

A DREAM REALIZED



Photos by Allan Dean

by Amanda Lewis

The story of *The Children's Republic* began in 2005 when OSSD moved into 294 Picton Avenue. The building is owned by Leon Gluzman, and he helped us to renovate it into a wonderful place for children, youth and adults to learn and create together. He told me at the time that he wanted to see his building filled with children. And then he told me the story of his life in the orphanage of Dr. Janusz Korczak, famous Polish pediatrician, children's author, radio personality and advocate of children's rights.

The story of Dr. Korczak became the basis of the play that OSSD and The Great Canadian Theatre Company

(GCTC) commissioned Hannah Moscovitch to write. And thus *The Children's Republic* was born. Three years in the making, the production has just finished a sold out run at the GCTC.

Theatre is a collaborative medium, and this process allowed a team of passionate and dynamic professional theatre artists to come together with young student actors to tell an important story. The project was OSSD's signature 20th Anniversary project and I can proudly say that it did justice in representing all of the fine work that the school has done over the last 20 years. OSSD's founder Natalie

Stern has been the chair of the steering committee dedicated to celebrating this special event with "Enduring Legacy: A tribute to Leon Gluzman, in honour of Janusz Korczak." It has been wonderful to have Natalie's energy and commitment behind the project.

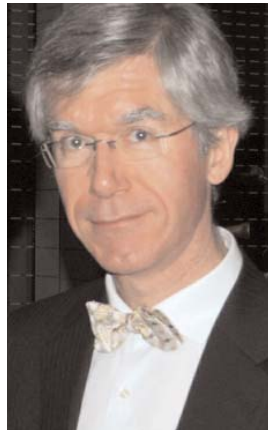
The Children's Republic would not have been possible without the support of The Ontario Arts Foundation, the Telus Corporation, The Ontario Arts Council, the World Exchange Plaza Fund and the Community Foundation of Ottawa. We are very grateful to them for making the production a reality.

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Enduring Legacy



Enduring Legacy was an event created by The Ottawa School of Speech & Drama (OSSD) & The Great Canadian Theatre Company (GCTC) in memory of Dr. Janusz Korczak and in honour of Leon Gluzman. The money raised through Enduring Legacy will help two of Ottawa's foremost arts organizations continue to create superb programming for audiences of all ages, while providing arts education for thousands of area students.



Photos: Top Row: Leon Gluzman with OSSD students, Second Row: (From left to Right) Jan Irwin, Lawrence Wardroper, Natalie Stern, Leon Gluzman & Amanda Lewis, Third Row: (From left to Right) Ingrid Levitz, Leon's granddaughter Tova Bonn with her fiancé Charles Brito, Vera Klein, Beverly Gluzman, Last Row: (From left to Right) Yasir Naqvi MPP with Nhanci Wright, Norman Barwin, Myrna Barwin & Raymond Stern



Photos by Allan Dean

Responses to *The Children's Republic*

I wish to congratulate the Great Canadian Theatre Company and the Ottawa School of Speech and Drama, particularly Amanda Lewis, for their joint effort in staging this timely play.

Paul Dewar to Speaker of the House of Commons, October 30, 2009

This is a beautifully staged, impressive piece featuring an all-Ottawa cast consisting of four superb seasoned actors and six very promising youths from the Ottawa School of Speech and Drama.

Douglas Hill
Wordcurrents
November 13, 2009

Compassionate without being sentimental, an advocate for children's rights in such a way that it seems a part of natural law rather than a thought-out position, Rainville's Korczak is the man we all would be were we capable of his singular vision and respect for others.

The children, played by past or present OSSD students, respond to the man's unconditional love and his unassuming aura of certitude that the world is ultimately a place rich with promise.

By Patrick Langston
The Ottawa Citizen, November 7, 2009

For Amanda Lewis, who regularly works with kids, the fact that child actors impress came as no surprise. "What we did with this work was to involve the kids right from the start, so that they had an ownership of the project that was greater than anybody else's. And when Hannah came into the process, they had a voice already. And she heard that voice."

Written by
Heather-Marie Scheerschmidt
Culture Magazine
October 30, 2009

I had a such a moving experience seeing *The Children's Republic* yesterday. I completely broke down in tears when Hannah and Julianna came out at the end. This is really, really special. I am organizing Holocaust Education Week at OttawaU and Carleton beginning tomorrow until Friday - what a brilliant start to the week's events.

