

REPORT ON EDUCATION PROGRAMS

July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020



School buses arrive for Project Discovery matinee (2019)

Overview

Since the inception of Project Discovery (created with a 1966 grant from the NEA), Trinity Repertory Company has introduced more than 1.4 million students to the experience of live theater. We provide some of the best formal education and training programs in the country to students in grades K-12 from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, creating not only the next generation of theater audiences, but also the next generation of artists and creative thinkers. Our offerings continue with lifelong learning programs for adults.

Trinity Rep's education programs serve thousands of students, teachers and adults from schools in RI, MA and CT each year. We provide access to professional live theater with student matinee performances of most of our mainstage productions and curricular, in-school programming. We also offer year-round, out-of-school programming in theater arts through the Young Actors Studio, a variety of supplemental school-to-career activities for students of all ages, classes for adults, and professional development for teachers.

Providing a diverse range of programming, Trinity Rep's education activities also include workshops and residencies in schools and community organizations, and school-to-career activities. TRAIN, the

Trinity Rep Active Imagination Network, uses drama as a therapeutic and educational tool for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other cognitive and physical disabilities.

Our 2019-2020 season was interrupted in March, of course, when the onset of the coronavirus pandemic shut theaters and schools. Unable to gather in person for performances and education programs, we shifted activity online and created new digital initiatives. This report will include live in-person events, July 2019 – March 2020, and digital programming March-June 2020.

During the 2019-2020 season, Trinity Rep served more than 14,000 students, adults and teachers from 190 schools, including digital programs serving nearly 2,200.

Education Program Participation Summary

ACTIVITY	OCCURENCES	ATTENDANCE
Project Discovery Student Matinees	20 performances of <i>Fade</i> , <i>A Christmas Carol</i> , <i>Radio Golf</i> , and <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>	9,124 students and teachers from 151 schools in RI, MA, and CT
Post-show discussions	All invited, following every performance	2,680 students participated in discussions with cast, crew and staff
Project Discovery Plus Workshops	14 workshops for <i>Radio Golf</i>	257 students from 8 schools
Teacher Previews	One for each main stage show	145 teachers
Young Actors Summer Institute	Classes for grades 5-12; 9am-4:30pm M-F for 5 weeks in summer 2019; with extension weeks for YASI Shakespeare, Junior, Players & Masters	166 students
Young Actors Studio School Year Programming	Courses for students in grades K-12 ranging from 6 weeks to full 2019-20 school year programming	141 students Sep-Mar, plus 181 participating online Mar-June

Off-Site Residencies and Workshops	Frequency and duration varied by location	566 students from Achievement First Mayoral Academy, Classical High School, Blackstone Academy, Boy Scouts of RI, Dighton-Rehoboth High School, Providence After School Alliance/Esek Hopkins Elementary School, McCabe School, Pawtucket YMCA, Providence Athenaeum, Rocky Hill School, Rogers High School, School One, St. Augustine Academy, Turnaround Arts/DelSesto Middle School
Creative Classrooms arts integration in elementary schools	throughout the school year	380 students at Asa Messer, Carl Lauro, Frank Spaziano, and Alan Shawn Feinstein at Broad St. Elementary Schools
School-to-career internships, lectures, backstage tours, outreach activities, career fairs, & workshops	throughout the year	Approximately 400 students from RI and MA
TRAIN: Trinity Rep Active Imagination Network	Intensive, long- and short-term drama therapy workshops throughout the school year; digital meetings beginning in March	716 students from Sargent Rehabilitation Center; Seven Hills RI; Bradley Hospital adolescent inpatient unit; Bradley Hospital Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities; Bradley School North, Portsmouth, New London Regional, South County and Providence
ArtsTalk	throughout the year	225 students and teachers from Toll Gate High School, RI Nursing Institute, North Smithfield High School and Beacon Charter School for the Arts
Adult classes	Variety of classes September-March, digital March-June	47 students in person, Sep-Mar; 15 in digital class, March-May; 17,000+ viewed digital programs

PROJECT DISCOVERY AND PD PLUS

Project Discovery and Project Discovery Plus encompass our curricular-based programs for grades K-12 that bring students and teachers to the theater, provide in-school workshops with teaching artists, and offer comprehensive study guides and post-show discussions with the actors and artists involved with the production.



