

Encore!

★ Diamond Head Theatre

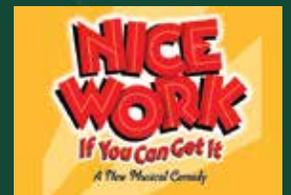
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Now Playing



Mar. 23 - Apr. 15, 2018

Coming Soon



May 18 - June 10, 2018



July 13 - Aug. 5, 2018

Mentoring the Next Generation

DHT's Scene Shop provides leadership for local students

We are so thankful for our hundreds of volunteers that help us here at Diamond Head Theatre. We also love that they come from all walks of life, including some special high school students from Assets School.

For nearly fifteen years, Diamond Head Theatre has been proud to be one of 70 company and organization partners of the Assets School Mentorship program. Each year, students from Assets volunteer in the DHT Scene Shop.

According to Nichole Hamai Sakai, the Mentorship Program Coordinator and a Vice Principal of Assets, the mentorship program is designed to give students real-world work experience. "The program

helps students make critical connections between school-based academics and hands-on experience that challenge and develop students' strengths, talents, and interests," she said. Ninth graders start the program by working on the campus of Assets; then in grades 10-12, the students work directly with community partners every week from September to April.

When students are ready to be assigned to a mentor location, the school helps match the student according to their interests and personal qualifications. "Often, students are drawn to specific fields or sites because they want to try out possible career paths, or because they want an opportunity to utilize strengths and/or develop skill sets," said Nichole.

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For Tickets
Call 808.733.0274 or visit
www.diamondheadtheatre.com

Aloha from DHT's Executive Director

As Executive Director, I go to the first rehearsal of every production here at DHT. It's not required, as the shows really are John's lookout. But I go to each one, and I enjoy going, for a couple of reasons. One, I want to thank the actors in advance for the time and effort they are about to put in on the show. (Sidebar pet peeve: yes, they do it because they love it, but it is hours and hours of hard work, so let's be sure we acknowledge the work for what is!). The second reason is quite self-serving...to refresh myself.



Every rehearsal brings a new bunch of people into the room. Some are old-timers, with lots of shows at DHT under their belt,

others are brand new. No matter what their background, at that first rehearsal, I can see in their faces some apprehension, but also excitement. Excitement to see what's next. What vision does the director have in mind? And maybe wondering... what will all of us, disparate actors, singers and dancers create over the next six weeks?

I feel it too. I think: "look at this room full of talent, I can't wait for opening

night!'" And when I go back up to my office and look at the tasks that never change (budgets, ticket sales, raising money, etc.), I'm grateful for the things that do—six times a year... the shows! It makes the job for me.

And when we announce a brand-new season, that's the cherry on the top! Check out the back cover to see what we've got in store next season. It is an amazing line-up! You will be wowed.



That's Super Duper!

DHT Subscribers get treated to a backstage lunch

Did you know that one of the benefits of giving a donation of \$250 or higher along with a season subscription renewal is a lunch on stage with John Rampage? The lunch is accompanied by a tour of our backstage, scene shop, costume shop, and features amazing stories and fun facts from John. We call these donors our Super Duper Subscribers! If you are a current subscriber and are planning on renewing your subscription for our exciting new season, please consider making a donation.

Pictured left: Super Duper Subscribers Reynold & Susan Hong, and Kathleen Wong with John Rampage and Hair and Make-Up Designer Linda Lockwood

DHT Technical Director, Willie Sabel, was excited to become a part of this program when he was approached several years ago. As Willie said, “we’re a community theatre, and I thought this would be great community outreach.” Though the goal of being a mentor site is to provide job skills and knowledge to the students, Willie says that DHT gains a lot from the partnership as well. Willie continued, “Being able to mentor and watch someone learn skills and then take them forward, that’s awesome!”

The students working with Willie help build sets for our shows. They are trained and supervised by the staff, but they truly are part of the team creating the countless set pieces that our audiences see on stage. Ty Heen, a senior at Assets, is at DHT this year and says that Willie and his staff are a big part of the reason he is enjoying his time here. “They treat me like I’m fully part of the team. They expect me to do a good job, and it really feels like I’m working at a real job,” he said.

Ty added, “the program teaches you a lot of things to prepare you for getting a job and if you find something you like, they teach you how to be ready to pursue that type of job.” Ty likes that the work is very hands-on and physical, which makes it fun for him.

But Ty isn’t the only one learning. Willie says he learns too. “The Assets students and really all our volunteers, have taught me how to better communicate directions. I see something so clearly in my mind but haven’t always communicated it the same way.”

It’s certainly a mutually beneficial partnership. As Nichole says, “Willie has been a long-time, dedicated mentor who is tremendously supportive of our students. He mentors with heart and the ability to connect with and nurture individuals. For years, students have been singing his praises.” Willie, in turn, can’t wait to see what Ty and his classmates do in the future, and hopes that the skills and teamwork gained here at DHT are valuable to them for whatever they choose to pursue. 📌

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Our Mission Statement

Established in 1915, Diamond Head Theatre is the Broadway of the Pacific, producing the best live community theatre entertainment and advancing the theatre arts through education in Hawaii.