Many, Many congratulations and I hope to see it again before closing!

See you soon I hope!

Adam Moscoe
Former OSSD student

Dear Amanda,
I just wanted to once again congratulate you and OSSD's board, students, and teachers on a fabulous show at the GCTC. I was very impressed with performances by OSSD's students. WWI seems like it happened in some other world/life and I'm sure it must have been hard for such young minds to try to even imagine the horror that Jewish kids went through. But to put it on stage with such a maturity was beyond amazing. As I mentioned to you on the opening night, I really love working at OSSD and every year I get more excited thinking that this is the best group yet, and then another one proves to be even better. What I'm trying to say is that my passion is already there, but then I see two of my former students on that stage and I feel so proud and even more driven to teach. Thank you again for making this opportunity for them happen.

Sincerely,
Dana Uzarevic
OSSD Instructor

An Insider's View

It's hard to believe that after almost three years, my experience with *The Children's Republic* has come to an end. It was an amazing experience to be with this project from the time when it was only a few ideas to the final play that it has become. Not many actors, let alone kids, get to have that opportunity. I felt as if my opinion counted which was a tribute to Janusz Korczak, who lived to show the world that children had abilities and rights and should be respected. I also would like to thank Mr. Gluzman for sharing his stories and his life with us and for letting us learn about Janusz Korczak. I am truly grateful for this amazing opportunity and thank you to all who allowed me to be a part of this .

Juliana Krajcovic - OSSD Student
Feiga, *The Children's Republic*



Photos by Allan Dean

The Ottawa Theatre School

by Courtney Bamford, intern from Carleton University

The Ottawa Theatre School is a division of the Ottawa School of Speech and Drama. It is a two year intensive diploma program focusing on training with committed theatre professionals. The program encourages students to begin to find their own artistic voice while honing specific skills. The conservatory program is designed to give actors the knowledge and skills to pursue a career in the performing arts. The program is comprised of 5 semesters and runs over two years. Each semester has a certain focus for the actors ranging from voice, movement and specific acting skills, concluding with a final performance. The students also have the chance to participate in the Trinity Guildhall examinations in May where they are adjudicated by an examiner from Trinity College in London, England.

The school partners with the Canadian Screen Training Centre and The Gladstone Theatre to provide enriched, professional experiences for emerging artists.

For the 2009/10 year, the second year conservatory students will be working on 3 main productions. Their first production will be a musical play for young audiences. *Beo's Bedroom* is a Canadian award winning play written by Ned Dickens with music by John Roby. The story is based on the legends of Beowulf. The story follows the imagination of a young girl, Beo and her toy bear, Bard and their quest to overcome Beo's fear of the dark. *Beo's Bedroom* will be running from February 22 - 26 at the Natalie Stern Theatre located at 294 Picton Avenue. The show will also be traveling to local schools for performances as well. For ticket information please contact OTS reception at 613-567-6788.

If you are interested in becoming a student in the Ottawa Theatre School please contact Bruce Bissonnette at www.ottawatheatreschool.com for enrolment and audition information

Student Profiles



Drew Moore is a first year student in the conservatory program here at the Ottawa Theatre School. He is not a new face around the school, Drew has been a student of the Ottawa School of Speech and Drama for years. Drew was asked a few questions on OTS and his experience thus far.

OTS: When did you start coming to OSSD?

DM: In the fall of 2005.

OTS: Why did you chose OTS?

DM: I chose OTS because I wanted a program that would be more interactive and more about being onstage and more practical theatre and less impractical studies of theatre.

OTS: What do you like about OTS and the program?

DM: Everything, the connection we are able to make to people in the industry as well as local theatre companies. And the teachers we are given have a vast knowledge and work experience in the industry which is also very enlightening. Finally, I love the layout of the program.

OTS: What skills do you feel you will learn here to help you in the future?

DM: Proper acting skills and about the industry we are choosing to be a part of.

OTS: What are you looking forward to this year?

DM: Both vocal masques and all the different scene studies.

OTS: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

DM: Acting.



Kaitlin Miller, is a second year student pursuing her studies and training in acting with OTS. We asked Kaitlin a few questions on her time here and where she hopes it will take her in the future.

