

**HOPE
SUMMER
REPERTORY
THEATRE
2018**



AN ILIAD



THE ODD COUPLE



THE WIZ

**SEASON 47
Annual Report**



GODSPELL



**DRAGON PACK
SNACK ATTACK**

HOPE SUMMER REPERTORY THEATRE

MISSION

Established at Hope College in 1972, Hope Summer Repertory Theatre is West Michigan's premiere professional theatre company and produces plays and educational programs of the highest professional standards that address the needs of and enhance the quality of life for Hope College and the West Michigan community.



HSRT commissioned a painting for our 47th season. It was done by Holland artist and author **JOEL SCHOON-TANIS**. Joel is a celebrated painter who has shown his work around the United States — from Michigan to Florida to Colorado to Washington D.C.. As an illustrator, Joel has contributed to more than half a dozen books for children including *Dragon Pack Snack Attack*. Most notably, he illustrated the New International Reader's Version of the Kid's Study Bible for Zondervan. He won the "Moonbeam Children's Book Award" for his book *Swing!* He has recently released four new books including, *40: The Biblical Story, A, B, See, As Real As it Gets*, and *LuLu and The Long Walk*.

A MESSAGE

From Artistic Director - Lenny Banovez and Managing Director - Anne Bakker



It is our pleasure to share with you Hope Summer Repertory Theatre's Annual Report for the season ending on September 30, 2018. Our 47th season was filled with positive change, incredible productions, 46 standing ovations and a company filled with talented actors, technicians, designers and directors. This was also the first year with the leadership of Lenny Banovez, our new Artistic Director, which brought with it new energy, ideas and leadership.

In the pages that follow, you will notice a new narrative emerging from West Michigan's premier professional theatre company: one with an emphasis on access and inclusion, in addition to our long standing tradition of providing excellent theatre to our community and educational opportunities for aspiring theatre lovers from ages three to seventeen.

At the end of last season we began evaluating every aspect of HSRT, which led us to take on some new initiatives and re-imagine some of the most cherished traditions. From its inception, our founders felt that for the theatre to best serve our community, we must provide an array of offerings – a mixture of musicals, comedies, dramas, and classics. They envisioned a theatre that not only entertains, but at times challenges and hopefully enhances our world-view: A theatre committed to diversity and inclusion. A theatre our community can be proud to support and call its own.

We continue to dedicate ourselves to those ideals and each year work diligently to bring you a summer of exceptional theatre.

As we look ahead to the summer of 2019, we are excited about what Season 48 will be for our community: The Emerging Artist Initiative, which will give our high school theatre lovers an opportunity to be a part of a professional theatre company; a season filled with new and thought provoking productions as well a timeless classic, and outreach initiatives that make it possible for everyone to enjoy the theatre.

We are delighted to make HSRT the place to be for great theatre. Whether you are a season ticket holder, a donor, a visitor, a student, educator or an artistic partner, we look forward to hearing your stories, ideas and thoughts about your Hope Summer Repertory Theatre experiences and memories and how they have impacted your life. Thank you for your ongoing support of this very special place and for being a part of this very special season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lenny Banovez'.

Lenny Banovez
Artistic Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne D. Bakker'.

