



2009 Annual Report

Mission/Vision

The Milwaukee Public Theatre, Ltd. (MPT) is a professional, not-for-profit outreach company that creates and presents performing arts productions and related arts and education activities that increase awareness of current social issues, promote accessibility and diversity, and provide healing arts resources.

In creating and presenting the arts, these goals and objectives are considered and addressed:

- To make the arts financially, intellectually and geographically accessible to everyone;
- To create art that encourages people to develop and use critical thinking skills;
- To promote the arts as a resource for personal, community and cultural growth and transformation;
- To develop imaginative art forms that empower individuals to participate in the ongoing creation of their culture;
- To apply theatrical traditions and forms that contribute to a deeper understanding of current social issues, conditions and concerns;
- To create art that promotes well-being and celebration.



***Spectacolo!** MPT's high-energy circus theatre production about teamwork and creativity was performed at Lincoln Center of the Arts in the spring of 2009.*

2009...Milwaukee Public Theatre's 35th year. We again reached a highly diverse audience of over 100,000 with 1,844 events (1,817 were free)...and we offered 13 stage or touring shows, four (4) major projects, including a new large scale community arts extravaganza, worked with 55 agencies to provide 141 educational arts residencies, partnered with hundreds of schools, community-based agencies and businesses, helped to sponsor a special project to counter stereotypes of people with disabilities, and took part in major community festivities, including the first annual All-City People's Parade and Pageant. All this despite financial challenges. And we have exciting plans for 2010!

Review of the Year

New Work: *Spectacolo!* MPT's highly skilled circus artists mimed, danced, juggled and tumbled on stage at Lincoln Center of the Arts in April to tell a timely tale about greed, creative problem solving, teamwork and leadership. Conceived and directed by Kathleen Stacy to feature the talents of Fenyoaee McKinney, Geoff Marsh, Steven Hunter, Sonya King, Tony Phomduangsy, and Avi Borouchoff.

New Work: *Camp We-Kan-Tak-It:* The "can-do" attitude of the historic Depression era came to life in an original multi-media musical comedy created by Milwaukee Public Theatre and Voices Theater about Wisconsin's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Sponsored through a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council, the production toured to nine venues throughout Wisconsin. Directed by Rogers Keene.

New Project: *All-City People's Parade and Pageant:* A public art project inspired by In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre's May Day Celebration. MPT collaborated with the Milwaukee Mask and Puppet Theatre and over 40 community organizations, scores of artists and hundreds of individuals to tell Milwaukee's story about "Making a New Way Together" through giant puppets, floats, masked creatures, music and dance. Rained out in August, the parade rose again in September, thanks to the sponsorship of Laborfest.

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Review of the Year *continued*

Tap the Potential: Our fourth major project presented 23 “guerilla artist strike” performances by artists with disabilities and two visual art exhibits in partnership with VSA Wisconsin, the Milwaukee County Office of Persons With Disabilities and other organizations as part of Disabilities Awareness Month.

Tasawari: New interactive theatre vignettes written and directed by Azeeza Islam to help African American families and caregivers provide holistic health care for children with special needs.

Capaz: New interactive theatre vignettes for Latino families and caregivers. Created and performed by the Esperanza Players, a bilingual troupe directed by Carolina Soza. **Capaz** and **Tasawari** were funded by the Southeastern Wisconsin Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs.

StoryBridge: Azeeza Islam worked with seniors and first through third-graders at Keefe Avenue School on literacy and communication skills, thanks to a grant from the Helen Bader Foundation.

Rainbow Spectacolo: MPT’s touring cirque troupe featured musicians, dancers, jugglers, clowns, stilt walkers and giant puppets, enlivening festivals and events throughout Milwaukee and beyond. Conceived and directed by Kathleen Stacy.

Tales from the Nile: A musical/story production based on Rose Onama’s teaching stories from her grandmother about growing up on the Nile River in Uganda.



Unclothed ... the naked truth was performed at Riverside High School. The show was preceded by workshops focusing on sexual abuse and violence prevention. Directed by Azeeza Islam.

MPT continued its focus on Healing Arts and Wellness with touring shows, performances and workshops:

Unclothed...the naked truth: Survivors’ Stories of Sexual Abuse and Healing: Written by La’Ketta Caldwell, based on hundreds of interviews with girls and women, this powerful piece includes a follow-up discussion, workshops and a resource guide. The production was adapted for student audiences in 2009 and performed at Riverside University High School.

FAQS (Facing Adolescent Questions about Sex): A lively touring show with music, rap and vignettes dealing with sexually transmitted diseases created by youth for youth. The project was partially funded by a grant from the Johnson & Johnson Society for the Arts in Healthcare and the MPS Office of Wellness and Prevention.

