



# juniorplayers



Scene from *Comedy of Errors*, July 2014

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### From the Executive Director:

It's hard to believe it's almost the end of the year! For Junior Players, that means we are getting ready to celebrate our 60th anniversary in 2015! We are kicking it off in a big way with a production of the Tony-award winning musical, *In the Heights*, directed by Bruce R. Coleman and performed in the beautiful City Performance Hall in the Arts District, January 8-11, 2015! We were thrilled with the number of talented students who auditioned and the 23 who have dedicated their time and talents to this production are outstanding. As in our Shakespeare program, they represent a broad variety of schools and neighborhoods. We are partnering with Theatre Three for this production and they are helping us with the box office so call or order online soon to join us for this momentous event in the life of Junior Players! You can also help us Reach the Heights as we try to raise \$10,000 for this production! Visit our information on [www.crowdrise.com](http://www.crowdrise.com) or simply contribute through our Donate Now button on our website.

Also in celebration of our 60th anniversary, our long-time Board member and photographer DiAnn L'Roy created a special 2015 calendar with 10 years of Shakespeare production photos (2005-2014) as well as photos from our other events and programs. They are available for purchase on our website or please call our office to order yours now.

This past summer, our Shakespeare production of *Comedy of Errors* directed by Valerie Hauss-Smith was one of the best we have ever produced. It received rave reviews and had enthusiastic audiences. We were able to conduct 60 free summer theater camps and we currently have over 200 weekly after-school programs going on in rec centers, schools and youth organizations. We will bring back our Bollywood *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in late July 2015, so be sure and look for that if you missed it before in 2008.

In 2015 we are hoping to continue our teen musical production during the school year and also produce a full production of one of our PUP fest plays. We know that your contributions are being stretched too, but we would like to ask you to please consider a year-end contribution to Junior Players so that we are able to continue to offer our free after-school and summer theater and arts programs in the community. You may directly donate through our website at [www.juniorplayers.org](http://www.juniorplayers.org).

As always, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with Junior Players - our Board of Directors, our staff, and our teaching artists, volunteers and, of course, all of our sponsors and supporters who help us provide free arts education programs for over 6,000 youth each year. With your help, we will continue to transform thousands of lives through the arts. Please don't forget to check out our website ([www.juniorplayers.org](http://www.juniorplayers.org)) and like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, or check us out on Instagram for updates on performances and special events, as well as programs!

Kirsten Brandt James  
Executive Director



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Cast members of *In the Heights* perform at the 2014 Future Stars Celebration

## 2014 Future Stars Galaxy of Sponsors



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# Future Stars of Broadway 2014

On Saturday, November 8, Junior Players hosted the 2014 Future Stars of Broadway Celebration at the Frontiers of Flight Museum. It was an evening of wonderful food, music, an exciting auction and entertainment provided by some of our young stars. Over \$60,000 was raised for our free programs!

Junior Players was very excited to have local actor **Joe Nemmers** act as live auctioneer. This year's auction included vacation packages, a fully stocked wine refrigerator, and walk on roles in two Junior Players' productions. There were also restaurant gift certificates, as well as tickets to arts and entertainment events all over the Dallas-Ft Worth area!

No Future Stars Celebration would be complete without a performance from some of our youngsters. This year the attendees were treated to a performance by the cast of our upcoming production of *In the Heights*. Mark your calendars now for next year's Future Stars Celebration: November 7, 2015!

Junior Players, in cooperation with Theatre Three,  
Proudly Presents...



Music and Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda  
Book by Quiara Alegria Hudes  
Conceived by Lin-Manuel Miranda  
Directed by Bruce R. Coleman

**January 8-11, 2015**

Dallas City Performance Hall  
2520 Flora Street, Dallas, TX 75201

Thursday at 7:30pm  
Friday and Saturday at 8:00pm  
Sunday at 2:30 pm

Tickets on sale now at [www.theatre3dallas.com](http://www.theatre3dallas.com)! Tickets are \$15 for Orchestra Center and \$10 for Side and Balcony seating.

Visit [www.juniorplayers.org](http://www.juniorplayers.org) or call (214) 526-4076 for more information.



*In the Heights* cast members Maya Quetzali, Wesley Johnson, Jose Ocampo III, Jadya Tchandja, and Raquel Moctezuma



Maya Quetzali as Nina Rosario and Wesley Johnson as Benny in our production of *In the Heights*

## In Loving Memory of Matthew Tomlanovich



Matthew Tomlanovich, a longtime professor, director, actor and mentor in the Dallas theater community, died Sunday, Oct. 19, after battling complications ensuing from an MRSA infection that left him paralyzed and hospitalized in a Dallas facility since April 3. He was 54 and spent his last moments surrounded by his wife of 21 years, Claudia Stephens, a professor of costume design at Southern Methodist University, their sons Raisch, 19, and Eli, 17, and friends whispering love and encouragement.

