



NEW
VILLAGE
ARTS

SEASON 19
ANNUAL REPORT
2019 - 2020



The mission of New Village Arts is to
create adventurous artistic experiences
to awaken the human spirit.

We provide:

- a collaborative and inspiring home for performing and visual artists;
- a forum for laughter, discussion, and deeper thinking within our community;
- a training ground for future generations of art-makers and art-lovers.

In addition to full seasons of plays and musicals featuring some of the best artistic talent in Southern California, NVA hosts talkback discussions and other supplementary events designed to create conversation and cultivate community. NVA also maintains The Foundry Artist Studios, a collaborative studio space for local visual artists, and we offer robust theatre programs in partnership with local schools. NVA hosts educational and artistic programs for young adults with neurodiversity and adults with Alzheimer's and dementia. NVA strongly believes that theatre and arts experiences should be accessible to ALL people and has become a leader in equity, diversity, and inclusion in San Diego. NVA has been fortunate to receive support from the City of Carlsbad and other local businesses, who recognize the importance of a resident professional theatre company as a crucial component of an inclusive and creative community. We, in turn, prioritize serving our community by presenting works that respect the diversity surrounding us, engaging every citizen with relevant and inspiring stories.

SEASON 19 SPONSORS



Season 19 production photos by Daren Scott.



Dear Friends,

What a season. It seems unbelievable to imagine that just over a year ago, we were beginning our exciting nineteenth season, which was constructed to lead directly into our milestone twentieth season in July 2020. Of course, nobody could have expected the impact of the global pandemic. Despite closing our doors to the public and putting a halt to our upcoming productions in March, we still have much to celebrate.

The season began with a tremendous show of determination and dedication, as the artistic and administrative staff struck *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* and mounted an exciting revival of Herbert Siguenza's *A WEEKEND WITH PABLO PICASSO* in less than a week—the fastest turnaround in NVA history. *PICASSO* played to sold-out houses and rave reviews, and Siguenza even auctioned off his original art made during the show to raise funds for NVA. The next production, Lynn Nottage's lyrical *INTIMATE APPAREL*, garnered four Craig Noel Award nominations and two wins. *AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS* was notable for its world-premiere soundtrack, written by local pirate-rock band The Shantyanne (Joseph Freeman and Renee Moreno), and orchestrated by NVA Artistic Associate Tony Houck. And *MURDER FOR TWO* was a critical and audience favorite, showcasing the limitless talents of Houck and local favorite JD Dumas in his NVA acting debut. Add in the Final Draft New Play Festival, four exciting concerts and cabarets, and our ongoing education & outreach programs, and our nineteenth season was busier than ever. Sadly, our Annual Gala, the San Diego premiere of *THE ROOMMATE*, and our 10-year anniversary revival of *INTO THE WOODS* were cancelled when the pandemic struck.

With the sudden loss of our earned revenue, we focused the final months of our nineteenth season on grants, donations, and community support. NVA was fortunate to receive a PPP loan, Business Interruption Insurance, and other safeguards. However, without mainstage productions, dozens of artists, technicians, and part-time staff who normally work with us were out of work. Thankfully, we were able to retain our administrative staff throughout this crisis. Since the shutdown, they have been hard at work (from home, usually) to ensure the sustainability and longevity of New Village Arts. We introduced our online New Virtual Arts program, sponsored by a number of Artist Advocates, to give artists the opportunity to produce their art digitally and get paid despite the shutdown. Our education programs shifted online, and our teaching artists and students have been creating wonderfully inspired digital classrooms and performances. We have also been in development of two original works for our upcoming twentieth season, which will begin in Summer of 2021. In the meantime, we are also exploring options for outdoor programming in Spring 2021.

This year also brought issues of social justice, equity, and anti-racism into sharp relief for all Americans. As a company, we are taking this opportunity to pursue anti-racist training and education for all staff members, and have been working to improve the culture of New Village Arts while bringing new voices to our staff, board, classrooms, and artistic communities. Our hope at New Village Arts has long been to create "theatre for ALL," and we are using this forced hiatus to make sure we are working toward a true expression of that hope. We have many exciting new developments to share with you in the coming months, including extensive renovations and improvements to our building, new education programming, unique artistic opportunities for our community, and much more.