Anne D. Bakker
Managing Director



13,557

67

1,148

THE NUMBERS

2018 SEASON 47

3,076

887

277

Experiencing Live Theatre

67

Performances

13,557

Seats sold

119

Company members

17

Groups

Education and Outreach

11

Classes/workshops

58

Students

100%

Increase in enrollment
from 2017

27

Interns

Community Partnerships

277

Patrons For The Arts

71

Center Stage Circle Members

90

Theatre Guild Members

28

Business Partners

27

Life Time Passholders

1,148

Season Ticket Holders

Growing Our National Profile

3,076

FaceBook Followers

887

Instagram Followers

348

Twitter Followers

21

States Represented
by Company

10

Audition Events

3

Countries Represented
by Company



EXPERIENCING

The Wiz - Tornado
Austin Winter and Jeremiah Beasley
Photo: Ben Douma



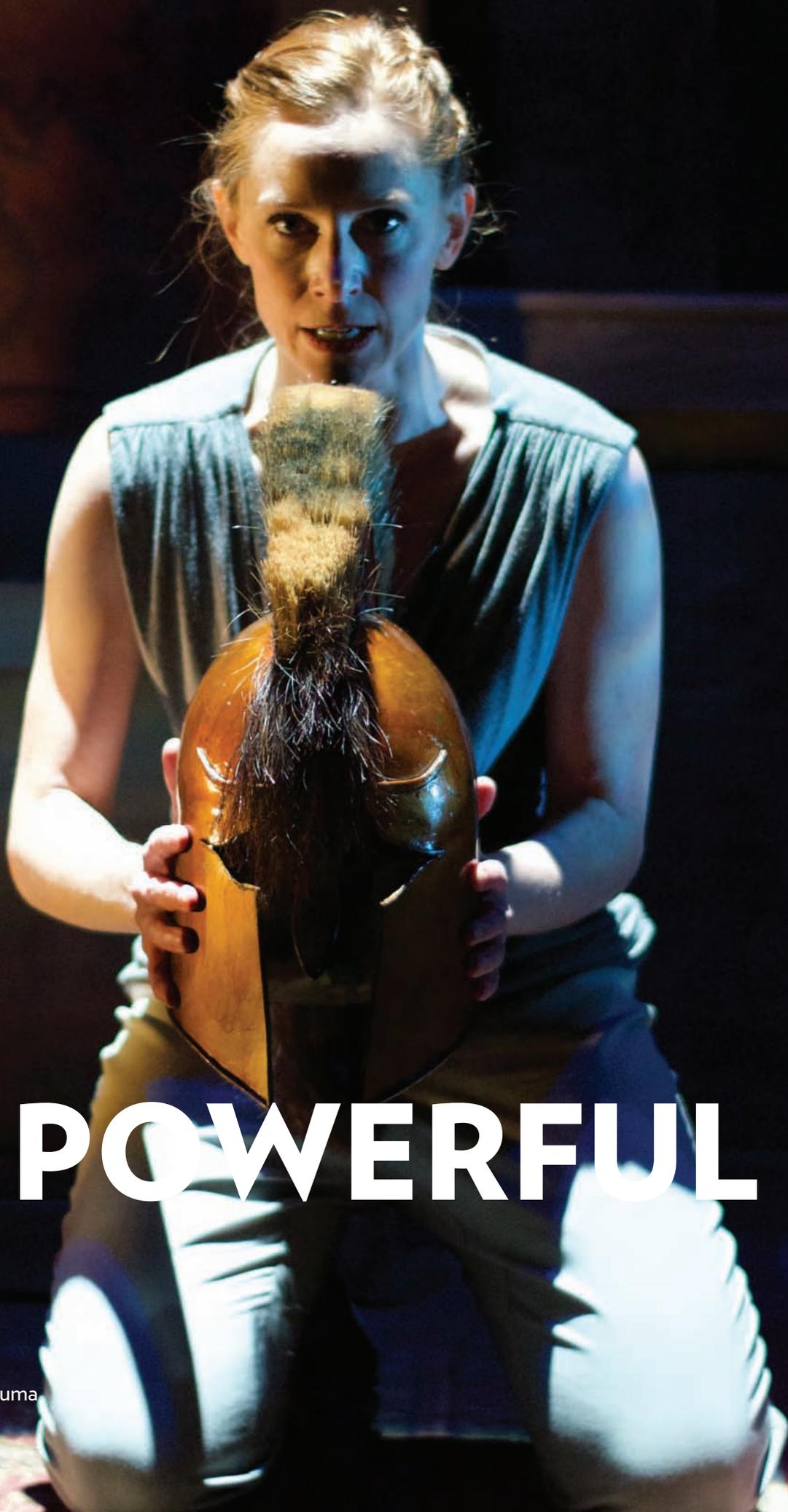
The Wiz - Rehearsal

(left to right) Devri Chisim, Brynne Fritjofson, Jimmy Nguyen, Sara Ornelas, Julia Gomez, Rachel Davenport

Photo: Ben Douma

LIVE THEATRE

On May 20, 2018 the 119-member Company began rehearsals for Hope Summer Repertory Theatre's 47th Season. This season was one of inclusion and understanding, both in thematic elements present in all selected productions, and in intentional hiring and audience development for HSRT. Newly-appointed Artistic Director, Lenny Banovez, laid out an ambitious, fiscally responsible plan for the season with *The Wiz*, *The Odd Couple*, *An Iliad*, *Godspell*, and the world-premier production of *Dragon Pack Snack Attack*, a new musical written by Holland-native, Erik Durham, based on the book illustrated and written by Holland-natives Joel Schoon-Tanis and Jeff Grooters. Through these wide-ranging productions and a breathtakingly talented company, HSRT audiences came together as a community to walk the yellow-brick road with Dorothy, play poker with Oscar and Felix, relive the Trojan War with Homer, listen to parables with the Tribe, and eat burgers with a group of hungry dragons, passing on the tradition of viewing live theatre to a new generation.