A student audience waits for a Project Discovery matinee of A Christmas Carol (2019) to begin

Project Discovery

The 2019-20 season marked the 53rd season of Project Discovery, our pioneering educational outreach program, which has served more than 1.4 million children since its inception in 1966. Project Discovery activities center on the student matinees, which provide students and teachers with significantly reduced cost (and in cases of extreme need, complimentary) tickets to Trinity Rep mainstage productions. Every class attending a student matinee is offered the opportunity to enhance their theater learning experience with standards-based study guides for teachers that highlight themes of the play and suggest activities for integrating the play into the classroom experience. Students and teachers attending a Project Discovery matinee performance are also invited to stay after the production for an in-depth discussion and analysis of the play with actors, the artistic/production team, and staff members. Our final performance before the shutdown was a Project Discovery matinee of *A Tale of Two Cities*, with an audience of 29: all but one school had cancelled. Our actors noted a strong connection with the student audience.

Teachers, students, teaching artists, and parents all testify that Project Discovery and Project Discovery Plus increase students' interest in the subject, their class participation, and their comprehension of the text.

One teacher wrote about the overall program, "I like the variety offered through the Project Discovery program. I can bring my Intro to the Arts class as well as my more advanced theatre students. I appreciate that the quality is always very high."

About *A Christmas Carol*, others wrote, "This is our 10th year and we have never been disappointed." Others added, "We've been going for many years. It's always a highlight when the actors end the show shaking hands with the kids. The kids love the interaction." "The entire experience is wonderful! The first comment from several kids (and even a grandma chaperone) was that they LOVED that Fred was a girl and that she had a romantic relationship with a girl. Ours is a small town and acceptance of the LGBTQ community is slow to grow. Being at a professional show in a room full of people and seeing such a diverse and inclusive production that was loved by everyone was extremely affirming to many of our kids. Thank you all!"

After *Radio Golf*, teachers wrote: "I found all the performances of the actors were completely riveting, Broadway caliber. The issues August Wilson explores in this play resonate as strongly today. We were deeply moved and grateful to Trinity Rep for mounting this important work. The intimacy of the theater space truly added to the experience. Bravo , Bravo, Bravo. Superb. The resources released ahead of time (study guide, video guide) were really helpful. Students in my class are reading *Fences* and *The Piano Lesson*, so the materials from the theater to prime them for *Radio Golf* in the absence of having read it ahead of time were really helpful. We were grateful that a performance was added to accommodate our very large school," and "Project Discovery brings to life the plays we read in school, which is such a powerful tool of art. And as one of the actors said, it's about seeing, feeling, and understanding humanity and the human experience."