Though this season has brought unforeseen challenges, we remain hopeful and excited about the future for New Village Arts. We've been able to reflect on themes of dedication and determination, while looking forward to future successes. We are grateful to our community for their continued shows of support during these trying times. We cannot wait to gather again to share our stories in our twentieth season!

Kristianne Kurner,
Founder & Executive Artistic Director

Alex Goodman,
Managing Director

WELCOME FROM BOARD PRESIDENT, Joan Cumming

Our 2019 - 2020 season was one of our most rewarding—and most challenging—seasons to date. While it is easy to focus on the immense challenges facing New Village Arts and arts organizations across the country, I would like to take a moment to highlight the things we can be proud of from this tumultuous season:



- Two Critic’s Choice recognitions in the San Diego Union-Tribune, as well as rave critical reviews for our four mainstage productions;
- Four San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Craig Noel Award nominations for 2019, and two wins for NVA actors at this year's award celebration;
- The development of our Artistic Associate program, honoring the work of four outstanding theatre artists by allowing them opportunities to develop their artistry with NVA;
- Continuing to grow our inclusive education and outreach programming to reach wider audiences and involve more students—an embodiment of our commitment to create theatre for ALL;
- Making a swift pivot toward online programming when the pandemic hit, and successfully securing funding to ensure NVA's ability to withstand this challenge;
- A renewed commitment to the work of Teatro Pueblo Nuevo and taking significant steps in becoming an Anti-Racist organization that serves all members of San Diego County;
- A committed and active Board of Directors who consistently work to improve the cultural arts for our community, and who have risen to the challenges posed by our current crises;
- A staff that has successfully navigated the many hurdles and obstacles facing the arts, and who have grown stronger and more committed to NVA's mission in the process.

New Village Arts' mission includes providing a forum for laughter, discussion, and deeper thinking within our community. Without the ability to gather and share our stories, NVA and our staff, artists, and board have worked tirelessly to bring the same sense of community, of laughter, and of joy to these unsettling times. Despite the challenges facing our communities, NVA has been able to continue to create theatre for all, expanding its neurodiverse programming, creating a culture built around acceptance and community, and deepening relationships with important donors and sponsors to sustain our work. While our programming remains primarily online, our staff and artists are developing a number of exciting projects for our eventual return to live theatre and arts education. Many thanks to Endeavor Bank for ensuring our financial viability during the early months of the pandemic.

Finally, the City of Carlsbad continues to be a huge supporter of our work, from our central location in the heart of Carlsbad Village, to support for our programming through the Cultural Arts Office. We are honored to partner with the City of Carlsbad and to serve as the premier arts destination in Carlsbad and North County. We have several exciting projects coming up, with collaboration from the City of Carlsbad, during this forced "off-season" as we work toward re-opening in Summer 2021.

In closing, our donors, sponsors, partners, and patrons are the reason that New Village Arts continues to thrive. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you for ensuring quality arts programming and education is available for our community. We look forward to many continued successes with your support.

Best Wishes,

Joan Cumming
Board President



Above: The cast and crew of New Village Arts' cancelled production of Jen Silverman's THE ROOMMATE gathers in February for the first read-through of the script.

Though New Village Arts has been fortunate to receive generous grants and donations to support the organization during this forced hiatus, this has been a devastating time for our arts community. Every arts organization across the country has felt the impact of this unexpected, unprecedented year, and New Village Arts is grateful for the generosity of the donors, Artist Advocates, and community partners who have come together to ensure that NVA will remain a vital and vibrant cultural landmark, despite the immediate challenges facing arts industries.

