, they become the region's theatre artists and audience for the decades ahead. Pieragostini understands what it means to the participants to perform at MRT: **"To be in a theatre, doing theatre... it's a piece of magic for the kids."**



Performance, 2013.



Young Company Director Chandra Pieragostini



MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Reviewers, journalists, bloggers, and others writing about MRT are welcome to request more information about the theatre. To request complimentary tickets for reviewers or to be added to our press list, email your name, affiliation, and contact information.

Contact

Kate Brandt
Director of Marketing & Public Relations
978-654-7595
kate.brandt@mrt.org

Reviewing

Reviewers and bloggers interested in publishing a review of a production are encouraged to attend Press Opening on the first Sunday evening of each production.

News

Read blog posts and press releases at mrt.org/news.

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