

Welcome to the New Year!

Thank you to all of our supporters for making 2009 a year of growth and success for Early Stages! Our Live Theater Program begins the year with 25 new partner schools and our Storytelling Residencies are in almost 20 schools. This year we expect to reach over 10,000 students.

We have new ways to communicate with you this year! Become a fan of Early Stages Program, Inc. on [Facebook](#), and read and contribute to our new blog, www.earlystages.org/blog/

We are excited to announce that we were awarded a Taproot Grant for Strategic Planning Prep that will enable us to grow and plan for the future with increased understanding and focus.

Look for information about our upcoming benefit to honor Broadway Producer and board member Randall Wreghitt this spring.

We wish you all the best for 2010 and look forward to sharing our future with you!

Rain Kramer
Board President

Jackie Pine
Executive Director

Early Stages is Honored



Board President Rain Kramer, and Advisory Board members, Jenny Powers and Matt Cavanaugh on November 16, at the Waldorf-Astoria. 1,000 supporters gathered to honor the success of Early Stages and 16 other New York City non-profits at Youth I.N.C.'s annual "Celebration" event.



Why I Support Early Stages

Board Member
Linda Ellis

As a Board Member I've visited our partner schools and met students and teachers

who benefited from our programs. These visits have reinforced my commitment to Early Stages.

I recently observed a demonstration class of the Early Stages (ES) Storytelling Program for preschoolers at a Brooklyn Kindergarten Society's (BKS) site in Brooklyn. **How inspiring it was to watch ES teaching artist Mara McEwin work with the students.** I loved watching how they worked together: the children using their voices, bodies and minds as Mara patiently guided them towards imaginative thinking and verbal expression. Although they had not seen her since last spring, I could see how much they retained from last year's program and how Mara built on their existing abilities. At the end of the session, the 4 year olds queued up for hugs and kisses. It was clear that this program made a huge difference to each of them and to their classroom learning. After observing two demonstration classes and speaking with Mara, teachers, and administrators at BKS, **I realized I could not let this program disappear from the lives of these children.** I have made a commitment to fund our program at this center. After six years of a successful partnership with all five BKS centers, budget cuts have forced us to discontinue our storytelling program the centers this year. **I hope you will come take a look at the program in action, and join me by supporting our program at the four other centers.**

For more information and to set up a site visit please call Aubrie at 212-242-1744.

Students Raise Money for Early Stages



On their own, students from Stuyvesant High School decided to organize a fundraising effort to thank Early Stages for introducing them to Broadway.

The students raised \$300 in support of the Early Stages Live Theater Program.

More than half students went to the theater for the first time with Early Stages. These students saw *Wicked*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and *Shrek*.

Thank you Julie Shienman, veteran drama and debate teacher and 20 year Early Stage partner.

Thank you Students!

Matt Cavanaugh Hosts *West Side Story* Talkback with Students

Matt Cavanaugh, Broadway performer and Early Stages Advisory Council member, arranged for 20 Early Stages students to attend a performance of *West Side Story* followed by a talk back in the Green Room with stars of the show.

Most of the students who attended the performance did not know the plot of *West Side Story* and for some it was their first experience at a Broadway show, but the depth of the students questions and insights clearly showed how deeply connected they felt to the performance .



Shows We've Seen: Sept 2009-Jan 2010

Brother/ Sister Plays,
County of Kings,
Dreamgirls,
Fela!,
Lincoln Center's Chamber Society,
Memphis,
Next to Normal,
New York Choral Society concert at
Carnegie Hall,
Phantom of the Opera,
Shrek,
Superior Donuts,
Fraulein Maria,
West Side Story,
Wicked

"Going to see *West Side Story* was my first time witnessing a Broadway play, and I must say, I definitely see what I've been missing all these years."

Patricia, University Heights HS

"I was left truly mesmerized [by *County of Kings*]. The struggle he portrayed and the picture he managed to paint assured me that our voices as Latinos are rising and are being heard. The show was beautiful, funny, refreshing and emotional at all the right times. I'm actually thinking about going back to watch the show again, it was that good!"

Katherine, Coalition HS

"Memphis taught me not to judge any one for their race or who they were. I recommend this show because it is a part of history we should know about, so we could see how some people suffer in the world and how the human spirit could still survive."

Johanny, Stanley Isaacs Center, GED +

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