NEW VIRTUAL ARTS

With stay-at-home orders in effect throughout the last third of NVA's nineteenth season, New Virtual Arts sprang to life online. Featuring a wide range of performers, artists, and faces both familiar and new, New Virtual Arts sought to provide a paid artistic platform for out-of-work artists, as well as entertainment and education for NVA patrons.

Thanks to the generosity of our Artist Advocates and corporate sponsors, we were able to hire dozens of artists to create streaming entertainment. Showcasing concerts, children's programming, art lessons, choreography, play readings, cabarets, virtaul happy hours, short films, cooking classes, and even a one-person version of Pirates of Penzance, NVA artists and staff used the "new normal" as a way to keep our community connected.

AN UNEXPECTED YEAR

It was the beginning of "tech week" for Jen Silverman's THE ROOMMATE—a time when the lights, set, and costumes come together to transform the rehearsal space into the fully-realized world—when the lights went off. Only two days before our planned Annual Fundraising Gala, NVA joined countless other business and organizations around the globe in closing their doors and putting a halt on future productions response to the global pandemic. Pre-production had also begun on the ten-year anniversary production of INTO THE WOODS, a reimagining of the first musical NVA ever produced, which was set to ring in the landmark twentieth season with a celebratory look back at how far NVA has come in the past two decades.



Above: The cast of NVA's AVENUE Q went digital to remind audiences that, although times are tough, these challenges are "Only For Now."



Left: Without shows to promote on the marquee, New Village Arts is using this signage as a way to connect with our community, and to celebrate the local businesses in our community (like Pure Project Brewing and Handel's Homemade Ice Cream across the street).

A CAPTIVATING PORTRAIT
OF AN ARTIST

A Weekend with Pablo Picasso

Written by and Starring **Herbert Siguenza**
Directed by **Todd Salovey**
August 10 — 25, 2019



**TEATRO
PUEBLO
NUEVO**
NEW VILLAGE ARTS



A HEARTFELT STORY
OF LOVE AND LOSS

Intimate APPAREL

Written by **Lynn Nottage**
Directed by **Melissa Coleman-Reed**
September 20 — October 20, 2019



CRITIC'S CHOICE!

- *The San Diego Union-Tribune*

This one-act, one-person play mixed visual art and theatrical spectacle to bring Picasso — and his art — to vivid life on the NVA stage. A captivating depiction of one of history's most enigmatic and intriguing celebrities highlighted Siguenza's range as an artist and performer. Siguenza also offered audiences his original artwork, created during each performance, via auction as a fundraiser for NVA.

"A tour de force performance
from one of the best creators around."

- *San Diego Gay & Lesbian News*

"Electric... a visceral, heartfelt performance."

- *The San Diego Reader*

SHOWS: 18 • PATRONS: 2,653

A tender story based on a forgotten true history from the first female playwright to win two Pulitzers, *Intimate Apparel* was an achievement in emotional storytelling for NVA. Anchored by an award-winning performance by Tamara McMillian, this production celebrated the untold stories of America's past while celebrating the connections that bring us together.

"Among the finest stagings [NVA]
has accomplished in recent memory."

- *San Diego CityBeat*

"a lovely, sensitive, aching production."

- *Times of San Diego*

SHOWS: 22 • PATRONS: 1,634



SAN DIEGO THEATRE CRITICS CIRCLE 2019 CRAIG NOEL AWARDS:

WINNER - Outstanding Lead Performance in a Play: **Tamara McMillian**

WINNER - **Cashae Monya**: 2019 Actor of the Year

Nominations: Outstanding Dramatic Production; Outstanding Feature Performance
in a Play (**Cashae Monya**); Outstanding Scenic Design (**Christopher Scott Murillo**)

A ROLICKING, PIRATE-THEMED
MUSICAL ADVENTURE

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

Written by Laura Eason

Based on the novel by Jules Verne

With Original Music by The Shantyanne

Directed by Kristianne Kurner

Music Direction and Orchestrations by Tony Houck

Choreography by Jenna Ingrassia-Knox

November 8 — December 22, 2019



An enthusiastic ensemble cast, an on-stage pirate rock band, and a highly-theatrical nautical aesthetic brought Phileas Fogg's famous globetrotting voyage to new life on the NVA stage. With original music by Joseph Freeman & Renee Moreno of The Shantyanne, this vibrant and kinetic musical took audiences on a voyage they wouldn't soon forget.

