

Community Service Association Newsletter

Published by the Community Service Association (CSA) of San Diego Unified School District

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Message from the CSA Board of Directors

Happy Holidays! We'd like to welcome all the new CSA members who signed up during our annual membership drive, and to give a shout-out to those existing CSA members who increased their donations. We thank all CSA members for your generous donations which make possible great works in the arts, education, health, and human services in San Diego County!

Profile of Cygnet Theatre

Cygnet Theatre is a professional nonprofit theatre located in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. Cygnet's mission: "Believing in the power of theatre to startle the soul, ignite debate and embrace the diversity of the community in which it serves, Cygnet Theatre is fearlessly committed to the dissection, examination and celebration of the human story through the medium of live theatre."

Cygnet began life in 2003 in a 165-seat house located in San Diego's Rolando area near SDSU. The community response from the beginning was tremendous and Cygnet soon needed a larger venue. In 2008, Cygnet moved to the 246-seat Old Town Theatre in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

In its first 11 years, Cygnet produced over 62 plays, created jobs for over 392 actors, 102 Equity contracts, 200 designers, 61 stage managers, 43 backstage technicians and 50 musicians. Nearly half of all productions have been local premieres, as Cygnet believes strongly in bringing new voices to the community.

Each year, Cygnet reaches approximately 45,000 patrons through its Mainstage Productions, which includes discounted tickets to students, seniors and military, as well as free tickets to local service organizations. Cygnet presents seven Mainstage Productions annually in a year-round season that includes classics, musicals and contemporary work. Cygnet also offers Free Student Matinees for area students and Free In-School Theatre Workshops that send professional actors into area classrooms.

Playwrights in Process, Cygnet's new play development program, features workshops, staged readings, and, starting in 2016, the Bill and Judy Garrett Finish Line Commission. Cygnet partners with San Diego State University to provide fellowship opportunities each year for specially selected SDSU graduate students to design sets, lights, sound and costumes for Cygnet under the mentorship of Artistic Director Sean Murray. Cygnet also offers professional acting and directing opportunities for recent college graduates, often granting them their first equity contract.

In 2016, Cygnet launched a Military Outreach Program to take free theatre workshops and touring productions to military personnel, veterans, and their families, as well as provide free theatre tickets to Cygnet productions at the Old Town Theatre.

Cygnet's Storytelling on the Green program brings abridged performances of Shakespeare and other classic authors to thousands of San Diego students and Old Town San Diego State Historic Park visitors annually. The CSA grant provides support which allows Cygnet to purchase costumes and props for the program, which is provided three times a week, free of charge.



To learn more about Cygnet Theatre, please visit their website www.cygnettheatre.com, call (619) 574-0059, or email cygnet@cygnettheatre.com.

CSA Mission Statement

The Community Service Association of San Diego Unified School District is a nonprofit association organized to solicit contributions from district employees for recognized charitable agencies in San Diego County which support the arts, education, health, and human services.