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A note from Artistic Director, Krista Schafer Ewbank

What an exciting season! We upped our number of performances and our audience grew by over 27%! We were honored to be named **Trenton Business of the Year** at the 2019 State of the City Event. We received **two Wilde Award nominations**: Eric Niece for best set design, *Ada and the Engine* and Joshua Whitson for Best Performance by a Lead Actor in a Play for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.

We started off by listening to our audience and artists through surveys and a SWOT analysis.

Our audience survey confirmed that the work we do **impacts our community**. *The plays I've seen at Open Book have led me to research and learn about new artists and historical people. They've also led to conversations about loved ones, families and relationships in general.*

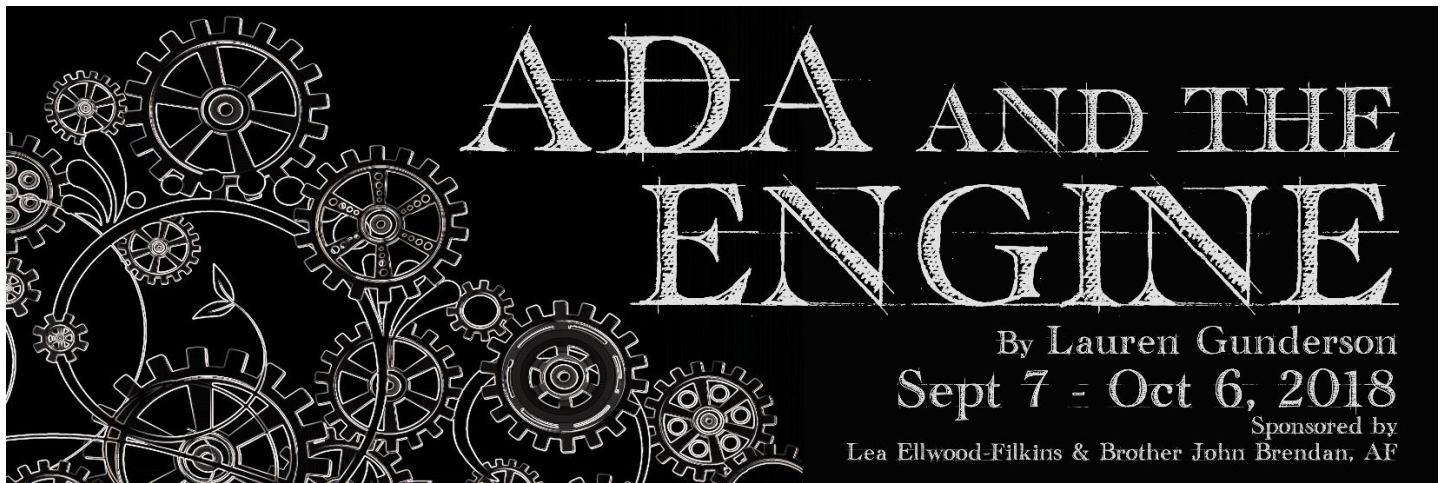
92% of our survey responders confirmed that our shows have **sparked conversation** with family and/or friends. *Attended play with my young adult daughter. We really enjoyed the intimacy of the theater. It sparked conversation afterwards. We can't wait for new season and opportunity to invite friends.*

60% say our productions have helped them think of something **in a new way**. *I'm always looking for where my challenges, losses and triumphs intersect with those of the characters. Plays deepen my compassion toward myself and others. Actors inspire me to let down my guard and feel free to be fully in the moment.*

Nearly 14% indicated that our work has **changed how they interact** with others and 23% say they've been prompted to **do something differently**. *Boy Gets Girl changed the way I interact with women and how I view entertainment/culture in relation to sexism. I can't listen to music the same way now.*