2019-20 Project Discovery Attendance

PLAY	# MATINEES	SCHOOLS	ATTENDANCE
<i>Fade</i> by Tanya Saracho	1	5 schools: JMW School for the Arts, Classical High School, Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, Rhode Island Nursing Academy, Providence Technical and Career Academy	270
<i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens, music by Richard Cumming	14	85 schools: Ahern Middle School, Asa Messer Elementary School, Barnstable High School, Barrington Middle School, Birchwood Middle School, Bird Middle School, Block Island School, Brennan Middle School, Brooklyn Middle School, Burrillville Middle School, Carol Lauro Elementary School, Carver Middle High School, Chariho Middle School, Clark Lane Middle School, Community Elementary School, Community for People, Community Solutions, Cranston West High School, Curvin-Mccabe School, D.L. Beckwith Middle School, Davisville Middle School, Dr. E.A. Ricci Middle School, East Providence High School, Edward S Rhodes Elementary, Father John V Doyle School, Feinstein Middle School of Coventry, Fogarty Memorial School, Foundations Academy, George J. Peters Elementary School, Griswold Middle School, Holliman School, Hope High School, Hugh Cole School, Immaculate Conception Catholic Regional School, Joshua Center Northeast, Kent Heights Elementary School, LaSalle Academy, Lillian Feinstein Elementary School, Sackett Street, Lincoln Central Elementary School, Lincoln Middle School, Meeting Street Grace School, Mercy High School, Millis Middle School, Miscoe Hill School, Myron J. Francis Elementary School, North Attleboro Middle School, North Smithfield Middle School, North Stonington Christian Academy, Norwich Free Academy, Oaklawn Elementary School, Orchard Farms Elementary School, Providence Autism School to Tomorrow Academy, Providence Country Day School, Putnam High School, Qualters Middle School, Quest Montessori School, Ragosta Homeschool, Rhode Island Transition Academy, Riverside Middle School, Rockwell Elementary School, Rutherford Homeschool, San Miguel Academy, Sanna Homeschool, Saylesville Elementary School, Somerset Middle School, South Coast Edu. Collaborative, St. Andrew's School, St. Augustine's School, St. Cecilia's School, St. Mary Academy-Bay View, St. Mary Sacred Heart School, St. Paul School, St. Teresa School, Steere Farm Elementary, Stevens Homeschool, Swansea Wood School, Teen Scene Homeschool Group, The Pennfield School, Thompson Middle School, Vincent J. Gallagher Middle School, Washington Oak School, Westport Junior-Senior High School, Whitman-Hanson Regional High School, Wickford Middle School, Winsor Elementary School, Winsor Hill Elementary School	7,982
<i>Radio Golf</i> by August Wilson	4	66 schools: Barrington Christian Academy, Beacon Charter School for the Arts, Bishop Feehan High School, Dartmouth High School, JMW School for the Arts, Joshua Center Northeast, Kent Heights Elementary School, LaSalle Academy, Lillian Feinstein Elementary School Sackett Street, Lincoln Central Elementary School, Lincoln Middle School, Lincoln School, Meeting Street	843

		Grace School, Mercy High School, Millis Middle School, Miscoe Hill School, Myron J. Francis Elementary School, North Attleboro Middle School, North Smithfield High School, North Smithfield Middle School, North Stonington Christian Academy, Norwich Free Academy, Oaklawn Elementary School, Orchard Farms Elementary School, Paul Cuffee Middle School, Providence Autism School to Tomorrow Academy, Providence Country Day School, Putnam High School, Qualters Middle School, Quest Montessori School, Ragosta Homeschool, Rhode Island Transition Academy, Riverside Middle School, Rockwell Elementary School, Rogers High School, Rutherford Homeschool, Saint Peter School, San Miguel Academy, Sanna Homeschool, Saylesville Elementary School, School One, Somerset Berkley Regional High School, Somerset Middle School, South Coast Edu. Collaborative, St. Andrew's School, St. Augustine's School, St. Cecilia's School, St. Mary Academy-Bay View, St. Mary Sacred Heart School, St. Paul School, St. Teresa School, Steere Farm Elementary, Stevens Homeschool, Swansea Wood School, Teen Scene Homeschool Group, The Met Regional Career and Training Center, The Pennfield School, Thompson Middle School, Vincent J. Gallagher Middle School, Washington Oak School, Westborough High School, Westport Junior-Senior High School, Wheeler School, Whitman-Hanson Regional High School, Wickford Middle School, Winsor Elementary School, Winsor Hill Elementary School	
<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> by Brian McEleney, adapted from Charles Dickens' novel	1	1 school: Mount St. Charles Academy	29
TOTALS	20 matinees	151 schools	9,124

Project Discovery Plus (PD Plus)

PD Plus, our most comprehensive in-school program, is based on the principles of our traditional Project Discovery program. Each season, one or two of our mainstage productions are selected to be our "education centerpiece". These plays, or the novels than inspired them, are often found on school reading lists, allowing us to address themes and ideas present in both classrooms and contemporary society. We offer a larger number of Project Discovery matinees, as well as free PD Plus workshops for all schools attending the show. During the 2019-2020 school year, our PD Plus play was August Wilson's *Radio Golf*. PD Plus engaged more than 1,700 students and teachers through four student matinee performances, post-show talkbacks and 14 in-school supporting workshops.

Eight schools hosted teaching artists, often members of the cast, for customized Project Discovery Plus workshops with classes, before and/or after students attended *Radio Golf*. Workshops explored the text, characters, Shakespeare's world, and got students up on their feet to perform and interpret scenes and offer their responses.

