

Mainstage + New Works + Youth Education



1979-1989

APRIL 20, 1979
Village Theatre debuts Mainstage season at First Stage Theatre with *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, directed by founding Artistic Director Carl Darchuk.



1980
Robb Hunt named Producing Director.

SEPTEMBER 1980
Production of Carl Darchuk and David Maddux's musical, *Beantalk*. This represents the theatre's first foray into new musicals.

1981
Purchase of the historic 1914 Theatre at 120 Front Street North.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF VILLAGE THEATRE ARCHIVES

1982
The first version of KIDSTAGE is created with a student SummerStock program at Issaquah High School.



The New Beantalk
1982-1983 SEASON
PHOTO: COURTESY OF VILLAGE THEATRE ARCHIVES

1983
Pinocchio is the first KIDSTAGE SummerStock production on the Mainstage.

1985
Carl Darchuk departs for film career and Robb Hunt is named Executive Producer.



SUMMER 1985
SummerStock production of *Bye Bye Birdie*, created exclusively by students under the age of 21.

1987
Eleanor, commissioned and produced with New York writers Tom Tierney, Jonathan Bolt, and John Foster. Also of note, Eleanor is played by New York Actress Bijou Clinger, Village Theatre's first Actors' Equity Contract.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF VILLAGE THEATRE ARCHIVES

MARCH 1987
Steve Tomkins' Village Theatre debut as choreographer of *West Side Story*.

JULY 1987
The first original youth summer production, an adaptation of *The Jungle Book* by Alex Berry.

1988
Students' SummerStock program is renamed KIDSTAGE.

Village Theatre
KIDSTAGE

MARCH 1988
Steve Tomkins directs his first Mainstage production, *Gypsy*.

1989
Village Theatre joins the National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT).



Man of La Mancha
Produced three times on the Mainstage:
1979-1980 Season
1983-1984 Season
2003-2004 Season (PHOTO: JOHN PAI)

1990-1999

FALL 1990
After-school KIDSTAGE classes held for the first time.

JULY 1991
Funny Pages (an original work by Brian Yorkey and Scott Warrender) is produced by Summer KIDSTAGE. It was produced on the Mainstage in November 1992.

SEPTEMBER 1991
Jungle Queen Debutante, a new musical by Tom Tierney & Sean O'Donnell and directed by Steve Tomkins, opens the 1991-1992 Mainstage Season.

APRIL 1993
Steve Tomkins is named Artistic Director.



MAY 1993
Jesus Christ Superstar becomes first Village Theatre show to use wireless body microphones.

NOVEMBER 22, 1993
Village Theatre breaks ground at 303 Front Street North in Issaquah for a new state-of-the-art theatre.

NOVEMBER 17, 1994
Babes in Toyland opens the Francis J. Gaudette Theatre (so named in honor of the first Chairman of the Capital Campaign Cabinet, who passed away during the campaign).



PHOTO: MARK KITAOKA

1994-1995 SEASON VILLAGE THEATRE REACHES 12,000 MAINSTAGE SUBSCRIBERS

1994
Mainstage subscribers reach 12,000, making Village Theatre the fourth-largest producing theatre in Washington State by subscriber numbers. Operating budget reaches \$1 million for the first time.

1994
Village Theatre tours *Heartbeats*, a new musical, to the new Everett Performing Arts Center.

OCTOBER 1995
Village Theatre stages *On the Town*, a classic musical never before produced as a full-scale revival in the northwest.

SEPTEMBER 1996
City Kid is the first new work from the First Stage New Musical Series produced on the Mainstage.

JANUARY 1997
KIDSTAGE Company is formed to give young performers advanced training in theatre arts. Their first production is *Cinderella Meets the Wolfman*.

OCTOBER 1997
Village Theatre ratifies formal agreement with Actors' Equity Association (AEA), the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



PHOTO: NORTHWEST THEATRE PRESS

1998
Village Theatre is contracted by the City of Everett to be the Resident Performing and Management Company at the Everett Performing Arts Center, bringing Youth Education programs and Mainstage productions to Snohomish County.

OCTOBER 1998
Kati Nickerson is named the Director of Youth Education.



Funny Girl
Produced twice on the Mainstage:
1993-1994 Season
2013-2014 Season (PHOTO: JAY KOH)



2000-2009

2000
Pied Piper Children's Performance Series is added to Village Theatre's Youth Education program through a non-profit merger.

2000
Brian Yorkey (a former KIDSTAGE student) is hired as Associate Artistic Director, focusing on new musical development where he continued on a part time basis until 2007.



JANUARY 2001
Brian Yorkey directs his first Mainstage production, *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

MARCH 2002
Making Tracks is produced on the Mainstage (debuted as a Village Originals Workshop in April of 2000).

2002
KIDSTAGE Originals develops its first original musical, *In Your Eyes*, with Brian Yorkey and Tom Kitt.

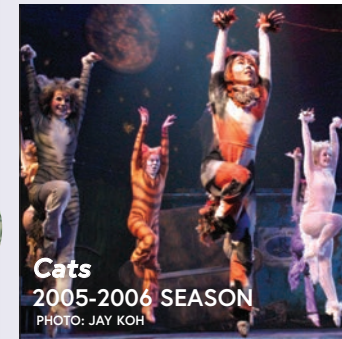
MARCH 2003
The Ark becomes the first Village Original to have a multi-million dollar Off-Broadway run.

2004
The KIDSTAGE Teen Apprentice Program (TAP) is formed, putting students alongside theatre professionals for training and mentorship.

JUNE 2005
Village Theatre is awarded the Eastside Destination Award by the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, attesting to Village Theatre's "vibrancy, artistic excellence, service to the community, and economic impact to East King County."