Our board took this information and set bold goals for the next five years including raising artist stipends, increasing our audience, and creating systems and staff positions to ensure the sustainability of our organization. We want to create a strong theatre that is here to serve the community for years, and even decades, to come. We also re-worked our mission statement to succinctly state what we're all about: **to promote connection through theatrical storytelling.**

**all quotes from our audience survey, August 2018*



Performances: 15

Attendance: 643

Cast

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Ada Lovelace | Sarah Hawkins |
| Lindel Salow | Charles Babbage |
| Anabella Byron | Kez Settle |
| Lord William Lovelace | Joshua R Brown |
| Mary Sommerville | Cynthia Szczesny |
| Lord Byron | Matthew Wallace |

Production Team

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Director | Krista Schafer Ewbank |
| Producer | Krista Schafer Ewbank |
| Stage Manager | Danielle Gilbert |
| Scenic Design | Eric Niece |
| Lighting Design | Harley Miah |
| Sound Design | Krista Schafer Ewbank |
| Costume Design | Cheryl Zemke |
| Set Construction | Eric Niece, Casey Hibbert, Cynthia Szczesny, Hannah Niece |
| Light Crew | Reyna DeSilva |



Ada and the Engine, under the direction of Krista Schafer Ewbank, is an engrossing play with fully realized historical characters and a modern sense of urgency. The cast is terrific... This play is strong enough to stand on its own merits, but has special appeal to all who would champion young women in STEAM education subjects. The final scene is fantastical to be sure, but consistent with the scientific idea that things are impossible until they're not. Einstein himself declared that "imagination is more important than knowledge." The story of Ada Byron Lovelace, told with love by the Open Book Theatre Company, proves it. – Patrice Nolan, [review for Encore, MI](#)

A stunning production, what an inspiring way to spend a Sunday afternoon! – audience member Mo Yang

Doubt a parable

by John Patrick Shanley
Nov 2 - Dec 1, 2018



Performances: 15

Attendance: 621

Cast

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Father Brendan Flynn | Joe Sfair |
| Sister Aloysius Beauvier | Margaret Gilkes |
| Sister James | Meghan VanArsdalen |
| Mrs. Muller | Krystle Dellihue |

Production Team

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Director | Wendy Katz Hiller |
| Producer | Krista Schafer Ewbank |
| Stage Manager | Danielle Gilbert |
| Lighting Design | Jillian Joie Dahl |
| Scenic Design | Bradly Byrne |
| Sound Design | Wendy Katz Hiller |
| Costume Design | Cheryl Zemke |
| Props | Wendy Katz Hiller |
| Light Crew | Reyna DeSilva |



I loved the set design. Minimalism is a very powerful tool for the imagination. However, everything was very professional and very well done. – audience member Jade Kennan

But when it comes to children and the most vulnerable among us, if you see something, say something, like Sister Aloysius. Better yet, do something. Start by going to see this powerful story deftly presented and performed by Open Book Theatre. – David Kiley, [review for Encore Michigan](#)

Flawless. Every aspect about this show is professional. It's amazing to have this quality Downriver. I'm planning on seeing every show this season. – audience member Alexis Bartnum

WONDER OF THE WORLD

BY DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE
JAN 11- FEB 9, 2019

Performances: 15

Attendance: 806

Cast

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Cass Harris | Krista Schafer Ewbank |
| Kip Harris | Richard Payton |
| Lois Coleman | Linda Rabin Hammell |
| Karla | Connie Cowper |
| Glen | Dan Morrison |
| Captain Mike | Pat Loos |
| Barbara, Helicopter Pilot, Waitresses, Janie | Mandy Logsdon |

Production Team

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Director | Sarah Hawkins Moan |
| Producer | Krista Schafer Ewbank |
| Stage Manager | Jillian Joie Dahl |
| Lighting Design | Harley Miah |
| Scenic Design | Eric Niece |
| Costume Design | Reyna DeSilva |
| Sound Design | Sarah Hawkins Moan |
| Props | Reyna DeSilva |
| Set Crew | Alan Gibson |
| Light Crew | Reyna DeSilva |