One teacher wrote: "I love how seriously the actors take students -- they're not just "kids" but real viewers. I think it elevated their watching experience and hopefully inspired them to want to see more live theater. My particular class (struggling readers, vs. some of the other "honors" or advanced audience members) particularly were wowed by the quality of the acting. To them, seeing people so talented so nearby, and so willing to talk about their craft, felt like a real privilege. They loved the humanity and accessibility of the actors."

# OF WORKSHOPS	# OF STUDENTS	SCHOOL
1	22	School One
2	16	The Met Regional Career and Technical Center
1	20	St. Peter School
2	50	Bishop Feehan High School
3	75	Rogers High School
1	17	Lincoln School
3	45	Beacon Charter School for the Arts
1	12	Paul Cuffee School

Studies prove that exposure to high-quality arts experiences enhance the intellectual and creative development of young people, and PD Plus is one of the most in-depth, comprehensive, quality arts learning programs in the region. Designed to help students improve a number of academic and social skills -- including reading, writing, conflict resolution, and leadership -- Project Discovery Plus provides opportunities for thousands of children every year who might not otherwise engage with theater due to economic, social, geographic, language, or other constraints.

After our governor mandated distance learning for public and private school students, teachers, students and families moved quickly to build online learning communities. Rhode Island's Department of Education maintained expectations and curricular standards for students learning at home, and we sought to continue our school-based programs during official distance-learning hours. We met students in Zoom sessions, continuing school residencies in an adapted form such as our weekly Zoom play readings and discussions with one high school's 20 drama students.

CREATIVE CLASSROOMS

The 2019-2020 season marked the sixth year of Creative Classrooms, our arts integration program for elementary school children. Arts integration pairs the content and skills from an artistic form with those of a core subject. Emphasis rests equally on the core subject and art form to allow accessible learning through multiple modalities. Teaching artists create arts-based workshops and residencies founded on Common Core standards and aligned with classroom curriculum. It is our goal to enhance the work of the teacher and assist the goals of the school. This year, we worked with 380 first, second- and third-grade students from Asa Messer, Carl Lauro, Frank Spaziano, and Alan Shawn Feinstein at Broad St. Elementary Schools, teaching theater along with Common Core curricular subjects.

After the March shift to remote learning, Creative Classrooms arts adjusted and continued with first-, second-, and third-graders. One class worked in small groups to write their own story and practice telling it. Checking in, our teaching artist asked what they've enjoyed about this work. One student said, "getting close to people in our group" -- kids who have been in their class all year but whom they didn't really know. Another girl responded "Yeah, we're like best friends now." Our teaching artist said, "It gives me hope to know that storytelling and theater can still build community, even through screens."

YOUNG ACTORS STUDIO (YAS) AND YOUNG ACTORS SUMMER INSTITUTE (YASI)

The Young Actors Studio and Young Actors Summer Institute (YASI) provide year-round out-of-school arts enrichment classes to students in grades K-12. After-school and Saturday classes during the school year range in length from six weeks to nine months, and focus on a wide range of activities, from basic acting skills to improvisation to the language of Shakespeare. The Summer Institute, which takes place for five weeks in July and August for students in grades 5-12, supplements acting classes with playwriting, musical theater, improvisation, Shakespeare, visual arts, stage combat and more. During the 2019-20 fiscal year, 307 students took part in in-person Young Actors Studio and YASI classes. 181 enrolled in digital classes, March-June.



2019 YASI Showcase highlight

Young Actors Studio

The Young Actors Studio provides in-depth, out-of-school classes from September-May each year. Classes are based on a continuum of learning, beginning with short-term introductory classes and continuing through year-round intermediate and advanced classes that focus on a wide range of theater-related topics. Introductory classes for 82 students K-12 took place in fall 2019 and winter 2020, and focused on the basics of playwriting, acting, improvisation, and scene study, as well as specialized topics.

Full school-year classes, which served an additional 59 students, included Theater Lab, a writing and performance ensemble for high school students; Theater Explosion, which focused on adaptation and acting techniques through the lens of musical theater, group scenes and monologues; and the Junior Ensemble, our advanced program for students in grades 5-7 emphasizing Shakespeare and improvisation.