Tobaccosaurus Rex: An original puppet play designed to help young people make informed decisions about smoking.

Rainbow Circus (RC): Arts residency developed by Kathleen Stacy working with Fabulous Feno, Steven Hunter and Geoff Marsh and offered through Milwaukee Public Schools Recreation Office. RC promotes wellness and fitness through tumbling, miming, juggling, and aerobic exercise and creates public circus performances about healthy food choices by participating youth.

Applied Theatre: Amy’s Addiction, Joey’s Lunch Money Blues and Party Girl: Three empowering vignettes dealing with drug, alcohol and tobacco issues, bullying, and violence inviting audience participation in a “rehearsal for life”. In collaboration with the Center for Applied Theatre and directed by Mark Weinberg and Jenny Wanasek.

Excerpts from Survival Revival Revue: MPT co-founder Barbara Leigh’s one-woman musical revue about spinal cord injury, paralysis and the healing process, presented in talks for the general public and the therapeutic community focusing on “The Art of Healing from a Patient’s Point of View” and “Humor and Healing”.

Young students at Keefe Avenue School wrote and illustrated books in the **StoryBridge** project.



Summer in the City

35 free-to-the-public arts activities were presented during the summer months (in honor of MPT's 35th anniversary). Milwaukee Public Theatre artists performed clowning, circus/variety arts, and giant puppets for community parades and celebrations including:

All-City People's Parade and Pageant
 Fourth of July celebrations at Gordon Park,
 Alcott Park, and Hart Park
 Garfield Avenue Blues and Art Festival
 Juneteenth Day
 Lanterns for Peace
 Locust Street Day
 Miller Lite Ride for the Arts
 National Night Out events
 South Shore Frolics
 Stand Together Milwaukee Peace Parade
 Summer of Peace Parade

Stiltwalkers and clowns carried the fun into fall:

Al's Run
 AIDS Walk
 Walk to Dfeet ALS



Fabulous Feno provided lessons in plate spinning during the annual Miller Lite Ride for the Arts. MPT provides artists to entertain riders and sponsors a bike team for the event, which raises money for members of the United Performing Arts Fund.

Milwaukee Public Theatre was founded as Friends Mime Theatre in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1974 by Dr. Barbara Leigh and Michael John Moynihan. One of the region's few professional outreach theatres, the company has created over 200 original productions and touring/outreach events that travel to audiences throughout the Milwaukee community, state, region and nation.



Projects created in an arts workshop at Neighborhood House led by MPT artist Jeanne Kollmeyer.

31 Schools and 23 CBOs sponsored 144 Arts Residencies

MPT arts residencies included workshops in dance, music, visual arts and crafts, circus, and martial arts.

Agape Community Center	Family Leadership Academy
Art Link	Fletcher/Arts@Large
<i>Boys and Girls Clubs:</i>	Fritsche CLC
53rd St.	Keefe Ave CLC/Northcott
81st St. School	Kindercare
Allen Field	La Causa Charter School
Audubon	La Escuela Fratney CLC
Cass Street CLC	Lisbon Avenue Neighborhood
Daniels Mardak	Development
Fitzsimonds	Lincoln Center of the Arts
Gaenslen	Longfellow/Journey House
Lavarnway	Maryland Ave. Montessori
Lincoln Avenue CLC	Metcalfe CLC
Mary Ryan	Milwaukee Christian Center
Mardak	Neighborhood House
Mitchell	Next Door Foundation
Pieper-Hillside	Our Next Generation
Riley	OW Holmes
Sherman	Pius XI Culturefest
Siefert	Riverside CLC
St. Joan Antida	Social Development
Townsend CLC	Commission
Zablocki	Sherman School
Banner Day School	Silver Spring Neighborhood
Carleton Elementary	Stuart Elementary/Arts@Large
Clybourn Parade Space	Vieau School
COA - Garfield	Washington HS CLC
COA - Goldin	Woodland Pattern

MPT Staff 2009

Barbara Leigh, Artistic/Producing Director
 Carolyn Mello, Outreach Coordinator
 Angela Smith, Outreach Coordinator
 Katharina Hren, Bookkeeper/Office Manager
 Kathleen Stacy, Producer/Project Director
 Azeeza Islam, Associate Artistic Director
 Linda Beckstrom, Marketing/Design
 Carolina Soza, Artistic Director, Esperanza Players
 Jenny Wanasek, Artistic Director, Applied Theatre Troupe
 Mark Weinberg, Artistic Director, Applied Theatre Troupe