DECEMBER 2005
Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*) and David Stern bring *Snapshots* to Village Originals.

Million Dollar Quartet
2006 Village Theatre Festival of New Musicals
Produced twice on the Mainstage:
2007-2008 Season
2018-2019 Season (PHOTO: TRACY MARTIN)



Cats
2005-2006 SEASON
PHOTO: JAY KOH

SEPTEMBER 2006
Evita opens the 2006-2007 Mainstage Season; Steve Tomkins and Brian Yorkey co-direct for the first time.

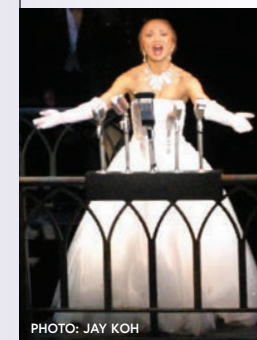


PHOTO: JAY KOH

2007
Everett KIDSTAGE partners with The Dance School to create all-day musical theatre camps in summer.

SEPTEMBER 2007
The Craig and Joan Watjen Technical Studios opens, with *The King and I* as the first production built in the new facility, allowing the scenery, props, and paint departments to work in the same building for the first time.



2007
First Mainstage production of *Million Dollar Quartet*. The show was remounted with three of Village's Quartet members in Chicago and on Broadway. Village Theatre performer Levi Kreis won the Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical for his portrayal of Jerry Lee Lewis.

2006-2007 SEASON VILLAGE THEATRE REACHES 17,000 MAINSTAGE SUBSCRIBERS

SPRING 2009
Whidbey Island Children's Theatre produces *Last Exit*. This marks the first time a KIDSTAGE Company Original production is licensed for production elsewhere.

APRIL 15, 2009
New musical *Next to Normal*, which was supported and developed through Village Originals with Village Theatre's own Brian Yorkey, opens on Broadway to rave reviews. It was later awarded the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and three Tony Awards.

SEPTEMBER 2009
Village Theatre opens its 30th Anniversary Season with the new musical *Chasing Nicolette*.

2010-2019

2010
Seattle Magazine names Executive Producer Robb Hunt and Artistic Director Steve Tomkins "Most Influential People in 2010," noting that they have turned Village Theatre into "a nationally-renowned incubator of powerhouse productions."

2011
Reconstruction of the beloved 1914 First Stage Theatre in Issaquah is completed, creating a new home for KIDSTAGE and Village Originals programs.

2011
Village Theatre KIDSTAGE creates *Institute*, an intensive school-year program open by audition for students in grades 6-12 who are ready to study, train, and perform at an advanced level.



PHOTO: MARK KITAOKA

2011
Village Theatre leases a City of Everett building and renovates the facility into what is now known as the *Cope Gillette Theatre*. It's home to the Youth Education program and hundreds of KIDSTAGE students, classes, rehearsals, workshops, and productions in Everett.

SEPTEMBER 2012
Jerry Dixon directs *Take Me America*, his first Mainstage new musical at Village Theatre.

2014-2015
Mary Poppins reigns as the highest attended show in Village Theatre history.



PHOTO: MARK KITAOKA

Les Misérables
2013-2014 Season
(PHOTO: TRACY MARTIN)



PHOTO: MARK KITAOKA

2014
Xanadu marks the Theatre's first co-production, in collaboration with Arizona Theatre Company. After the show's run in Issaquah and Everett, it traveled to Arizona and ran in both Tucson and Phoenix.

2015
It Shoulda Been You, another Village Theatre original production (2012), opens on Broadway.

2015-2016
Two new musicals premiered in the 2015-2016 Season; *Snapshots* by Steven Schwartz and David Stern and *My Heart is the Drum* by Jennie Redling, Phillip Palmer, and Stacey Luftig.

2016
Brandon Ivie (a former KIDSTAGE student) hired as Village Theatre's Associate Artistic Director to lead the Village Originals program.

2016
Village Originals Beta Productions are established, giving audiences a chance to see exciting new musicals while they are still in the process of being created.

2017-2018 SEASON VILLAGE THEATRE REACHES 20,000 MAINSTAGE SUBSCRIBERS

2018
Steve Tomkins retires after 25 years as Artistic Director.

2018
Jerry Dixon becomes Village Theatre's new Artistic Director.



DECEMBER 2018
Opening of Anderson Family Artist Housing (aka The Anderson House), to provide lodging for visiting directors, writers, and actors.

2019
The Theatre kicks off its 40th Anniversary season, programming an all-musical lineup only to be cut short by a world-wide pandemic.



“The quality at Village is amazing: the lighting, the sound system, and the intimacy of the theatre—because there's not a bad seat in the house. And it's just right here at home, which we feel really fortunate about. Obviously, we're kind of sold!” — *Steve and Carol Klein*

“Village Originals is an amazing opportunity for writers to get to mold their work; to take an idea and turn it into a show.” — *Will Van Dyke, Music and Lyrics, Writing Kevin Taylor*

“I am a part of something that makes me feel that I have talent, goals, and something incredibly fun to look forward to each day.” — *Riley Toland, KIDSTAGE Student*

INSPIRE



SINGIN' IN THE RAIN, MAINSTAGE, 2016 PHOTO: TRACY MARTIN

CREATE



COLD TURKEY, FESTIVAL OF NEW MUSICALS, 2019 PHOTO: NORTHWEST THEATRE PRESS

EDUCATE



OLIVER, KIDSTAGE EVERETT, 2017 PHOTO: NORTHWEST THEATRE PRESS

VillageTheatre.org