

# TAFK 2015



THE YEAR STARTED WITH A PERFORMANCE FOR THE KIWANIS CLUB (RIGHT) FOLLOWED BY ICE SKATING IN THE RAILYARD. (LEFT) THE KIDS DID A TOUR OF ASSISTED LIVING CENTERS IN THE AREA THIS SPRING BRINGING THEIR FOLK SONGS TO THE RESIDENTS.



## It's been a busy year for Theatre Arts For Kids

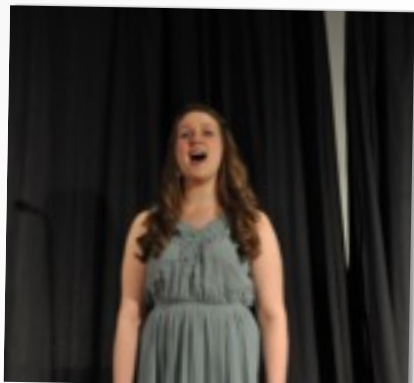
Theatre Arts For Kids is thrilled to report a tremendously successful 2015. The organization continues to grow. Classes are full and waiting lists for the voice studio and musical theatre workshops are good problems to have. With after school programs in four

Elementary Schools, (Kloefkorn, Randolph, Elliot, and Koosier) a thriving Musical Theatre Troupe, the voice studio brimming with talent and progress, a Rising Stars program fostering mentoring and leadership, our first opera, and musical theatre

workshops surpassing the audience's expectation of children's theatre, TAFK is proud to be fulfilling our mission to bring quality performance training to children of all ages in the community. Thanks to all of our supporters, fans, and students for a wonderful 2015!



CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG



2015 GRADUATE  
SUSAN TWIEHAUS



A WEDDING TAFK STYLE

# 2015 AT A GLANCE



## 2015

1. KIWANIS PERFORMANCE
2. WOMEN'S EXPO
3. CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG
4. GIRAFFES CAN'T DANCE
5. INTO THE WOODS
6. SPRING VOICE RECITALS
7. TAFK GRADUATION
8. CINDERELLA G2K
9. THE LITTLE MERMAID JR
10. LIBRARY TOUR
11. ONCE ON THIS ISLAND JR
12. TAFK ANNUAL POOL PARTY
13. THE LITTLE MERMAID JR CA
14. A WEDDING TAFK STYLE
15. LINCOLN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
16. ALICE IN WONDERLAND JR
17. ARISTOCATS KIDS
18. VOICE STUDIO OUTREACH
19. HANSEL & GRETEL THE OPERA
20. HOLIDAY VOICE RECITALS

## Performance Training & More

In order to become great performers, TAFK provides as many performance opportunities as possible for our young performers. Performing on stage and in a variety of public settings makes our performers versatile and confident. Outreach programs such as the Library Tour and visiting assisted living centers

is not only great performance experience, but also teaches the kids valuable skills from how to communicate with different audiences, how to adapt in untraditional spaces, and even develops responsibility as the kids are required to be responsible for being prepared with their music.

# CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG



CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG WAS ONE OF OUR ALL TIME FAVORITE SHOWS! THE KIDS OUT DID THEMSELVES IN EVERY WAY. THE GREATEST TAKE AWAY FROM THIS SHOW WAS SEEING A REAL SHIFT IN THINKING ABOUT HOW THE KIDS LOOKED AT BEING IN AN ENSEMBLE VERSES HAVING A LEADING ROLE.

"I HAD THE MOST FUN I'VE HAD IN ANY SHOW DANCING AND SINGING IN THE ENSEMBLE OF CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG". MARLEE MOSS

# INTO THE WOODS



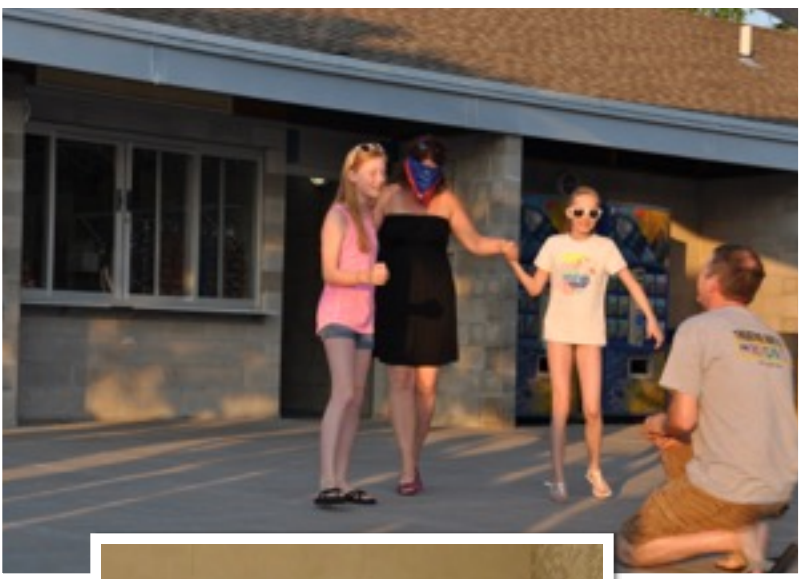
INTO THE WOODS WAS OUR KIDS OF ALL AGES SHOW FOR 2015. FROM ZACHARY OLSON, AGE 6 TO BEN KOLAR, AGE 41, WE PROVED THAT THEATRE IS AGELESS. WE DO KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS FAR HARDER AS WE GET OLDER TO MEMORIZE OUR LINES. THE ADULTS THAT PARTICIPATE IN OUR ADULTS OF ALL AGES SHOWS OFTEN REMARK HOW MUCH THEY LEARN FROM THE KIDS. THE KIDS SET A HIGH BAR FOR THEIR PARENTS AND THEIR AGING DIRECTOR:).