2009 Financial Report

January through December

Income

Corporate Grants	\$3,728
Earned Income	285,056
Foundation Income	73,500
Government Support	49,995
Individual Contributions	2,882
Interest	788
Miscellaneous Income	4,038
UPAF	87,377

Total Income \$507,364

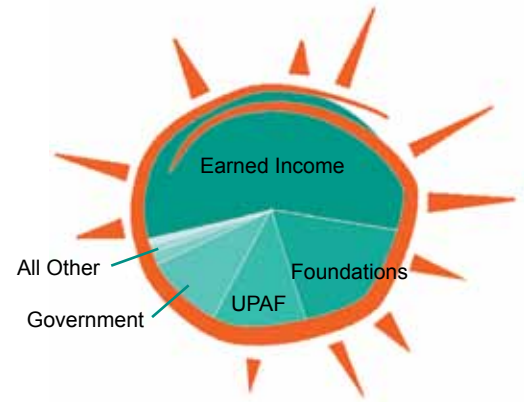
Expenses

WCIP	-\$2,408
Facilities & Occupancy	24,351
Outside Services	204,272
Programs & Operations	48,683
PR/Marketing/Fundraising	14,461
Wages	208,335
Payroll Tax Expense	15,957

Total Expenses \$513,651

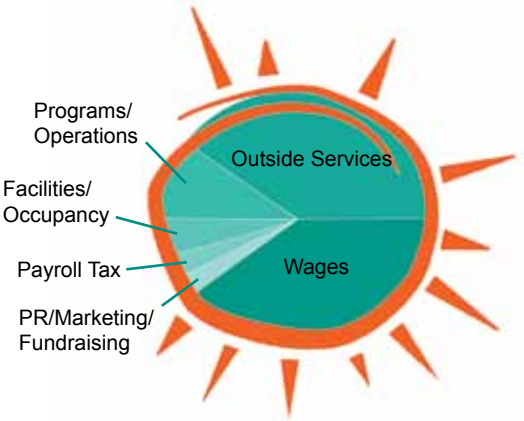
Income Summary

Earned Income	56%
Foundations	17
UPAF	15
Government	10
Miscellaneous	<1
Corporate Grants	<1
Individuals	<1
Interest	<1



Expense Summary

Wages	40%
Outside Services	39
Programs & Operations	10
Facilities & Occupancy	5
Payroll Tax Expense	3
PR/Marketing/Fundraising	<3



Total Outreach

People Reached*	100,316
Free Events	1,817
Performances/Parades	303
Workshops	1,541
Total Number of Events	1,844

*Estimate based on sponsor reports



MPT Wellness/
Fitness instructor
Steven Hunter
demonstrates
martial arts
moves for youth
at 81st St. Boys
and Girls Club.

Donors

Milwaukee Public Theatre received support from:	Milwaukee County Parks
CYSHCN Local Capacity Building Grant	MPS Partners In Education
Don Senzig Memorial Fund	Milwaukee Labor Council
Elizabeth Elser Doolittle Trust	National Endowment for the Arts
Faye McBeath Foundation	Non-Profit Management Fund
Gardner Foundation	Northwestern Mutual Life
Greater Milwaukee Foundation	Ogden & Company/ Clybourn Partners
Donald and Barbara Abert Fund	Penske Truck Rental
Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors Youth Foundation	Plum Creek Foundation
Helen Bader Foundation	Robert Ivens
Koessler Family Foundation	Machinery Company
LISC	Triskeles Foundation
Max Fund	Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin
Merrill Lynch	Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development
Meyer and Norma Ragir Foundation	Wisconsin Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities
Milwaukee Arts Board	United Performing Arts Fund and numerous individuals
Milwaukee County CAMPAC	
Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities	



Programs/Partnerships

MPT's Ajula Performance Troupe features both experienced professional artists and talented youth from Milwaukee's central city. Founded in 1989 in collaboration with N'Dongo Diop, *Ajula* continues to discover and perform music, dance and stories of the African diaspora under the direction of manager Kathleen Stacy, lead movement coach Steven Hunter, lead drummer Jarvis McElrath and lead dancer Sonya King. *Ajula* functions as an artistic collective reaching out to southeastern Wisconsin, honoring traditional cultures and exploring contemporary issues through theatre, dance and music. The ensemble is housed at the Milwaukee Housing Authority Community Services Building.

MPT Artrepreneurship Program increased earned income through stronger and consistent relationships with the business community and the marketing, creation and management of high quality special events and projects featuring a broad range of MPT artists. Producer/Director Kathleen Stacy initiated the project to increase earned revenue, enhance MPT's opportunities to engage new sources of corporate support and board members, increase employment for more MPT artists, and develop new, self-funded programs and production elements that generate future earned revenue for MPT.