Behind the Scenes

Volunteer Norma Hirota gives a glimpse of what happens backstage

Have you ever wondered how actors change their costumes quick enough to make their next scene? It is all made possible thanks to a backstage crewmember called a dresser. We asked one of our dressers, Norma Hirota, who has been “dressing” Diamond Head Theatre actors for twenty-four years to shed some light on her responsibilities and experiences.

How long have you been volunteering for DHT as a dresser?

Norma: The first show I dressed at DHT was in 1994 for *Sunday in the Park with George*. My daughter was a cast member, and John Rampage, who knew me from Honolulu City Ballet, suggested that I dress for the show since I was bringing my daughter to rehearsals and performances anyway. And here I am, still around!

Can you describe what the job of a dresser is?

Norma: I have a simple explanation—when you are watching a play and an actor exits the stage and re-enters a few moments later in a totally different costume, or even as a different character, dressers makes that happen!

The actual role of a dresser is much more complex. I usually arrive at the theater at the same time as the cast and other crew members, about one and a half hours before curtain. First, I check on all the pieces of the costumes in the dressing room that I am responsible for. Then I set up costume pre-sets in other areas backstage or even in the wings, since actors don't always have time to return to their dressing room for every change. Then I assist the actors with their preparations. I make sure that their first costumes are ready to put on, help with hair and wigs as needed, and secure body mics under costumes. I keep an eye on the time to make sure everyone is ready on schedule. Once the show starts, I prep the costumes for each change and for each actor, so that changes go smoothly. At the end of the show, I make sure everything is accounted for and properly hung up.



Norma assisting with a fitting in the Costume Shop

That's the basic system. I am usually responsible for three to four actors who are assigned to “my” dressing room, but I am also responsible for helping other actors who are not assigned to my dressing room but need help with special changes. I often provide repairs such as sewing on buttons and fixing hems as needed. In cases of more serious costume problems, I may have to rush to the costume shop very quickly during the show.

Dressing room space is very limited and frequently overcrowded, so we depend on carefully choreographed patterns, and everyone's cooperation, to make the show run smoothly. I'm looking forward to the new theatre with adequate, well designed, efficient dressing rooms for everyone!

Let's talk about Calendar Girls. What made dressing (or undressing!) for that show unique?

Norma: *Calendar Girls* is a very special production because it features a predominately female cast with diverse parts for “women of a certain age”, all united to tell a



Norma with actors from *Calendar Girls* in their dressing room

wonderful story. Dressing the show is not significantly different from others, although it does include a bit more undressing than most!

Do you have any favorite memories from this show, or any other shows?

Norma: I have worked on so many shows over the years and each one has its own challenges and rewards. One of my most nerve-racking challenges was in *La Cage aux Folles* in 2006. For every performance, I was responsible for arranging makeup on a tray with exact precision, so that the actor could be on stage, singing and putting on makeup without having to look down to find things. To make matters even more challenging, I had to put fresh glue on the false eyelashes just before the song. So, for

every show I would get those lashes ready, and go onto the set behind a curtain while the play continued in front, make sure everything was in place on the tray, and then get off. The timing was so tight that I had an emergency escape plan in case the curtain rose before I was completely off the set! Fortunately, I never had to use it.

Do you have any other fun or interesting stories from your years working backstage here?

Norma: It is important to remember that in live theater, not everything goes perfectly every time and you must learn to stay calm and keep moving on quickly. For example, in the 2010 production of *Crazy for You*, I was standing just inside the dressing room door and the actor ran in and kicked off his shoes as I removed his jacket. Suddenly, he let out a loud scream and jumped about a foot off the floor. A mouse had just scurried across his shoeless foot and bee-lined towards the other end of the dressing room to hide. We continued the costume change, the actor made his entrance on time, and I looked up to see a mouse, with attitude, staring at me before he disappeared. Exterminators were there the next morning.

What do you like about volunteering at DHT?

Norma: I love the camaraderie and the sense of creative community that unites cast and crew into a true team effort. I have made many wonderful friends at DHT. 🇺🇸



A Round of Applause!

We are grateful to receive this generous gift and pleased that Aloha Petroleum recognizes the value of the performing arts in our community. Our new theatre is a vital piece in keeping the arts alive and accessible to everyone.



Aloha Petroleum's Larry Adams and Casie Bui with DHT's Deena Dray



Donor Spotlight

Lea Woods Almanza shares her dream of a new DHT.

Lea Woods (Friedman) Almanza's love for the performing arts is no secret to anyone who meets her. As a performer, both on the opera and theatre scene, she is known as someone with a true passion for the arts.