During the shut-down, 181 students enrolled in digital classes, March-June, with a free pilot program and incremental adaptations. One high school parent wrote: "I wanted to tell you how enthusiastic my daughter was after your monologue workshop today! I haven't seen her so "alive" about anything like this since the whole shut-down! She couldn't say enough great things about the teacher. He made her and the others feel like he really cared, and created a safe space for them to experiment. It was a breath of fresh air to see her beaming so much!"



Acting company member Rachael Warren leads an exercise in Voice and Speech class (2019).

Students enjoyed the classes, in spite of the remote-from-home platform:

"Rachael did a really good job of choreographing the song so that it works with the Zoom format. The whole class was so much fun!"

"The teacher was so encouraging, we weren't afraid to fail or make mistakes. He taught us a lot with a sense of humor!"

"I liked the friendly atmosphere where I could feel comfortable sharing what I wanted. Everyone's creativity was inspiring for my own writing and the teacher was really nice."

"Danny's stories were amusing and inspiring. It's difficult to have a monologue class over Zoom, but Danny did a great job, and he always made us smile."

"The highlight of this class was the connections I made with the other students, through peer review and common ground."

"A highlight was being able to get up and move in the context of music, because I haven't been able to do that lately."

"I enjoyed realizing how I would stage a show, versus how others would stage it -- really fun and insightful."

"We did a play and my dog was in it."



Teaching artist Carla Martinez introduces a class on audition techniques.

2019-20 Young Actors Studio Enrollment

CLASS	CLASS SCHEDULE	# STUDENTS	GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION
K-4th grades	Fall/winter in person, and Spring digital	37 fall/winter, 129 spring	RI and MA
5 th -7 th grades	Fall/winter in person, and Spring digital	24 fall/winter, 41 spring	RI and MA
8 th -12 th grades	Fall/winter in person, and Spring digital	21 fall/winter, 11 spring	RI and MA
Junior Ensemble	September 2019-March 2020	14	RI and MA
Theater Explosion	September 2019-March 2020	11	RI
Theater Lab	September 2019-March 2020	10	RI and MA
Trinity Zoo	September 2019-May 2020	7	RI and MA
Theater Ambassadors	September 2019-March 2020	13	RI and MA
Trinity Technicians	September 2019-March 2020	4	RI and MA
Write Here, Write Now	Annual HS playwriting competition	94	RI and MA



2019 YASI showcase highlight

Young Actors Summer Institute (YASI)

The Young Actors Summer Institute (YASI) is the only summer theater program in New England for students to train at a Tony Award-winning theater with the best professional instructors from around the region. Budding theater artists learn from Trinity Rep's nationally renowned acting ensemble, resident artists, Brown/Trinity Rep MFA graduate students, and local working artists. Students customize their experience by choosing electives from playwriting, musical theater, and improvisation, to Shakespeare. This month-long program brings the fun, friends and energy of summer camp, while students take their skills to the next level with our exceptional curricula. YASI is a supportive, competition-free zone that culminates in two public performances on the Trinity Rep stage.

One of our most popular out-of-school programs, YASI and its companion programs YASI Shakes, YASI Junior, YASI Players and YASI Masters served 166 students during the summer of 2019. The core program ran for five weeks for students in grades 5-12. Young artists enrolled in dozens of courses taught by faculty from Trinity Rep's resident acting company, the Brown/Trinity MFA alumni and students and local artists. YASI culminated in final performances for all grade levels and a joint showcase featuring scenes, monologues, dances, and songs.



2019 YASI showcase highlight

YASI Shakes is a week-long extension for 10th-12th grade students who can't get enough Shakespeare. In summer 2019, 10 young actors created and performed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Prospect Park after just five days of intensive staging, continuing Trinity Rep's mission of making theater, and Shakespeare, accessible to all.



YASI Shakes Students perform A Midsummer Night's Dream in Providence's Prospect Park

YASI Masters is a week-long program for high school and college students seeking intensive training with experts in their fields. Last year, 12 students enrolled in as many as eight sessions: Audition Technique, Fake it Till You Make It, Speaking the Speech, Dressing the Stage, Finding the Balance, Classics, Stage Combat and Acting for the Camera.



