

THE KING OF THE CHILDREN: OSSD'S SPECIAL 20TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECT

The King of the Children project weaves two lives together: Dr. Janusz Korczak, famous Polish pediatrician, advocate of children's rights and author; and Leon Gluzman, Ottawa businessman, philanthropist and former resident of Dr. Korczak's orphanage in Warsaw. The project explores the world of children set against the context of war, and how Dr. Korczak's teaching affected the young Leon Gluzman's life.

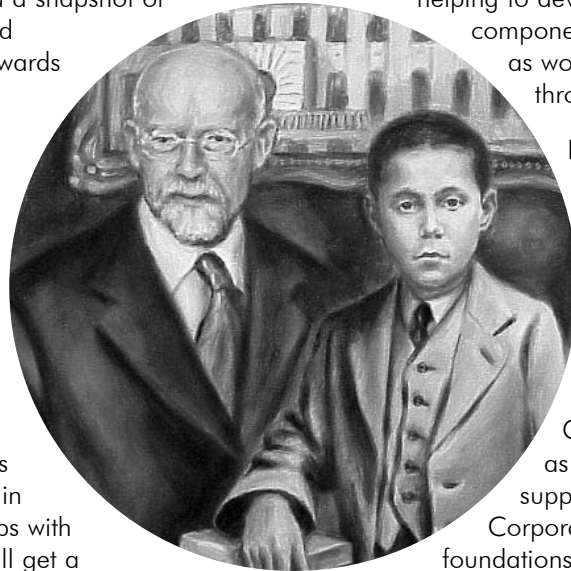
Dr. Korczak died in the Treblinka death camp, along with 200 of his orphans, teachers and orphanage staff. Leon Gluzman came to Canada in 1929 where he continues to enrich the lives of his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and community.

Last March, OSSD acting students took part in a workshop with director Janet Irwin, composer Nick Carpenter and movement coach Peter Ryan to explore

the vibrant themes and characters in the lives of Korczak and Gluzman. The group presented a snapshot of their process and discoveries at Awards Night in June.

In phase two of the workshop, OSSD and GTC have commissioned playwright Hannah Moscovitch to write a play based on these themes. Students will be involved in writing workshops with Hannah, and will get a glimpse into her creative process as she researches and explores dramatic themes. Students will also be involved

in creating characters, exploring period dances and childhood games, and helping to develop the musical components of the piece, as workshops continue throughout the year.



Painting of Janusz Korczak & a young Leon Gluzman by Eli Benzaquen

Public readings will take place in OSSD in the spring.

Workshops are being funded through the Ontario Arts Council, as well as by the generous support of the Telus Corporation and private foundations.

Message from the Artistic Director



Welcome to OSSD's fall newsletter. It has been a while since our last newsletter – that's because so many things are happening at OSSD that it is hard to keep up. There are now over 500 students at OSSD, taking 47 courses per week. And that doesn't include our thriving Pre-Professional program, nor our specialized workshops and private coaching. Clearly our new home in Westboro is a great success!

As I write this OSSD is filled with creative energy. Students in our regular

classes are rubbing shoulders with performers from A Company of Fools and Third Wall Theatre, both of which are rehearsing new shows at OSSD. We've also been able to welcome Ottawa's newest dance company, Propeller Dance, who are creating and performing their premiere work at OSSD in November. Our students are benefiting from all of this activity, as many of the performers in these companies are teaching classes and workshops at OSSD.

The newsletter will bring you up to date on some of our special projects and events. There are some moving stories here about the power that arts

education has to change lives. I am very proud of all of the work that OSSD is doing, both in the school and in the community, and grateful to our amazing instructors who give so much to their students.

If you haven't been in the school lately, I hope you will take an opportunity to come in and watch a class or two during Open House week. We'll all be on hand to talk about the programs, give you a tour of the facility, and to share our amazement at what students and artists can create together.

Amanda Lewis

Dates to Note

- Mrs. Tiggy Winkles Holiday Shopping night for OSSD members, Nov 21. See the OSSD website for details
- Register before Nov 26 for Winter semester to guarantee your spot
- OPEN HOUSE WEEK - Dec 11 to Dec 17
- Fundraising Cabaret for the Pre-Professional Program, Dec 14 at OSSD
- OSSD closed for holidays December 21 and opens Jan 3
- Annual General Meeting will be held November 28 at 7pm in Studio D

EVENTS

Theatre Smorgasbord

- Friday December 14; doors open at 7, performances start at 7:30pm
- What is it for? - It's a fundraiser for the pre-professional program
- Who is invited? Everyone is invited to join in on the fun!
- Join OSSD staff and students for a Cabaret night in support of the Pre-Professional Program.
- See first and second year Pre-Professional students flex their dramatic muscles
- See www.ossd.com for details

