

Educational Outreach Committee Report May 2020

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Overview of the Year:

Educational Outreach Committee had a difficult year due to loss of members (young ones!) and tightening school budgets. Even with the loss of members and transitioning new ones, we continue to make strides to reach out to the community and bring in a younger audience as we have been tasked.

This season, in addition to increased Open Mics that garner a younger vibe, we added a Magic Show with a special children's' performance and workshop. We see this kind of programming and possibly more workshops continuing in the next season.

The offerings this season, due to the mature content and low youth interest level of the shows created a situation that did not provide an opportunity to bring in matinee performances. Further, though contacted, there was no director who had an interest in pursuing a matinee, partly due to the fact that a matinee performance is tied to actor/crew availability during the day -- which is easier said than done we have found.

This year we saw some results from the MVCC Bridge program -- our exciting venture involving bringing in MVCC theater majors for a Theater Practicum where they will worked on our shows in a variety of functions from pre to post production. We will continue to seek students for this as they are our future.

Next Season:

We have the good fortune of two "youth" shows next year which may provide an opportunity to pursue student matinees. They are Charlotte's Web and The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. With the present uncertainty about how/when public schools will be up and running, and the possibility of banned field trips due to Covid virus, we are somewhat on hold with this endeavor.