# SUMMER 2016



OUR SUMMER OF FAIRY TALES WAS A MAGICAL ONE. WE WALTZED OUR WAY THROUGH CINDERELLA, SWAM THROUGH THE LITTLE MERMAID, AND LEARNED "WHY WE TELL THE STORY" IN ONCE ON THIS ISLAND. BUT WAIT... THE TRUE FAIRY TALE WAS YET TO COME...

# A REAL LIFE FAIRY TALE



OUR DIRECTOR'S FAVORITE SHOW FROM SUMMER 2015 WAS ONE THAT SHE DIDN'T DIRECT. WITH SHELLEY'S HELP, BEN ARRANGED TO HAVE THE KIDS POP THE QUESTION AT THE ANNUAL POOL PARTY. LEAH AND BEN ASKED THE VOICE STUDIO TO BE THEIR WEDDING PARTY. THERE WAS NO REHEARSAL DINNER, BUT OH WERE THERE REHEARSALS! THERE WAS EVEN A WEDDING HONOR CHOIR.

# ALICE IN WONDERLAND & ARISTOCATS



ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TAFK PROGRAM IS THE MENTORING THAT IS FOSTERED THROUGH THE RISING STARS PROGRAM. PERFORMERS AGES 4-7 ARE GUIDED BY VETERAN TAFK STUDENTS WHO MAKE IT THEIR JOB TO MAKE THE LITTLE ONES SUCCESSFUL. THESE "ASSISTANTS" MAY NOT KNOW IT NOW, BUT THEY ARE LEARNING A LOT THROUGH THE PROCESS TOO GAINING VALUABLE SKILLS AS TEACHERS AND LEADERS.

# HANSEL & GRETEL



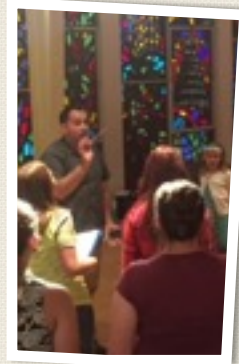
HANSEL AND GRETEL WAS OUR FIRST EVER OPERA! TAFK AND BASEMENT OPERA COLLABORATED TO EXPOSE THE KIDS TO OPERA. WITH PROFESSIONAL OPERA SINGERS IN THE LEADING ROLES, TAFK KIDS WERE THE GINGERBREAD CHORUS AND THE ANGELS IN THE ANGEL BALLET. THIS ENDEAVOR WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED AND HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. ALL PROCEEDS WENT TO LOCAL CHARITIES WORKING IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILDHOOD HUNGER.

# 2015 Guest Artists



## BECCA STOUDER

BECCA STOUDER IS A GRADUATE OF OKLAHOMA STATE WITH A DEGREE IN DANCE. BECCA IS AN INSTRUCTOR AT RENAE'S SCHOOL OF DANCE IN ELKHORN. SHE GREW UP DOING THEATRE AT THE ELKHORN VALLEY COMMUNITY THEATRE AND WAS ONE OF LEAH'S FIRST VOICE STUDENTS (AGE 7). BECCA TAUGHT MUSICAL THEATRE TROUPE AND TAFK'S FIRST EVER TAP CLASS THIS YEAR. BECCA WILL BE BACK IN 2016!



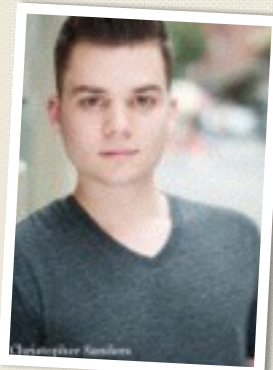
## PETER PURSINO

PETER PURSINO, TENOR, CAME ALL THE WAY FROM TALLAHASSEE, FL TO CONDUCT THE WEDDING HONOR CHOIR. PETER HAS DEGREES FROM THE EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY AND IS CURRENTLY FINISHING HIS DOCTORATE. A VERSATILE SINGER, HE HAS PERFORMED IN ORATORIOS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.



## BLAKE TOBEY

BLAKE TOBEY IS A HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH AND DRAMA TEACHER AT WAVERLY HIGH SCHOOL. HE ALSO TEACHES AT DOANE COLLEGE. BLAKE WAS FIRST SEEN ON THE TAFK STAGE AS ROOSTER IN ANNIE AND MOST RECENTLY AS THE NARRATOR IN INTO THE WOODS. BLAKE DIRECTED INTO THE WOODS FOR TAFK THIS PAST YEAR AND WILL BE BACK SOON FOR MORE TAFK FUN. BLAKE AND ASHLEY ARE EXPECTING THEIR SECOND CHILD THIS SPRING!



