



BackStory's vision is that community is enriched through theatre.

This occurs through the enjoyment of and appreciation for live productions, through participation in shared community experiences, through philanthropic outreach which demonstrates enthusiasm for theatre arts, and through confidence-building and development of life-skills (such as teamwork and communication) which result from participation in theatre programs.

Three BackStory Theatre programs support this vision:

(1) BackStory Theatre Academy (which includes free programs at low-income schools and fee-based classes in community spaces) is for beginning to advanced



students ages 18 months to 18 years and focuses on acquisition of acting skills and confidence building. Many classes culminate in a final public production held on an auditorium stage with professional-quality sound, lighting and costumes. In 2017, BackStory held 17 fee-based, multi-session classes with 184 registrations; 6 free, grant-supported multi-week classes at low-income schools with 64 participants; and 1 free, community outreach workshop with 26 participants. Over 1500

community members attended Academy performances in 2016.

(2) BackStory Youth Theatre provides opportunities for youth ages 8-18 to participate in professional-quality productions of Broadway-style musicals and plays which provide family-friendly theatre opportunities in the community. In addition to developing acting skills, the program is designed to promote a healthy sense of self within young actors, celebrate accomplishments, and build confidence. For the 2017 season, BackStory produced a Shakespearean comedy with 22 youth performers and 350 community attendees and a full-length production of *Mary Poppins* with 44 youth participants and 864 ticketed attendees to 3 sold-out public performances. For *Mary Poppins*, BackStory hosted a free field trip performance for 294 local students and a behind-the-scenes experience for 82 attendees from the Gifted and Talented program of the Adams 12 school district. For the start of the 2018 season, BackStory cast 22 youth actors for the Shakespearean parody *A Midsummer Night's Prom Dream* which brought 130

About BackStory Theatre

"BackStory Classes have given my daughter a sense of local community. She has struggled with a lasting supportive peer group and the BackStory "family" has proven to be this for her"

-- Parent of BackStory Participant

"<My daughter's> confidence and self-pride were absolutely incredible. Thank you for this opportunity, and for lighting a spark in her for theater and arts that I hope never goes away!"

-- Parent of BackStory Participant

"Our school has been privileged to attend the school performance of the BackStory Youth Theatre for the past 4 years One of our low income students saw a play for the first time at the Broomfield Auditorium. She was so excited and impressed."

-- Field Trip Performance Participant

"<Mary Poppins> was an amazing performance, and our students loved it so much. Thank you for inspiring their creativity!"

-- Emerald Elementary Teacher

"My child loves to be on stage, and BackStory Theater has given her a place to perform and be accepted despite her ongoing struggles with anxiety, depression, and mental health issues. Thank you for supporting her."

-- Parent of BackStory Participant

attendees to performances in July. A production of Annie is scheduled for November with 4 performances at the Broomfield Auditorium.



(3) BackStory Youth Leadership Program was developed in 2017 as an extension of BackStory's work-study program for advanced theatre students in an effort to expand leadership opportunities for students interested in pursuing higher education in theatre arts, teaching, and public service. In 2017, the 10 students in this program supported 5 week-long, fee-based summer camps culminating in 5 public productions at the Broomfield Auditorium, supported a free theatre education workshop at the Refuge Café for 21 homeless and at-risk youth, and student-produced a musical parody of *Jaws* performed at the Broomfield Audi. Immersive learning for the teens is provided in areas of production direction, stage direction, stage management, classroom management, and technical direction in addition to stage skills for performance.

Although some BackStory classes and programs are provided to students through participant fees, BackStory relies on grants, individual donations, and the support of local businesses to keep tickets and fees affordable for all and to offer free outreach programs to underserved families in our community. These programs include free theatre classes for low-income students at Emerald Elementary, free field trip performances of Youth Theatre productions for Broomfield schools, free workshops for homeless and at-risk youth, scholarships and work study programs which cover participant fees for low-income students, and free show tickets for young children. **These programs would not be possible without the financial support of local companies like yours!**



"I feel very privileged to be a part of BackStory Theatre because this opportunity will help me grow as a person to be better prepared for the future so I can accomplish my life's goals"

-- **BackStory Scholarship Recipient**

"BackStory has been a consistent and positive outlet for my child for many years . . . She's comfortable speaking in front of her peers, and the skills gained will hopefully carry her through middle school and into the future."

-- **Parent of BackStory Participant**

"The great things that happen in our brains and bodies when we are active and involved with creativity is so lovely to watch, to observe and to participate in. We are grateful to have the chance to have our student have their first BackStory experience and if we have the time and resources we will have them in another!"

-- **Parent of BackStory Participant**

"Backstory Theatre began providing theatre programming for our Dragon School Program in 2014. Since that time they have provided free after school programming for over 160 students in twelve week classes in a very comfortable and creative environment where the students have had opportunity to create/revise their own plays. . . .

We see shy students really come out of their shell and gain confidence in themselves."

-- **Emerald Elementary Administrators**