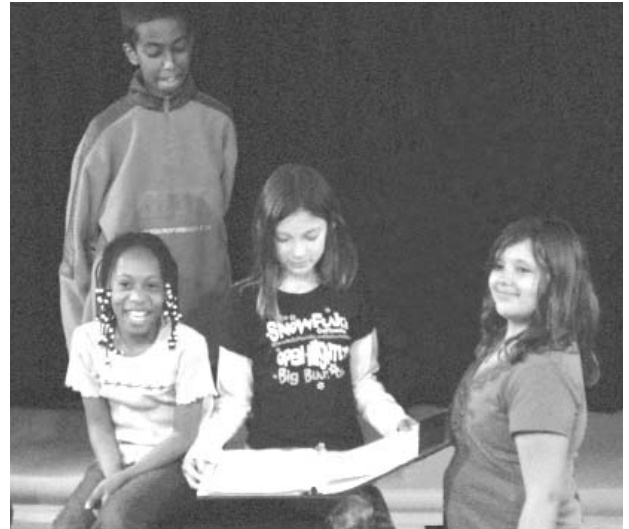
Open House Week

- Tuesday, December 11 to Monday, December 17
- Part of the Children and Youth Program, Open House week is your chance to see all the drama magic that goes on in OSSD's 4 studios. Drop by to see your child in action or stop in to see some of the other classes – it's an Open House! It's your chance to take a sneak peak at those other classes we know you're curious about!
- Check the OSSD website for complete timetable

THE "OUR STORIES" PROJECT OSSD REACHES OUT

The "OUR STORIES" project is an interactive drama adventure. Designed for children who are recent immigrants to Canada, children who are learning English as a second language, and/or children who have been disenfranchised, "Our Stories" explores the different histories and stories that make up Canada's cultural mosaic.

Students age 9 - 12 work with theatre specialists to explore personal histories. Through story telling, role-playing, movement, sound and improvisation, students create an original multicultural and multilingual theatre piece. The shape of their finished piece is dictated by the stories of the individuals who are involved. At the conclusion of the project, the students are invited to perform in the Natalie Stern Studio Theatre.



Students in Our Stories project, June 2007

Kristina Watt piloted the project in 2005 and has been developing it ever since. Natalie Fraser Purdy is currently working with two groups of students at the Debra Dynes Family House. Some of these students were involved with the project last year, and are still talking about their trip to OSSD, when they saw a production of *West Side Story*. It was the first theatre experience they had ever had, and they are "hooked"!

The Ottawa School of Speech & Drama gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ottawa Citizen Literary Foundation, The United Way, an anonymous Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Ottawa for the "Our Stories" project.

● How to be a Donor

The Ottawa School of Speech and Drama has played a vital part in the life of the city for nearly 20 years. As an active, charitable organization, OSSD relies on the generosity of its donors to help make our outstanding programs accessible to Ottawa budding performers.

Donating to OSSD is easy! You can click or write your way to making a donation in the following ways:

- Go to our website at www.ossd.com, then go to Support OSSD and then DONATE NOW. Here you can donate to OSSD online through CanadaHelps.org or fill out a donation form. Drop your form in the mail or
- Visit us at OSSD at 294 Picton Ave. We would be happy to meet with

you to discuss the many ways your donation can help.

- There are also fundraising events that you can participate in. Supporting a valuable community charity is fun at OSSD!

Community Service & Volunteering at OSSD

It's fun to volunteer at OSSD! If you're a high school student in need of a volunteer placement or if you are looking for an opportunity share your skills, give us a call. We have many opportunities available for you! Please contact **Francesco Corsaro** at development@ossd.com and let us help you get into the act!

New Classes

FREE Technical Theatre courses for ages 16-21

Interested? Contact OSSD at info@ossd.com or 613 567-6788 for more details.

Application deadline is **Dec. 17th, 2007**

Courses involve both course instruction and hands on experience. Productions are scheduled for May, 2008.

FREE! Set Design and Scenic Art for the Theatre

NANCY SOLMON

January 12 - April 5, 2008

Saturdays 3:00 - 5:00

April - May 16 for building and painting of designs

FREE! Technical Theatre Basics

DARRYL BENNETT

January 14 - April 28

May rehearsals and tech time as scheduled

Mondays 6:30 - 8:30

(occasional 3 hour class as needed to visit theatres or do tech on show)

FREE! Stage Management Course

KEVIN WAGHORN

February 3 - April 27, 2008

May rehearsals and tech time as scheduled

Sundays 5:00 - 8:00 + rehearsal times

FREE! Costume and prop design

SARAH FEELY WAGHORN

January 12 - Feb. 23, 2008

Times to be determined

NEW COURSE!