"A fun and high-flying ride! The show soars all the way to its destination."

- The San Diego Union-Tribune

"A wonderful adventure [and] madcap production!"

- The Village News

SHOWS: 31 • PATRONS: 2,263

A HILARIOUS WHODUNNIT

MURDER FOR TWO

Book & Music by Joe Kinosian

Book & Lyrics by Kellen Blair

Directed by AJ Knox

Music Direction by Tom Abruzzo

Choreography by Jenna Ingrassia-Knox

February 1 — March 1, 2020

Two actors, thirteen characters, and one piano. This manic musical murder mystery featured tour-de-force performances by NVA Artistic Associate Tony Houck as 11 different suspects, and JD Dumas as the enthusiastic and endearing detective. Murder for Two was a true showcase of these performers' talents, as well as a laugh-out-loud tribute to classic murder mysteries and vintage Broadway.

"Hilarious, fluid, fast-paced... chock-full of visual humor and big-finish moments that pop!"

- The San Diego Union-Tribune

"funny, witty, over-the-top... Tony Houck & JD Dumas are a wonderful comedic pair!"

- The Vista Press

SHOWS: 31 • PATRONS: 2,781



CRITIC'S CHOICE!

- The San Diego Union-Tribune

SEASON NINETEEN HIGHLIGHTS



1. Cashae Monya, Kristianne Kurner, Melissa Coleman-Reed, Christopher Scott Murillo, Tamara McMillian, and NVA artists and staff celebrated at the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Craig Noel Awards in February 2020. NVA's production of *INTIMATE APPAREL* received four Craig Noel Award nominations, including one win for Tamara McMillian, and a second win for Cashae Monya as 2019 Actor of the Year (Monya had memorable roles in both *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* and *INTIMATE APPAREL* at NVA in 2019).
2. NVA staff and board at the 2019 Volunteer of the Year Awards, honoring Kathy & Bill Deering for their incredible contributions to New Village Arts.
3. Artist Advocates Don Strom and Jane LaFazio received an exclusive invitation to the *sitzprobe* for *AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS*. They were the first members of the public to hear the original music for the show! (*Sitzprobe* is the first day that the actors and full band work through the music in a musical together, and it's a ton of fun).
4. Artistic Associate Tony Houck stands amid the entire original score for *AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS*. Tony transposed 26 original songs from The Shantynannes, and orchestrated them for a cast of eight in just a few months—in addition to serving as the Music Director for the show.
5. Handel's Homemade Ice Cream opened across the street in 2019, and our opening night receptions in Season 19 featured free scoops for our audience and artists!
6. In late August 2019, Executive Artistic Director Kristianne returned to NVA after her 100-day sabbatical from the Clare Rose Foundation with Fieldstone Leadership Network. Kristianne traveled around the world in 100 days and returned with lots of fresh ideas for New Village Arts!

MUSIC @ NVA

Under the guidance of Artistic Associate Tony Houck, NVA shifted its traditional concert model in Season 19 to put an emphasis on concert performances and cabarets featuring some of the best NVA talent around. NVA also partnered with the San Diego International Airport for a concert revival of *AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS!*

- Summer Blast from the Past Cabaret**
Patrons: 55 | Revenue: \$684
- The Toxic Avenger: The Musical**
Patrons: 144 | Revenue: \$2,268
- The Second Annual Holly Jolly Cabaret**
Patrons: 182 | Revenue: \$4,208
- Little Women: The Broadway Musical**
Patrons: 94 | Revenue: \$1,300



THE FOUNDRY Artist Studios

NEW VILLAGE ARTS



New Village Arts continued to serve as the premier arts organization in North County San Diego. The Foundry Artist Studios at New Village Arts is home to a dozen resident artists, who maintain working studios, a rotating gallery, live monthly events, and curated lobby exhibits to accompany NVA's mainstage productions.