MPT's 2009 corporate and community *Artrepreneurship clients included:*

Alcott Park
ASME Conference
Assurant Health
Boys & Girls Clubs Sparks
Business Journal
Cedarburg Preservation Society
Delco
Johnson Controls
Just Personal Service
Kindercare
Kohl's
Metroparent Kids Fest
Milwaukee County Zoo
Milwaukee Public Museum
Pfister Hotel
Professional Events and Consulting
Shullys Catering & Cuisine
State Fair Park
UWM
VISIT Milwaukee
Wauwatosa Civic Celebration
Wisconsin Credit Union League
Young President's Organization of Wisconsin



Ajula Performance Troupe at a Kwanzaa program at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee.



MPT cancan dancers, a classic mime, a juggler, chef, Louis XIV and Marie Antoinette entertained guests at the Business Journal's annual Book of Lists event.

Summer 2009 saw Milwaukee Public Theatre creating unique event entertainment with a vibrant assortment of strolling patriotic characters, circus performers, historical characters, swashbuckling pirates and much more.

Special thanks to Lincoln Center of the Arts and the Milwaukee Housing Authority for providing affordable storage, rehearsal and performance space, and helping MPT serve low-income Milwaukeeans.

Milwaukee Public Theatre 2009 Board of Directors

Jill Haas, President
CFM, Senior Associate
Merrill Lynch

Jack Keyes, Attorney

Jacqueline Harcourt, Vice President
Development Director
United Community Center

Barbara Leigh, PhD
Co-founder,
Artistic/Producing Director
Milwaukee Public Theatre

Sean Walker, Treasurer
Assistant Director of Assurance Services
Clifton Gunderson

Ken Myszka
Technology Consultant

Omar Barberena
Bilingual Outreach & Admissions
Coordinator, Job Corps

Gerri Sykes
Community Volunteer

Gary Tuma
Executive Director
Walker's Point Center for the Arts

Rachel Dobrauc
English Department Chair
Messmer High School

Advisory Board Members

Arthur Alvarez
Training Controller
MillerCoors Brewing Co.

Verdia Hampton
Administrator
Kohl's Department Stores

Dante Houston
Recruiter
Rockwell Automation

Azeeza Islam
Associate Artistic Director
Milwaukee Public Theatre

Chris Straw
Psychologist, New Prospects

Hope Johnson
Executive Director
Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center

Courtney M. Williams
SSC Coordinator
Contract Accounting

Willie Johnson, Jr.
Milwaukee County Supervisor

Pa Britney Xiong
President, Western Bi-lingual
Employment Services



"Geezer" and "Smitty" prepare a variety show for their fellow CCC members in **Camp We-Kan-Tak-It**. The play toured state-wide to celebrate the legacy of Wisconsin's Civilian Conservation Corps, and included a show at Boerner Botanical Gardens in Whitnall Park.



The **All-City People's Parade** moved down Wisconsin Avenue as part of Laborfest. The **Pageant** was also performed at the lakefront festival grounds on September 7.



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Thank you to the organizers of Milwaukee's annual Labor Day Parade for including the All-City People's Parade and Pageant in the annual celebration. Participating community agencies included: ACLU, A Company of Kids, Amaranth Cafe, Artists Working in Education, Art Links/ACAP, Band of South Shore Drum Line, Boys and Girls Clubs (Summer of Peace), Bucketworks, Carter Productions, Children's Outing Association, Goodwill Industries, Haggerty Museum of Art, Marquette University, HeartLove Place, Hmong American Friendship Association, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, Lisbon Avenue Neighborhood Development, Lincoln Center of the Arts, LISC, Martin Drive Neighborhood Association, Milwaukee American Indian Resource Network, Milwaukee Bicycle Federation, Milwaukee Christian Center, Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities, Milwaukee Institute of Art Design, Milwaukee Labor Council, Milwaukee Mask and Puppet Theatre, Milwaukee Public Schools, Neighborhood House, Next Door Foundation, Northcott Neighborhood House, Our Next Generation, Project Respect, Running Rebels, Safe & Sound, Silver Spring Neighborhood Center, Social Development Commission, Summer of Peace Initiative, Stand Together Milwaukee, Urban Ecology Center, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, VSA arts Wisconsin, Walker's Point Center for the Arts, Washington Park Neighborhood Association, Washington Park Senior Center, and Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. Special media support for the All-City Parade was provided by the Shepherd Express, Riverwest Currents, Washington Park Bear, Radio Milwaukee 88.9 and WUWM.