POWERFUL

An Iliad
Emily Trask
Photo: Ben Douma

On July 13, 2018 *An Iliad* opened in the new Howard Recital Hall located in the Jack H. Miller Center for the Musical Arts. This new space for HSRT was transformed from road cases to the battle fields of the Trojan War. Using a variety of spaces for performances creates opportunities for our audiences to experience theatre in a variety of settings.



An Iliad - Equity Artist, Emily Trask and Cellist, Alicia Storin

“

There is much to love in HSRT's *The Wiz*, the first production of their new artistic director. If this show is any indication, the 47-year-old professional company has some exciting days ahead.

- Encore Michigan

The Odd Couple is a crowd pleaser that fills seats...HSRT's production is undeniably excellent, and sure to make its grateful audiences laugh out loud.

- Revue West Michigan

...offering a technically skillful, fascinating intellectual exercise expertly performed in a hugely impressive show.

- Revue West Michigan

Godspell is definitely a show for the 21st Century. The wise words of Jesus resonate well in today's world. "Overcome evil with love." "Don't worry about tomorrow." And the positive energy of this tribe of enthusiastic followers is the perfect antidote to today's negativity.

- Encore Michigan

PERFORMANCES

It is so heartening to witness artists so committed to their craft they elevate children's entertainment to an art. It's so rarely seen, yet exactly as it should be. Kudos to HSRT for playing to their strengths and for having the vision and skills to put together a show that's even better than it needs to be.

”

- Encore Michigan



THEATRE

Fractured Fairy Tales Workshop
Photo: Ben Douma



Unleash Your Inner Dragon Workshop - Mollie Murk, Teaching Artist

EDUCATION

HSRT was originally founded on the principle of producing professional theatre productions while providing an educational opportunity for young artists to learn about theatre alongside professional actors, designers and directors. In keeping with this mission, HSRT expanded the workshops and education initiatives piloted in 2017. Fifty-eight children ages 4-17 from Holland, Zeeland, and the greater Grand Rapids area gathered in DeWitt alongside professional artists to play, explore, and create theatre, in workshops such as “Unleash your Inner Dragon,” “Ease on Down the Road with *The Wiz*,” “Fractured Fairytales,” “A Hero’s Journey,” and a Masterclass with Artistic Director, Lenny Banovez. 2018 also saw the launch of the High School Apprentice program, an intensive aimed at broadening skills and understanding of theatre, while gaining experience working with a professional theatre company. HSRT artists worked with the apprentices on a performance featured at the Downtown Holland Street Performers Series. The high school apprentices also shadowed rehearsals and company events throughout the season. With more than double the education enrollment of the 2017 season, there is a bright future ahead for engaging kids in purposeful, communal, vocal and physical theatre education.



ACCESS

Steps to Attending The Theatre
with Benjamin's Hope Group

HSRT partnered with Benjamin's Hope's Life Enrichment group to provide an interactive experience to connect the participants with the theatre community. This allowed them to learn more about how to express emotion, attend the theatre, and even do a little dancing.



Benjamin's Hope Life Enrichment group members meet with Mollie Murk - Teaching Artist, to talk about how to go to the theatre.

This season HSRT began the multi-year process to improve accessibility for patrons from a diversity of economics, geography, culture, and ability through the launch of a sensory-friendly initiative to directly increase accessibility for patrons with autism and other developmental disabilities. Throughout the season, HSRT developed sensory packs, social stories, and “Going to the Theatre” guides to give patrons of all abilities the opportunity to enjoy a welcoming, safe, and comfortable theatre experience. HSRT partnered with Benjamin's Hope - a “live, work, play, worship” organization designed to address the multifaceted needs of adult individuals and families affected by autism and other intellectual and developmental differences. Members of HSRT's company joined Benjamin's Hope's Life Enrichment group for a guided play workshop, and invited residents to experience the steps of attending the theatre, including a performance from company member, Marcus Martin. HSRT continues to invest in education and resources associated with our hearing-assist system in order to enrich the experience of hearing-impaired patrons. We look forward to plans for expanded accessibility initiatives in the coming seasons.

FOR ALL

“ Thank you for being both students and teachers with us, HSRT! ”

-Benjamin's Hope

COMMUNITY



Hope College Bridge Program
Talk Back with members of *The Wiz* Cast



Miranda Park Party - HSRT participated in four parties to reach out to communities in Grand Rapids, Holland and Muskegon.