During Season 19, the Foundry took part in Hands of Peace, which brought Jewish-Israeli, Palestinian Citizens of Israel, and Palestinian teenagers to San Diego to promote dialogue and peace-building through art and other programs.



Throughout Season 19, New Village Arts reaffirmed its commitment to its bilingual, multicultural outreach program, Teatro Pueblo Nuevo.

In addition to the TPN production of *A WEEKEND WITH PABLO PICASSO*, NVA has used the nineteenth season, as well as the forced hiatus, to reevaluate and reinvigorate this program.

TPN is now an essential part of NVA's identity, reflecting a larger commitment to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism within the organization, and will continue to promote Latinx artists, programming, and education to ensure all members of our community have access to the arts.

EDUCATION FOR ALL

● NEW VILLAGE ARTS

Throughout Season 19, New Village Arts continued to expand its education and outreach programming, serving over 500 members of our community through classes, school programs, and productions.

- Kids Act!: Weekly acting classes and camps for students ages 4 - 14.
- Monday Night Live!: Acting and improvisation for teenagers with special needs and their neurotypical peers.
- Playwrights Project: Playwriting camps for young writers, including performances of original plays with professional actors.
- Mindful Theatre: a program for adults living with Alzheimer's and dementia, taught by Samantha Ginn and Paul Eddy.

NVA also continued its educational programming in partnership with local schools, including:

- Verbitas Documentary Theatre productions at Sage Creek High School, Guajome Park Academy, and Carlsbad High School, serving over 400 community members.
- Student Matinees for AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS and MURDER FOR TWO, reaching 350 students and teachers.



Max Lecanu-Fayet takes the stage in AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS, alongside Rae Henderson and Alex Guzman.

MAINSTAGE PLAYERS

New Village Arts continued its inclusive education programming in Season Nineteen with the Mainstage Players. This acting program, developed by NVA educator and Artistic Associate Samantha Ginn, aims to give young adults with neurodiversity essential performance training. The course culminates with onstage roles in NVA's mainstage productions. During Season Eighteen, the Mainstage Players performed onstage with Ginn in THE SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS; in Season Nineteen, the students took the stage without Ginn in AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS, playing two roles which included acting, singing, costume changes, and choreography. In Season Nineteen, NVA was also able to pay the students for their performances, marking these five talented students' professional theatre debuts.

kids ACT

Kids Act held 15 classes with over 120 students throughout Season 19, while Monday Night Live!, our improv class for teenagers and young adults with neurodiversity, held two courses serving 19 students.



Postponed: New Village Arts and Kids Act have postponed our neurodiverse staged adaptation of Janell Cannon's classic children's story STELLALUNA until 2021, to be able to produce this heartwarming tale as a full, live production.

Of course, our Education & Outreach programs went online in Season 19, which prompted the development of new and exciting classes and theatrical techniques to take advantage of this new digital performance space.

From Playwrights Project classes (pictured left), to screenwriting, acting, monologue slams, storytelling, and more, NVA's education programs were busier than ever in Season 19 with a focus on keeping young artists' creativity flowing in the midst of this challenging time.

FINAL DRAFT NEW PLAY FESTIVAL

New Village Arts' Third Annual Final Draft New Play Festival showcased four adventurous new works by promising local playwrights. Featuring a variety of plays ranging from dark comedy to political drama, the 2020 festival emphasized the importance of shared storytelling. The festival introduced a partnership with Pure Project Brewing, and included surround events in collaboration with The Dramatists Guild, and even offered "Home Brew Kits" for playwrights interested in creating their own new works from beer-inspired prompts.