Teaching artist Taavon Gamble leads a YASI Masters dance class.

YASI Jr. concentrates on our youngest students, rising 1st – 4th graders. 26 young actors participated in 2019-20.



YASI Jr. students gather on stage.

YASI Players is a group for 5th-9th grade students who put on a new, family-friendly play in just one week. 26 students performed *The Many Lives of Fancy Devereaux* by David Rabinow, twice in the Dowling Theater.



YASI showcase highlight

A 14-year-old YASI student wrote: "My education in theater adds so much to my life and allows me to positively influence the lives of those around me. After attending YASI, I became so much more confident and willing to express myself. That self-confidence encouraged the group experience of theater – teamwork and shared support."

Summer 2019 YASI Enrollment

CLASS	SCHEDULE	# STUDENTS	GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION
5 th -7 th grades	Range of classes for grades 5-12; 9am-4:30pm M-F for 5 weeks in summer 2019, extended day option 7:30am-6pm	27	RI, MA
8 th -9 th grades	Range of classes for grades 5-12; 9am-4:30pm M-F for 5 weeks in summer 2019, extended day option 7:30am-6pm	34	RI, MA
10 th -12 th grades	Range of classes for grades 5-12; 9am-4:30pm M-F for 5 weeks in summer 2019, extended day option 7:30am-6pm	31	RI, MA
YASI Shakes	8 th -12 th grade week: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	10	RI, MA
YASI Jr.	Range of classes for 1 st -4 th grade, 1 week	26	RI, MA
YASI Masters	Nine intensives for college & HS, 1 week	12	RI, MA
YASI Players	5 th -9 th grade week: <i>The Many Lives of Fancy Devereaux</i> by David Rabinow	26	RI, MA



2019 YASI showcase highlight

Adult classes: Trinity Rep is committed to lifelong learning. Classes for adults served 47 students last year. Taught by members of our resident acting company and artistic staff, courses included Introduction to Performance, Beginning Acting, Acting for Non-Actors, Improv, Scene Study and Acting for the Camera.



Scene partners rehearse in Introduction to Acting (2019)

During the pandemic, our online programs with adults have become lifelines for patrons over 65. "Quarantine with Curt" was a popular discussion group led by Curt Columbus, artistic director. Senior citizens mixed with teenage drama nerds for vibrant conversations and inspiration. One senior wrote, "The opportunity for dialogue, thought-provoking questions and "behind the scenes" delving into the authors and their characters left me wanting MORE! Thank you again for keeping theater alive in such a meaningful way." This class enrolled 15 students.

Essential to combating isolation among this vulnerable population, these digital lifelong learning initiatives will continue as Rhode Island re-opens. Nancy W. said, "This really helps me feel re-connected with Trinity Rep. I miss being able to be there, participating, in real time. Thank you for making this happen."

Non-enrolled digital programs, such as our weekly Facebook Live interactive sessions and our website's "The Show Goes On" page, reached more than 17,000 members of the community.

TRINITY REP ACTIVE IMAGINATION NETWORK (TRAIN)



The full company of TRAIN's Super takes a curtain call on stage at Trinity Rep, with director Jordan Butterfield (far right)

Founded in 2010, Trinity Rep Active Imagination Network (TRAIN) is a series of drama classes specially designed for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other cognitive, psychiatric and physical disabilities. In FY 2020, TRAIN served 716 students from Sargent Rehabilitation Center, Seven Hills RI, Bradley Hospital adolescent inpatient unit, Bradley Hospital Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, Bradley School/North, Portsmouth, New London Regional, South County and Providence. After the pandemic shut down our in-person sessions, several TRAIN programs continued virtually with partner organizations such as Bradley Hospital Adolescent and Children's Inpatient Units, Center for Autism & Developmental Disabilities and Sargent Rehabilitation Center.

