



HIGHWOOD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kevin Kearney

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Matthew Nicola

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Highwood Theatre Receives Award for Distinguished Service to Public Education

The Montgomery County Board of Education recently presented The Highwood Theatre with its Distinguished Service to Public Education award. The Montgomery County Board of Education established the Awards for Distinguished Service to Public Education in 1997 to recognize and show appreciation to individuals, groups, and businesses that have made exemplary contributions to public education in Montgomery County. Highwood started its Highwood at School program four years ago with the goal of supporting drama and theater teachers in the DMV area and bringing unique, high-quality theatre experiences to their schools. This year alone, the Highwood Theatre provided support to over 35 schools and teachers in the tri-state area.

Robyn Paley, drama teacher at Loiederman Middle School, describes the positive impact of their year-long Highwood partnership: "Last year A. Mario Loiederman Middle School and the Highwood Theater began a partnership that has been highly beneficial to our incredibly diverse community of students," said Ms. Robyn Paley, Drama Instructor, Loiederman Middle School. "Loiederman is the Performing and Creative Arts magnet school of Montgomery County, 77% of our students are black or Hispanic and over 80% of our students have received free and reduced price meals. Our partnership with the Highwood Theater has provided our students with opportunities that include theater classes and instruction; theater set design and construction; lighting and sound; and costumes/makeup, as well as, improvisation, musical theater and directing. Their determination and commitment to excellence has provided my students with an extraordinary experience."

Artistic Director Matthew Nicola explains: "Working in over 35 schools this year, we believe in the power of theatre as a key component of a child's education - theatre reinforces concepts learned in traditional classes, teaches students how to collaborate and take responsibility for their actions, and pushes students to take risks and step outside of their comfort zones. We appreciate the work of all of the teachers and administrators we work with, and look forward to strengthening and building many more partnerships in the years to come."

OFFICES AND STUDIOS

914 Silver Spring Avenue

Silver Spring, MD 20910

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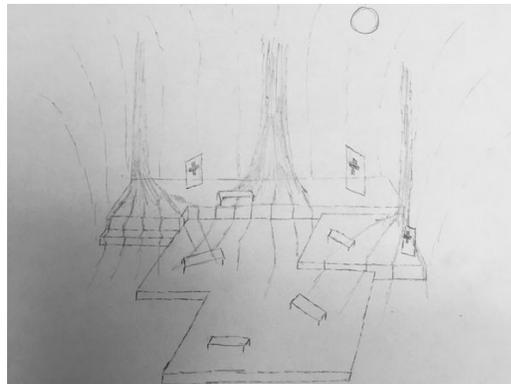
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Below, we highlight just a few of Highwood's school projects from their 2016-2017 season. For a full list, [click here](#).

Edmund Burke School

This past spring, Highwood was thrilled to design the set and lights for Edmund Burke's middle school production of *Spoon River*. In addition, Highwood Teaching Artists taught a series of comprehensive tech classes - covering everything from lights, sound, and costumes to stage management, and much more!



Sandburg Middle School

The world of Lewis Carroll came alive as Highwood designed and hand-painted a gorgeous 42 foot wide backdrop for Sandburg's production of *Alice in Wonderland Jr.* Complete with colorful trees, mushrooms, and fantastical elements galore, the backdrop was truly a feast for the eyes!



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Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School

Highwood's partnership with Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School continued to thrive this year, providing both a Director/Choreographer and full technical assistance in preparation for their second annual Lower School musical production (the first annual, last year, was also under Highwood's direction). In addition, a Highwood accompanist assisted with music for their Middle School production of James and the Giant Peach, Jr. and Upper School production of The Mystery of Edwin Drood.



Wheaton Arts on the Road

Recipients of a Wheaton Cultural Arts Grant from the Montgomery County Arts and Humanities Council, Highwood and Loiederman Middle School co-produced James and the Giant Peach Jr. featuring a cast and crew of over 70 Loiederman students and under the leadership of eight Highwood Teaching Artists (Musical Directing, Choreography, Technical Design Teams, and More). Through the project, over 1,600 Wheaton 3rd and 4th graders were bussed to attend the show for free - with an additional 1,000 K-2nd graders receiving an educational component through workshops designed and taught by Loiederman students.



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Field Trips

Throughout the year Highwood has had the privilege of welcoming many local schools for hands-on, immersive field trips at our theater in downtown Silver Spring. On field trips to Highwood, students ranging from grades K-12 learn about all aspects of theatre and experience the workings of a real, live theatre company. During their time at our theatre, students explore our performance space, collaborate, try their hands at all things theatre, ask questions, and get creative!



About The Highwood Theatre

The Highwood Theatre is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building community through theatre. Highwood was founded in 2004 and has developed innovative, engaging programming for artists of all ages through professional and student productions, classes, and programs in schools and for home schooled students.

Contact Information

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