ENGAGEMENT

HSRT strongly believes that engagement with the practice of theatre positively impacts our community, with entertainment, performance, workshops, and volunteer opportunities. Through our long-term participatory partnership with Children's After School Achievement (CASA), HSRT renewed its commitment to dedicate all seats for one children's performance per season at no cost to CASA and its participants. New partnerships with the Hope College Bridge program and Ottawa County Department of Public Health "Meet Up and Eat Up" allowed HSRT to introduce live theatre to new audiences, and participating with Miranda Park Parties, Square Play Café Storytime, Downtown Holland Street Performers, Senior Community Day, and many other events brought HSRT continuing opportunities to develop deeper relationships within our community.

“The experience with HSRT was amazing, it was great for our group to see a show that was unapologetically black, and based off of one of the most iconic, predominantly black films created. Watching the young stars play their characters, for many of us who had grown up watching *The Wiz*, was incredible. For those who had never seen or heard of *The Wiz*, and only *The Wizard of Oz*; being able to talk to the cast about their roles, and what it meant to them to have the experience of continuing the legacy of *The Wiz* as young black actors, was very inspiring to me and many of the Hope College Bridge students. The opportunity to get to know the cast, talk with them, laugh with them, and even learn one the dances from the show was incredible! - Hope College Bridge Program Student”

MAKING

Jimmy Nguyen - Roofus
Donavon Chambers - Hobart
Photo: Ben Douma



Cast of *Dragon Pack Snack Attack* following a performance
(left to right) Julia Gomez, Brian Kim, Rebekah Santiago Berger,
Jimmy Nguyen, Teresa Cameon, Brynne Fritjofson.

MEMORIES

Since the 2012 season, HSRT has been taking steps in diversifying our audiences to better reflect the demographics of the Holland community through commitment to diverse hiring practices, flexible casting in all productions, selection of plays/musicals with significant characters of color, recommitment to our participatory partnership with CASA, offering need-based scholarships to workshop participants, introducing sensory-friendly tools before and during performances, and consistent upkeep and audience education surrounding the hearing-assist system. The 2019 season will see a continuation of these practices with expanded partnerships with community organizations.

“ We were taking pictures after a performance, and one little boy came up and only wanted a picture with me. I said thank you so much for coming to the show, what was your favorite part? He said you were! I said I love that and laughed. I said goodbye and as he left with his mom he said “Mommy he looks just like me!” - Donovan Chambers, Hobart in *Dragon Pack Snack Attack* ”



LOOKING

Godspell

Benjamin Lohrberg - Jesus
Devri Chism - Tribe Member
Photo: Ben Douman



Godspell Rehearsal - Devri Chism, Brandon Wright
Photo: Ben Douma

“And ultimately...Director Lenny Banovez’s curtain speech is undoubtedly true when he claims that this show (*Godspell*) is his greatest achievement and that the talent of this cast is limitless and their futures are bright.”
- Revue West Michigan

toward the FUTURE

HSRT announced its 48th season on the evening of August 8 to a live audience. We are pleased to be presenting six productions for audiences of all ages next summer, including an American classic musical, a taste of Shakespeare, a powerful drama of the Civil War and a musical whodunit mystery in *West Side Story*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *truth: The Testimonial of Sojourner Truth*, *Murder for Two*, *The Old Man and The Old Moon*, and *Elephant and Piggie’s ‘We are in a Play!’*, along with a new **Emerging Artists Initiative**. In addition to the benefits to the community of a live theatre experience, HSRT’s 2019 season will include opportunities for audiences to express themselves through panels and audience discussions, workshops, and educational outreach associated with each production.



GOALS

FROM OUR AUDIENCE...

“Keep up the great work! We are fortunate to have such an outstanding theatre company in our community.

Outstanding season! Looking forward to what all of the “new blood” brings to the table. Excited to see good changes! Way to HSRT!

”



25% of the 2018 Company was Hope College Students and Alumni: (left to right):
Front Row: Brynne Fritjofson, Anne Bakker, Rachel Dion, Emmie Sandstedt, Cara Maas
Second Row: Saem Cho, Gracen Barth, Mikayla Contreras, Teresa Cameon, Kierney Johnson, Megan Clark, Mollie Murk
Third Row: Ben Douma, Ken Chamberlain, Kenny Cole, Nils Fritjofson, Griffin Baer, Reagan Chesnut, Riley Wilson, Eric Van Tassell
Not pictured: Chip Duford, Paul Anderson, Claire Bouwkamp