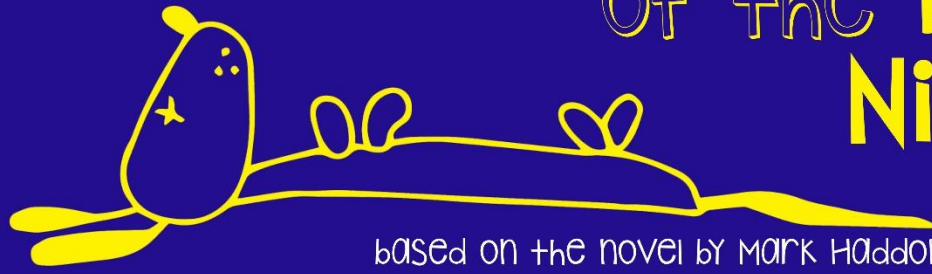
Everything was hilarious - even when they were just moving around the props. – audience member Mary Cheff

Excellent performances. Loved the unpredictability of the script. – audience member Mintzi Schramm

Leave short days and cold weather behind as you warm up to the quirky yet touching character comedy Wonder of the World, by David Lindsay-Abaire at Trenton's Open Book Theatre Company. - Sue Suchyta, review for News-Herald

Loved how the show was hilarious, insightful, and HONEST! - audience member Katie K

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time



MARCH 15-APRIL 13, 2019

based on the novel by MARK HADDON, adapted by SIMON STEPHENS

Performances: 15

Attendance: 945

Cast

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Christopher Boone | Joshua Whitson |
| Siobhan | Jaclynn Cherry |
| Ed Boone | Robert Schorr |
| Judy Boone | Carrie Jay Sayer |
| Voice 1 | Jean Pilon |
| Voice 2 | Lindel Salow |
| Voice 3 | Josh Brown |
| Voice 4 | Jonathan Davidson |
| Voice 5 | Allison Megroet |
| Voice 6 | Linda Rabin Hammell |

Production Team

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Director | Adriane Galea |
| Producer | Krista Schafer Ewbank |
| Stage Manager | Danielle Gilbert |
| Lighting Design | Harley Miah |
| Scenic Design | Shane O'Connor w/ Adriane Galea |
| Costume Design | Cheryl Zemke |
| Sound Design | Adriane Galea |
| Props | Reyna DeSilva |
| Light Crew | Reyna DeSilva |



I wanted to tell you how impressed I was with the production. Having seen this play at the Fisher, I had reservations about how it would work in a smaller setting. Yet it worked even better. The cast was superb, the tech was perfect, the intimate staging and directing pulled the audience into Christopher's world with unrelenting emotions. Congratulations!
– Audience member Bryan Conroy

Absolutely amazing. The layout of the stage brought you into the mind of the lead character. I'm still on edge because I could really feel it! – audience member Maegan Drake

Very eye opening to other peoples' visions of this world. – audience member Mike Bellenir



Performances: 15

Attendance: 728

| Cast | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| Eddie | Jonathan Davidson |
| May | Krista Schafer Ewbank |
| The Old Man | Lindel Salow |
| Martin | Joshua Brown |

| Production Team | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Director | D.B. Schroeder |
| Producer | Krista Schafer Ewbank |
| Stage Manager | Danielle Gilbert |
| Fight Choreographer | Patrick Nelson Hanley |
| Lighting Design | Harley Miah |
| Scenic Design | Bradly Byrne |
| Sound Design | Wendy Katz Hiller |
| Props | Krista Schafer Ewbank |
| Light Crew | Reyna DeSilva |
| House Manager | Danielle Gilbert |



D.B. Schroeder has directed a very good production here of a story that we have no doubt could happen in any town, especially towns with shabby residential motels holding moldering family secrets—Ypsilanti, Redford, Romulus, Monroe. It's not all that far from where any of us live. Shepard has written a compact, taut, crackling, distilled story that is exactly as long as it need to be to make a patron say, 'Whoah!' at the denouement. - David Kiley, [review for Encore Michigan](#)

Very good performances – audience member John Zawacki

Revenue and Expenses

Our fiscal year runs January 1 -December 31. We are looking to change our fiscal year to match our season offerings.