Shakespeare (12+), Semester 2 only!
Thursdays 5 to 7pm

OSSD IN THE COMMUNITY:

Did you know that OSSD instructors sometimes create special programs for students outside of OSSD? Currently, **Barry Karp** is running exciting drama and poetry workshops at Hillel Academy and **Natalie Fraser Purdy** is running an ensemble acting program at Astalot Education Centre. If students can't come to OSSD, OSSD can go to the students!

Student Profile - Fiona Green



Fiona is a second year student in the Pre-Professional Program. Fiona and her parents, who are themselves originally from Ottawa, lived in Miami, Florida until she was 18.

Fiona found that year one of the program offered a very nurturing learning environment, a setting that encouraged risk-taking with no fear of failure. She believes that the people who teach in the program know their art well and as a result, can offer a broad spectrum of learning, teaching not only the outward skills in acting, but also the inward skills needed to hone oneself.

Fiona is looking forward to being in the production of *Tartuffe* with Third Wall next year. She is excited about the interaction with the public she knows it will bring. She is also looking forward to the Trinity exams, which she is glad is administered through OSSD. She is very happy to be connected with the local Ottawa theatre community, which, to her, seem to all congregate here – another great thing about OSSD.

When she is not at OSSD, Fiona works at the Westboro Lulu Lemon and also studies part-time in the Theatre Program at the University of Ottawa. Fiona hopes to be able to work within the Ottawa theatre community after graduation and also work in film and commercial productions. With a smile like that, who can resist!

MAY SHOWCASE 2008

Start planning for a great month of shows!

APRIL 12 & 13 Museum of Nature: THE YOUNG ACTORS' COMPANY is creating an original collective play, directed by Kristina Watt. This show will also be performed in The Natalie Stern Studio Theatre, May 3rd.

MAY 8 - 10 Natalie Stern Studio Theatre : The OSSD SENIOR COMPANY will be directed by James Richardson (Artistic Director of Third Wall Theatre) in *Mugged* by Andrew Payne.

MAY 13 - 16 Natalie Stern Studio Theatre: THE STUDIO ONE COMPANY is performing *Guys and Dolls*, directed by Emmanuelle Zeesman, with Musical Direction by Theresa Cillis O'Meara.

MAY 21 - 24 Natalie Stern Studio Theatre: THE STUDIO TWO COMPANY is performing *Pajama Game*, directed by Natalie Fraser Purdy, with Musical Direction by Theresa Cillis O'Meara.

MAY 28 - 31 Alumni Theatre, University of Ottawa: THE OSSD PERFORMANCE COMPANY is performing *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, by Lewis Carroll, adapted by James Reaney, directed by Amanda Lewis and Emmanuelle Zeesman.

MAY 27 - JUNE 7 Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre: In association with Third Wall Theatre, THE PRE-PROFESSIONAL COMPANY is performing in *Tartuffe* by Moliere, in a new adaptation by David Whitely.

Winter Registration

We are now accepting registrations for Semester 2, which runs from **January 12 - April 28**. Register now to guarantee a spot, as many of the current classes are full! Students already registered in a class will have a spot reserved for next semester until **Monday, November 26**, when registration for new applicants will begin. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

Alumni News

Pre-Professional Program graduate **Colleen Sutton** snagged a role in Third Wall Theatre's production of *Top Girls*.

Michelle LeBlanc, who is also a graduate of the Pre-Professional Program, stars in the Seven Thirty Production of *The Good Father* November 6 to 18.



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Alan Dean Photography Fundraiser



From November 12th to the 18th, photographer **Alan Dean** is offering OSSD members a free headshot sitting. Alan will take portrait photos at OSSD and you will receive a free contact sheet. If you choose to purchase a print, Alan will donate a portion of the price back to OSSD. Get your headshots and support OSSD!

Visit Alan's web site at www.alandeanphotography.com

Contact **Francesco Corsaro** at development@ossd.com for more information.

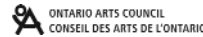
DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you to the following donors who have recently given to OSSD:

Vladimir Bradateanu, Gale Bank, Nicole Clark, Deborah Edwards, David Gluzman, Leah Jones, Neil & Randi Shinder.

Thank you to all Government and Corporate and Foundation supporters; Canwest Global Foundation, Scotiabank, TELUS, Mrs. Tiggy Winkles and Whispers.

The Ottawa School of Speech & Drama gratefully acknowledges the support of the following organizations:



Studio D - Have you seen it?

Providing space for our sold-out summer camps in July and allowing OSSD to offer more classes, Studio D has become highly valuable to our development and growth. Studio D has also been a great space to store our growing collection of costumes, props and set pieces. As well, the new studio has increased our ability to serve the

community. We are able to rent the space to different theatre companies, providing a large rehearsal space that includes adequate dressing room areas.

Thank you to The Trillium Foundation and the City of Ottawa for making this renovation possible.