The Michigan native, who had earned a masters from the Central School of Speech and Drama in London and an MFA in Acting from California Institute of the Arts, taught at SMU, University of North Texas and UT Dallas, and was acclaimed for his work with Junior Players, which began in 2000 and continued until he got sick this year. He also revived the Margo Jones Theatre in Fair Park in 2013 as a venue for emerging theater organizations.

Stephens and her husband enjoyed fly-fishing, museums in Paris and hanging out with family and particularly liked the way their minds "intertwined," as she put it, over crossword puzzles. (Previous by Nancy Churnin, *Dallas Morning News*)

Matt directed Junior Players' Shakespeare production for seven summers from 2000 to 2006 and continued to teach in our advanced acting programs through early 2014. He touched numerous young lives in Junior Players during that time. In honor of Matt's legacy, Junior Players is proud to announce the Matthew Tomlanovich Memorial Scholarship Fund, which will ensure that Matt's vision of continued greatness in the arts lives on through future generations. Donations can be made to the fund by contacting Kirsten Brandt James at 214-526-4076.

### **FREE SHAKESPEARE WORKSHOP**

Age Range: 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> Grades  
 Dates: Saturdays, January 31-February 28, 2015  
 Time: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 Place: Kurth Hall (4<sup>th</sup> floor)  
 Sammons Center for the Arts  
 3630 Harry Hines Blvd, Dallas, TX 75219

Taught by Master Junior Players Instructor Valerie Hauss-Smith, this workshop will help you learn how to work with Shakespearean text and language. The workshop will conclude with a culminating exhibition. It's a great opportunity for those wanting to audition for our summer Shakespeare production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, in collaboration with Shakespeare Dallas!

To sign up for this workshop or for more information, call 214-526-4076 or e-mail [elizabeth@juniorplayers.org](mailto:elizabeth@juniorplayers.org)

### **FREE PLAYWRITING WORKSHOPS**

#### **Dallas Central Library Workshop**

Date: March 7, 2015  
 Time: 2pm - 4pm  
 Location: 1515 Young St. Dallas, TX 75201  
 Who: Students Currently in Grades 9-12

#### **Lakewood Branch Library Workshop**

Date: March 21, 2015  
 Time: 2pm - 4pm  
 Location: 6121 Worth St. Dallas, TX 75214  
 Who: Students Currently in Grades 9-12

To Sign-Up, email [elizabeth@juniorplayers.org](mailto:elizabeth@juniorplayers.org)

For more information, call the Junior Players office at 214-526-4076 or check our website [www.juniorplayers.org](http://www.juniorplayers.org)

### **FREE Classes in McKinney this Spring!**

#### **Discover Dance**

Date: January 27, 2015 – April 9, 2015  
 Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays  
 Time: 3:30pm – 4:30pm  
 Location: Old Settler's Recreation Center

#### **Discover Art**

Date: March 3, 2015 – May 13, 2015  
 Days: Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
 Time: 3:30pm – 4:30pm  
 Location: Old Settler's Recreation Center

Classes are for students aged 7-14. To Sign-Up, call Old Settler's at 972-562-8310 or McKinney Community Center at 972-547-2690.

#### **Discover Musical Theater**

Date: January 9, 2015 – March 27, 2015  
 Days: Fridays  
 Time: 4:30pm – 5:30pm  
 Location: McKinney Community Center

#### **Discover Art**

Date: April 3, 2015 – June 5, 2015  
 Days: Fridays  
 Time: 4:30pm – 5:30pm  
 Location: McKinney Community Center

### **Step Into the Spotlight with Lancome and Support Junior Players!**

Join us Friday, February 20, 2015 from 6pm-9pm for an evening of food, drinks, beauty, and fun at Belk at the Galleria Dallas. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, a professional makeup consultation and application with one of Lancome's artists, a \$50 gift card for Lancome products, and a gift bag full of Lancome goodies! Tickets are \$100 each and will be available soon at [www.juniorplayers.org](http://www.juniorplayers.org).



## 2015 INSTITUTIONAL DONORS AS OF 12/10/2015



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Northaven United Methodist Church

4054 McKinney Avenue  
Suite 104  
Dallas, TX 75204  
www.juniorplayers.org



### ***A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM AUDITIONS***

If you're currently in 9th-12th grade, mark you calendars for Junior Players' 2015 Summer production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*! Auditions are May 2, 2015 from 1-4pm and callbacks are May 9, 2015 from 1-5pm. The show will run July 28 – August 2 as part of Shakespeare Dallas' Summer Season! Please check the Junior Players website or look for our email newsletter for specific audition information as it becomes available. If you currently do not receive our e-mail newsletter and would like to, please e-mail [elizabeth@juniorplayers.org](mailto:elizabeth@juniorplayers.org).

### **GIVE THE GIFT OF ART FOR THE HOLIDAYS!**

Make a donation to Junior Players in honor of someone and they will receive a special card acknowledging your gift. For more information, please call the Junior Players office at 214-526-4076.

Visit [www.juniorplayers.org](http://www.juniorplayers.org) for more information!