## CHRIS SANDERS

CHRIS SANDERS IS A WORKING PERFORMER BASED IN NYC. AFTER HIS OFF BROADWAY STINT WITH SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS IN NEW JERSEY, CHRIS WENT ON TO PERFORM IN HIS SECOND NATIONAL TOUR OF CHRISTMAS CAROL. CHRIS RECEIVED HIS MUSICAL THEATRE BFA FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA WHERE HE STUDIED VOICE WITH LEAH. CHRIS' BACKGROUND IN ACTING, DIRECTING AND CHOREOGRAPHY MAKE HIM THE PERFECT ADDITION TO THE TAFK STAFF! CHRIS WILL BE CO-DIRECTING MARY POPPINS THIS SEMESTER.

# Graduate Susan Twiehaus inspires the Theatre Arts For Kids Sara Crewe Scholarship

Susan Twiehaus was our 2015 graduate. Susan accepted a scholarship to attend the University of Nebraska Lincoln to study vocal performance. Susan began studying voice with Leah in 2011 during her Freshman year of high school. Susan quickly became a pillar of TAFK setting the bar for her younger colleagues.

To honor Susan's dedication and excellence, the TAFK Board of Directors started a scholarship fund in her honor. Named after her favorite role, the Sara Crewe Scholarship Fund was born.

Susan donated her summer salary for directing The Little Mermaid towards the scholarship fund. Each year, TAFK will honor a high school graduate with a scholarship celebrating their commitment to the TAFK program and its' values. Susan Twiehaus will serve on

the scholarship committee to select the best candidate.

This December, Susan returned to TAFK to portray the role of the Sandman in Hansel & Gretel. I guess you can say that you can take the girl out of TAFK, but you can never take the TAFK out of the girl.

Theatre Arts For Kids is thrilled to see our graduates return as volunteers, teachers, directors, and performers. Mary Chambers (TAFK 2014 Graduate) and Susan Twiehaus will be returning again this summer as directors in our summer season.

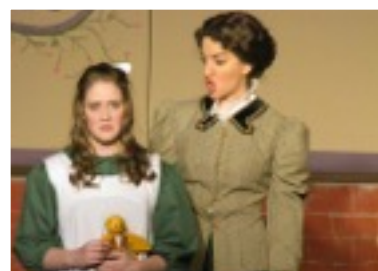
Susan, TAFK wishes you the greatest success!

*If you would like to make a donation to the Sara Crewe Scholarship Fund, please visit [tafk.org](http://tafk.org) and click on "donate now".*

## A FEW OF HER FAVORITE SHOWS



ANNIE



A LITTLE PRINCESS



INTO THE WOODS



GREASE



# A Pause for Paws: Mij's Annual Insider Perspective



This year has been a big year for my family and for Theatre Arts For Kids.

I had the amazing opportunity to play the role of Edison in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang this past spring. I was the Replacement Cow in Into The Woods, our kids of all ages show and then I was a dog in Cinderella.

My mom got engaged at a party where there were lots of fireworks that I didn't care for, but I was very happy for her. I was adopted and now have the best dad a girl could ask for. My mom and dad got married. I had no idea what went into planning a wedding. My mom did it in just one month and I still had FIVE dress fittings!

Then I found out that I am going to be a big sister. Mom and dad are expecting a baby in February and I'm going to have a little sister. I'm always a little sad when I have to say goodbye to my friends after lessons and rehearsals so I

will finally have one of my very own to keep.

I took the fall off from performing to let life settle in a bit. Taking time off, really gave me paws to think. I thought that by freeing my schedule up a bit and not having to memorize songs and staging would feel great. Instead, I missed it! I missed the kids, I missed the hard work, and I missed all the crazy aspects of doing theatre.

So, I'm coming back in the spring. I'm going to audition for both 101 Dalmatians and Mary Poppins and hope that there is a role in one of them for me. I can't wait to be back on stage with my colleagues and friends.

So, here's to an incredible 2015 and cheers to 2016 being our best ever!

Happy New Year!

Love, Mij

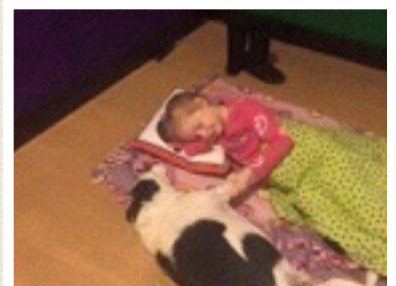
## MIJ'S 2015 HIGHLIGHTS



CINDERELLA



CHITTY CHITTY



ALICE IN WONDERLAND



WEDDING



## GOODNIGHT 2015

---

“So close your eyes on  
hushabye mountain.  
Wave goodbye to  
cares of the day and  
watch your boat from  
hushabye mountain sail  
far away from lullaby  
bay.”

Theatre Arts For Kids wishes our  
TAFK family, friends, and fans a new  
year filled with music, magic, and  
miracles!