Hope Summer Repertory Theatre’s 2018 season was full of self-improvement and we raised expectations for the future. We strengthened our connections with the Holland/Zeeland area, and continued our tradition of providing excellent theatre in West Michigan. We are confident that Season 47 has laid the groundwork for a strong and vibrant future. In keeping with setting goals for measurable progress, our goals for the 2019 season include:

- Produce a season at a quality level that our patrons and the West Michigan Community have grown to expect.
- Increase non-ticket revenue to \$250,000.
- Increase attendance numbers from the 2018 Season.
- Double the amount of submitted grant applications.
- Increase advertising and business sponsorships from the 2018 season.
- Increase participation and focus on our education programs.
- Eliminate the deficit.
- Increase and review audience and patron feedback.
- Continue community outreach.
- Develop a leadership succession plan for major leadership positions.

OBJECTIVES

WE ARE ON OUR WAY...

1. Since we closed Season 47, HSRT has achieved one of its major goals: securing a **State of Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) grant for \$15,000**. This is the first time HSRT has received a grant of this type, and we look forward to the doors this award will open toward securing additional grants and gifts.
2. We are 84% of the way toward matching the number of Early Bird Season Tickets sold compared to 2018. We are excited about the momentum this creates toward meeting our ticket revenue goals.



GRATEFUL

Center Stage Circle Gala
Photo: Ben Douman

A special thank you to the 2018 Center Stage Circle and our Corporate and Foundation Sponsors whose generosity reflects their commitment to the continued presence and growth of our theatre in the community.



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Hope College Patrons for the Arts

We want to thank all of the people listed for their generosity which plays an important part in the life of our theatre. All of our Performing and Fine Arts at Hope College are supported by gifts of the Patrons for the Arts. HSRT receives a \$35,000 grant annually.

Benefactors gifts of \$500.00 +

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 Tony and Deb Van Houten
 Kurtis Van Koevering
 Rick and Mary Vanden Berg
 Jack and Mary Westrate
 Willis and Ella Weymon
 Wiley and Karen Wilson
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 Karen Zoetewey



The Odd Couple

Chip Duford - Oscar Madison Michael J Barnes - Felix Unger

Supporters gifts of \$100.00 to \$199.00

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 Ron and Margery Wiegerink
 Virginia Wilson



HSRT High School Apprentice Company

Street Performers - Downtown Holland

The HSRT Internship Endowment for Students in Theatrical Arts

**Funded through the estate of
Dr. Earle M. Van Heyningen.**

This fund was established to provide funds for student internships in the theatrical arts.

Hope Summer Repertory Theatre provides internship opportunities for students from all over the country. It is an opportunity to work along side professional actors, directors, technical staff and administrators while earning college credit and invaluable experience in all aspects of theatre and non-profit management. This season we had 27 interns working in every area of HSRT.



2018 Recipients (left to right): Cara Maas, Brynne Fritjofson, Gracen Barth, Teresa Cameon, Emmie Sandstedt, Riley Wilson, Ben Douma. (Not pictured Saem Cho)

Life Time Passholders

The Hope Summer Repertory Theatre celebrates the support and commitment of these special individuals who have contributed to us in a wide variety of ways. In recognition of their exceptional support they have been awarded life-time passes to the theatre.

Priscilla Atkins	Dr. Jack & Leona Nyenhuis
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The Business Promoter Performance Sponsor and Ticket Program salutes West Michigan businesses for their contribution to the development of HSRT's audience through the purchase of a significant number of tickets. Grateful acknowledgment is granted to these members of the Business Promoter Program:

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Kathleen M. Stratton, DDS, PC
Westshore Financial Services
Zeeland Family Dentistry

2018 Theatre Guild Members

Founded in 1980 The Hope Theatre Guild members support HSRT by enhancing the experience for the HSRT company and Holland community through service, outreach and financial support.

Judy Achterhof	Bethany Franken	Mary Mouw	Mary Schakel
Gigi Anning	Mary George	Patti Mulder	Cindy Schreur
Alyssa Anning	Bob Hoekstra	Jon Mulder	Chuck Sikkel
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Ronald Boeve	Andrew Hulce	Jacob Nyenhuis	John Tammi
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Powerful and resonant, indeed... transmitted wordlessly, the culmination of all the talent working together on stage, and emerges in the final number, "Home," directly through Maya Lagerstam's incomparable Dorothy, whose voice reverberates throughout the theatre, shaking all the audience members to their core.

.. it's nothing less than spirit moving directly through her and into those in her presence, in turn, moving them—if not to tears then at the very least to their feet.

- Revue West Michigan

*The Wiz - Maya Lagerstam, Dorothy
Photo: Ben Douman*

HOPE
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