Our program's curriculum is designed to instill pragmatic skills such as initiating and maintaining conversations, building long-term friendships, problem solving, and conflict resolution; enhance coping skills, such as goal setting and relaxation techniques; increase non-verbal skills, including reading facial expressions and body language, defining personal space, and learning eye contact; raise students' self-esteem by encouraging and rewarding autonomy, public speaking, and a willingness to take positive risks; and give teachers and therapists the skills necessary to incorporate the arts into their classes and sessions on a permanent basis. Through acting and improvisation, students learn to socialize, build self-confidence, and express themselves in a healthy, productive, and enjoyable way. According to the most recent studies, autism affects more than one in eighty children, and the number

of students affected by other behavioral and emotional disabilities that can be helped with drama therapy is almost immeasurable. TRAIN has garnered significant national interest, and we are developing it as a model program.

TRAIN's annual production in collaboration with Seven Hills RI was an original piece called *Super*, about a union of superheroes who are suddenly out of work. The show was performed in January at Bishop Hendricken High School in Warwick.



Out-of-work super-heroes met adventure in TRAIN's Super

Jonathan D'Amico of Seven Hills told us, "Seven Hills RI seeks to 'Define Dignity' for people with special healthcare needs. For the better part of a decade, our relationship with TRAIN has enhanced our programming as lessons learned from arts instruction have transcended the stage, impacting the empowerment of participants. I believe our partnership to be one in which both organizations win, to the extent that the identities of gardener and rose are indistinguishable."

ARTS TALK

Arts Talk is an arts integration professional development program for Rhode Island high school educators in all subject areas. Teams of teachers attend professional development and planning sessions with Trinity Repertory Company, the RISD Museum, and the Music School of the RI Philharmonic, and then receive funds to carry out an arts-integrated project in their classroom. In addition to the opportunity to attend a performance, we offer in-school workshops tailored to meet

the needs of each individual class, ranging from the fundamentals of how to read, analyze and create dramatic texts to the role of theater in culture and environment. 120 students from Toll Gate High School and RI Nursing Institute participated in Arts Talk workshops on fine arts (RINI) and *The Crucible* (Toll Gate), and 105 students from North Smithfield High School and Beacon Charter School for the Arts participated by seeing *Radio Golf*.

SCHOOL-TO-CAREER ACTIVITIES

We offer a wide range of opportunities for students interested in working in the backstage, production, administrative, and technical aspects of theater. Offerings include backstage tours, a variety of workshops, career fairs, job shadows, internships, Theater Ambassadors and Trinity Technicians. During the 2019-20 school year, we reached approximately 400 students through our school-to-career activities.

Theater Ambassadors

Our Theater Ambassadors program brings together talented, motivated teens in grades 9-12 who are united by a shared interest in theater. These students meet at Trinity Rep two or three times each month throughout the school year, seeing each mainstage production and participating in discussions with theater staff. There is no charge to participate, and no prior theater experience is required. However, applicants must have a strong interest in theater, and have demonstrated maturity and eagerness to learn. This year, they were offered many more opportunities to see plays, through Brown's Department of Theater Arts and Performance Studies and the Brown/Trinity MFA Programs. During the 2019-2020 school year, 13 students participated in the program, chosen through a competitive application process that included a personal essay and a statement of commitment.

Theater Ambassadors:

- Attend rehearsals and/or performances of all Trinity Rep mainstage productions.
- Attend pre-show workshops with education staff members, actors, directors, and designers. These workshops explored topics in acting using the themes and text of the play.
- Assist Trinity Rep staff in at least one event held at the theater.
- Attend performances of one another's school plays or other performances available in the community.
- Recruit at least one student for Trinity Rep's Young Actor Studio classes or Summer Institute, or bring their class to attend a Project Discovery matinee.
- Invite students from their schools and communities to participate in a post-show panel about topics in the play. Last year, Ambassadors coordinated, facilitated and participated in these panels for six productions.

Through these activities, Ambassadors are introduced to the full range of skills essential to professional theater. Interaction between students from different communities and between students and theater professionals helps them develop a richer understanding of the productions they attend and the plays they read. Students leave the program with enhanced skills as young theater artists and enthusiastic spokespeople for the performing arts in their own schools and communities.