The jump in our general and administrative costs for fiscal year 17 reflects expenses of getting settled into our new building.

**2016 fundraising numbers do not reflect our capital campaign, which raised nearly \$290,000 in cash and in kind donations*

| | Fiscal Year 18 | Fiscal Year 17 | Fiscal Year 16 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Revenue | | | |
| Subscription Ticket Income | 19,330 | 11,360 | 7,830 |
| Single Ticket Income | 38,781 | 30,158 | 21,518 |
| Advertising revenue | 500 | 1,150 | 1,000 |
| Fundraising | 6,015 | 4,652 | *458 |
| Show Sponsorships | 5,000 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| Individual Donations | 46,873 | 43,428 | 4,326 |
| Foundations | 0 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Government Grants | 11,250 | 1,500 | 2,600 |
| Interest | 61 | 30 | 0 |
| Total Revenue | 127,810 | 95,778 | 40,232 |

Expenses

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Artist Stipends | 16,450 | 18,880 | 11,150 |
| Program expenses | 81,096 | 20,563 | 21,122 |
| General and Administrative | 13,556 | 49,412 | 5,180 |
| Fundraising | 1750 | 3,395 | 110 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 112,852 | 92,250 | 37,562 |

Audience figures

| | 18-19 | 17-18 | 16-17 |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Number of Productions | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Number of performances | 75 | 57 | 42 |
| Number of subscribers | 226 | 167 | 123 |
| Total attendance | 3743 | 2899 | 2281 |

Open Book Theatre company is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization.

2018-2019 Season Donors

\$1-24 – Ticket Add-On donations and Facebook

#GivingTuesday gifts

Luna Alexander, Joe Bailey, Lynne Beckett, Carol Barrett, Antoinette Biniarz, Jeff & Stacy Brown, Victor & Robin Brown, Bailey Boudreau, Donna & Ray Campbell, Kate Davidson, Jane Emmerich, Ron Gacioch Erika Kuester Galloway, Gail Gilchrist and Reynold Sutake, Monica Harris, Katie & Brian Hartwell, Amy Harmon, Diane & Steve Hill, Darlene Johanisson, Marie Johnson, Kathy Kane, Maureen Keast, Kent & Karen Kujala, Diane Ledbetter, Sydney Lepora, Mandy Logsdon, John McClure, Sheila McClure, Sue Pine, Brandy Joe Plambeck, Theresa Powers, Becky Leonard Ringle, Jillian Rizzo, Holly Scheib, Eric Simon, Pat Zavadil

\$25-\$99 – Patron

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Barbara Thayer
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\$100-\$249 – Applause

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DTE Energy
Kelly and Keith Fusinski
Margaret and David Gilkes
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Tamara Howes
Wendy Katz Hiller and Steve Hiller

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\$250-499 – Bravo

Steve and Kathy Benton
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Erica and Laurent Chappuis
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
Kay Ikola
MaryJo and Joe Palazzolo
Kathleen Rankin
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\$500-999 – Encore

Anonymous
Lea Ellwood-Filkins and Brother John Brendan, AF
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Sheila White

\$1000-\$2499 – Standing Ovation

John and Nancy Colina
Lorri Vavrek

Show Sponsors (\$2500)

Lea Ellwood-Filkins and Brother John Brendan, AF, sponsors of Ada and the Engine
Duane and Judie Schafer, sponsors of Fool for Love

Season Sponsors – \$5000 or more

The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts

Super-Duper Generous Donor

Sean Ewbank, Winking Weasel, LLC