OTS: Why did you come to OTS? And where are you from?

KM: I'm from Waterdown, Ontario. I came to OTS because I wanted to come to Ottawa to escape her small town lifestyle and to find more opportunities here in Ottawa. I also heard that the Ottawa Theatre scene was growing and had read about OTS and wanted to be a part of it.

OTS: Did you adjust quickly to this new environment?

KM: Yes, because of the small class sizes and great people.

OTS: What do you like about OTS?

KM: The people here resemble a small family and I finds myself feeling very much at home here at OTS. The program caters to my needs and desires to learning about the acting industry. I also really enjoy the teachers and their knowledge about acting and training.

OTS: What do you feel is the main difference from 1st to 2nd year?

KM: First year is of a more general study and in second year you use the tools you are taught and put them into action.

OTS: What are you looking forward to this year?

KM: The live productions in a large scale theatre.

OTS: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

KM: Rich and Famous, hopefully acting on Broadway or anywhere NYC.

WHEN ASKED...

When students who attended the special school matinees for The Children's Republic were asked, "**In your own words, please tell us something you have learned from today's student matinee,**" their responses were varied and meaningful:

I've learned so much from this, but mostly about what life was like for Jewish people.

I learned that refugees and orphans still suffer deeply today.

I learned how childhood worked in an orphanage. I learned how much fear people lived with in the past.

Hope lies in every difficult situation.

I learned about the impact war had on children. I also saw the war from the children's perspective.

It's serious and sad. I think people should think and be aware [with] it.

I learned there are people who give their lives to feed each other.

There are people worse off than me.

Well, I knew it was bad, like I read "Hannah's Suitcase", but I never thought that all of this could be that sad.

Don't do war plays about Nazis.

That you can have a good play with props mostly being chairs.

I have learned of the suffering. I mean, I knew and heard of it before, but this show showed me first hand what it was like to see your children suffering and slowly dying. It made me want to cry.

I learned that you can take a journey to the sun.

(reprinted with permission from the GCTC)



We have been fortunate to have a dedicated Co-op student, **Olivia Chartrand** is in grade 11 at Immaculata High School, and has been working with us for the fall semester.

IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE

February 12 & 13, 7pm & 8:30pm

OSSD musical theatre instructors come together for OSSD's annual fundraiser "**If Music Be the Food of Love**". This fundraiser was a sold out hit last year, and brings together the talents of the school's great instructors and rising musical theatre stars to produce an evening of great songs and dances.

Admission includes a champagne reception with delectable chocolate desserts. Join us for a special evening showcasing OSSD's talented instructors. Contact the office for ticket information at (613) 567-6788. Suitable for all audiences. Hurry! Tickets go fast!

A DREAM REALIZED con't'd

On a personal note, "The Children's Republic" has been a highlight of my artistic career. I am enormously proud of all of the students who have been involved, and of OSSD's ability to bring this story forward. I am honoured to have worked with the many artists who came together to make this happen.

We came together to tell the story as a tribute to Leon Gluzman. We will continue to tell it to keep Korczak's legacy alive and to honour the children.

Amanda Lewis,
Artistic Director, Ottawa
School of Speech & Drama

"Children are not the people of tomorrow, but are the people of today. They have a right to be taken seriously, and to be treated with tenderness and respect. They should be allowed to grow into whomever they were meant to be - the unknown person inside each of them is our hope for the future."

Dr. Janusz Korczak

Register now for Winter Semester!

Child & Youth classes resume
Saturday January 9, 2010

Adult classes resume Monday
January 11, 2010

Class sizes are limited so register now to avoid disappointment!

The quickest way to register is through our secure on-line system at www.ossd.com or one of our friendly office staff would be pleased to help you at the office or by phone at 613-567-6788 ext. 0.

Dates to Remember

- Winter registration is now on! Register On-line at www.ossd.com
- Open House Week: Dec. 8 - Dec. 14
- Children and Youth Classes begin: January 9, 2010
- Adult classes begin: January 11
- If Music Be the Food of Love... February 12 & 13
- Family Day - No children and youth classes February 15



Send address changes, letters and story ideas to:

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development@ossd.com

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- Visit us at OSSD at 294 Picton Ave. We'd be very glad to accept your donation!

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