Trinity Technicians

Trinity Technicians is for students in grades 7-12 interested in working backstage. During the 2019-20 year, four students from Rhode Island and Massachusetts observed technical rehearsals, met with designers and production crew members, and attended every Trinity Rep mainstage production.



Props director Michael Getz leads a session on prop making.

"WRITE HERE! WRITE NOW!"

Write Here! Write Now! is a one-act playwriting contest for high school students, launched in 2012. Pairing Trinity Rep's commitments to education and to new play development, WHWN seeks submissions from young people throughout the region. Scripts are read and evaluated by our staff, and four winners are selected for full production, including rehearsal with a dramaturg, director and professional actors. In its ninth season, WHWN received nearly 100 submissions. Winning playwrights work on play development with Trinity Rep staff before having their play read by professionally-trained actors for an audience of the winners' friends and family. This year, the pandemic precluded many of these in-person elements, including the performance. Our staff pivoted to provide the winning playwrights online dramaturgy settings, and student actors from the Brown/Trinity MFA program performed the winning pieces on the Zoom platform.

One of the student playwrights wrote, "I entered Trinity's *Write Here Write Now* playwriting contest and was chosen as a winner, just as COVID-19 caused everything to halt. Trinity went the extra mile to

film the winning scripts, using the talents of Brown/Trinity MFA actors. Watching my short play come to life was the best thing that could've happened to me. It was a boost in confidence to continue my journey in theater education, but also a very surreal and emotional moment. Coming from my background, there wasn't a lot I expected. Something as intimate as my own style of writing was portrayed in such a beautiful way, and made every dark moment in my life seem like nothing more than a bump in the road. Trinity Rep is where I found my love for writing. I discovered a side of myself I'd never seen before, confident and genuinely happy with life. I won't let my circumstances represent my whole identity, on this journey of infinite possibilities."

OUTREACH AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS

During the 2019-2020 season, Trinity Rep worked with 14 schools and organizations throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts, to offer special programs to more than 566 children. These initiatives ranged in length from one-time programs to multi-month residencies. Highlights include:

- Trinity Rep was the arts partner at **Del Sesto Middle School** in Providence through **TurnAround Arts**, leading twenty workshops with students and teachers in their STEAM program.
- We returned to Esek Hopkins Middle School in the fall and winter, through the **Providence After School Alliance (PASA)**, serving 40 students before the shutdown.
- Our longterm residency at **Rocky Hill School** in East Greenwich included the fall musical *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (30-35 students) and winter play *She Kills Monsters* (20 students). After the shutdown, we continued with the drama club online, reading and discussing plays.
- At **Rogers High School** in Newport, we worked with 12 students in the Alternative Learning Program for 8 weeks in an improv residency.
- At **Dighton-Rehoboth High School**, two workshops with the advanced theater program served 50 students.
- Playwriting residencies took place at **School One** (fifteen students) and **Blackstone Academy** (two classes, 24 students).
- **St. Augustine Academy and McCabe School** hosted workshops for *A Christmas Carol*, serving nearly 50 students.
- During the pandemic, Shakespeare in the Stacks couldn't meet at its home, the **Providence Athenaeum**, so our class for grades 3-6 met online to create and share a performance of *Julius Caesar* digitally. Nine students enrolled.
- At **Classical High School**, Trinity Rep teaching artists returned to work with three classes, about 85 students, for a 15-workshop fall residency on a new adaptation and production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



Classical High School 2019 residency participants

CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Education is at the heart of all of the artistic work we do at Trinity Repertory Company, as it has been for more than 50 years. Since receiving the first major grant to support Project Discovery from the National Endowment for the Arts and the US Department of Education in 1966, the theater has served as an invaluable and unique arts education resource to over 1.4 million students and teachers, offering a singular experience that marries in-depth, multi-faceted learning programs with the unique experience of enjoying some of the best live professional theater in the country. Grants and contributions help Trinity Rep ensure that programs remain financially accessible to schools, teachers, and students.

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On behalf of our students, teachers, and community, thank you for supporting this important work. For more information about Trinity Rep's arts education programs, and how you can help them thrive and grow, please contact Jen Canole, Director of Development at (401) 453-9234 or jcanole@trinityrep.com, or visit www.TrinityRep.com.