Lea's original introduction to DHT isn't what you may think. When she was in elementary school, her father's uncle was a canteen volunteer at the theatre, selling candy and snacks before the shows and at intermission. He invited Lea to come help and she was thrilled. She helped sell the snacks and talked to the patrons, and her uncle usually bought her a treat of

her own after the show. She says that she loved the sales part so much, she wasn't aware of the fact that there was a show going on!

Lea grew up and went on to perform all around the world as an opera singer. She eventually found her way back to Hawaii and married her husband, Josh. They received a season subscription to DHT as a wedding gift from Josh's grandparents. As Lea and Josh started attending shows, she was amazed by the caliber of talent she saw on stage. She knew then she wanted to be a part of it, saying to Josh, "Someday, when our kids are older, I want to perform here."

Fast forward to 2012, when a chance meeting and sing-along at a fundraiser put her onto the radar of DHT Artistic Director, John Rampage. He set up a meeting and asked her if she would consider doing a role in *Showboat*, which would be part of the 2013-2014 season. It was perfect timing, as Lea's daughter was heading to preschool, so Lea was primed to follow her dream of being on the DHT stage. And the experience of being in *Showboat* really renewed her love of performing. "Everyone was there for the same reason," she says, "and they all showed such passion for what they were doing."

The experience was so impactful to Lea that she decided to audition for a role in *Mary Poppins*, the season opener for our 100th Anniversary Season. She was cast as "Mrs. Banks". It was during this time that she and her mother, Jill Friedman, really noticed the condition of the theatre itself. Lea and Jill sat down with Executive Director, Deena Dray with a proposal to start a campaign to build a new theatre. Little did they know, that DHT was already in the beginning stages of doing just that! Lea and Jill signed on that very day and Lea has been a passionate supporter of the project ever since.

The new theatre project is close to Lea's heart for many reasons. Lea was born and raised here in Hawaii. The true meaning of "ohana" is something she feels very connected to in her own life. One of the things she loves about Diamond Head Theatre is that same feeling of ohana. She sees it backstage with the cast cheering each other on. She sees it with the board of directors, of which she just became a part in 2016. She sees it in the staff, working together to create amazing shows, to offer wonderful classes, and raising money every year to keep the theatre running. And she sees ohana in the audience and supporters of DHT.

Seeing people from all the different walks of life enjoy theatre has made her determination for a new home for DHT that much greater. As her own children grow, she wants them to have the same exposure to the arts she had and can think of no better place for that than DHT. Lea's mother Jill believes "the arts take people out of their boundaries and allows them to use and expand their imagination." To that, Lea adds, "A new theatre will let DHT keep the magic of live theatre alive and available for everyone!"

We share your dream for the future of DHT, Lea, and thank you and your family for the wonderful leadership and support! 🎭





Broadway Bound!

Join DHT this fall for our annual trip to the Big Apple

For the last 13 years Diamond Head Theatre has had the pleasure of bringing people from Hawaii to New York City for a fantastic six days of theatre, food, and fall foliage in NYC. The trip is so popular that we've had many people join us on back-to-back trips, with others skipping a few years and then coming back!

We did it again this past November, bringing twenty-five DHT donors, patrons, and friends to experience the glitz, glamor and sizzle of New York City. The travelers were treated to the incomparable Bette Midler in *Hello Dolly!*; the heart-wrenching but

ultimately affirming *Come From Away* and the very funny, *The Play That Goes Wrong*. Despite some very cold temperatures, the group had a blast attending shows, exploring museums, dining, touring the city, and of course, shopping!

The beauty of our annual "Broadway Bound" trip is that it is the perfect balance of planned activities and free time, making it possible for travelers to have the New York experience THEY want to have. Over and over, our travelers tell us this is the best way to see the city, and yet have the comfort of being with a group.

We're going again this November and would love to have you join us! The dates are November 8 – 14 and will include accommodations at the hotel we love, The Warwick; three fabulous Broadway shows (looking at shows such as *Carousel* with Rene Fleming; the new *My Fair Lady*; *Pretty Woman* and *The Cher Show*— if it opens in time!) plus a private, guided (with lunch) bus tour; and a group dinner. Prior to the trip we host a summer orientation reception at DHT and the week before departure, a Bon Voyage cocktail party at a private club.

We sold out early last year, so if you'd like to sign up, or want more information, please contact Lindsey at 733-0277 x305. 





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Sept. 21 - Oct. 14, 2018

Hello
Dolly!



Nov. 30 - Dec. 23, 2018

Jan. 25 - Feb. 10, 2019

NOISES
OFF



Diamond
Head
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2018-19 SEASON

Season Tickets go on sale in July!

SOMETHING
ROTTEN!

March 22 - April 14, 2019

May 17 - June 9, 2019

Beehive
THE 60'S MUSICAL

ROALD DAHL
Matilda
THE MUSICAL

July 12 - August 4, 2019