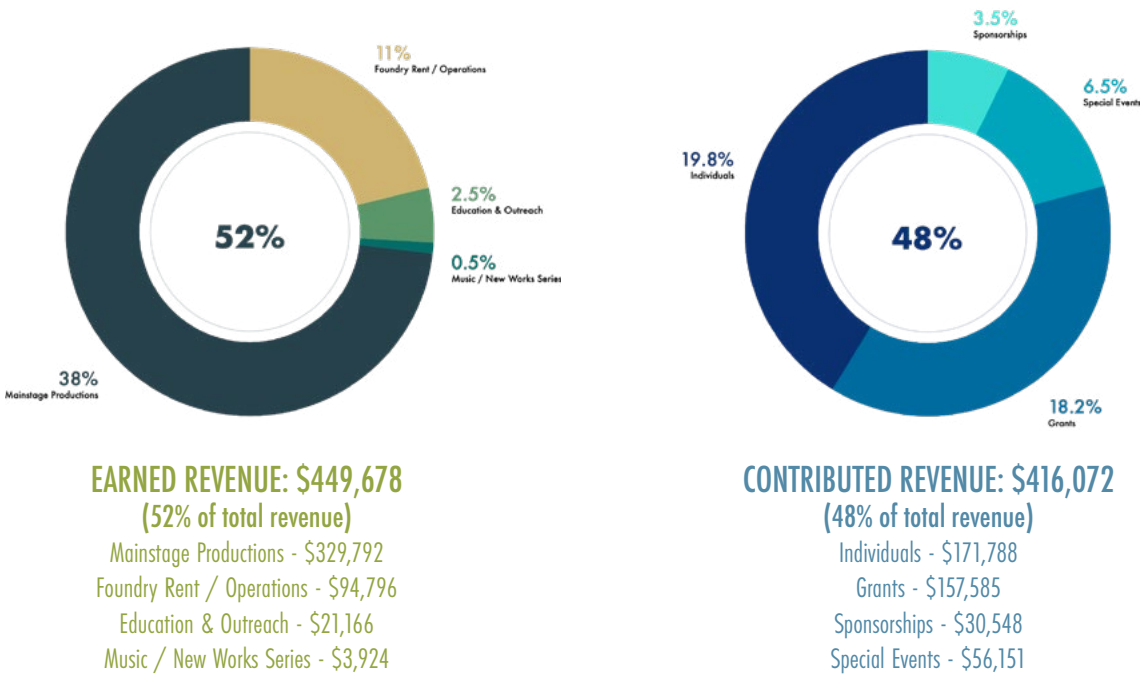


Above: the talkback for Cynthia Ochoa's SEPARATELAND, inspired by the family separation border crisis, featuring the playwright, cast, director Frankie Alicea-Ford, and festival producer Steve Smith, at NVA's 2020 Final Draft New Play Festival.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

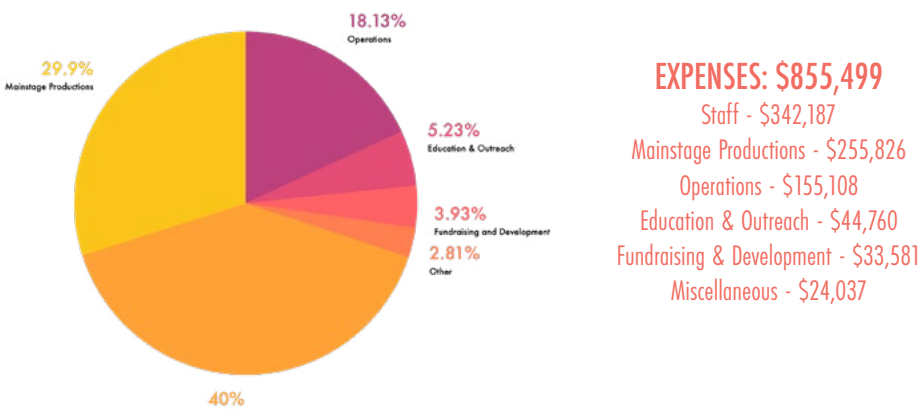
REVENUE: \$865,750

To achieve our mission of creating adventurous artistic experiences, New Village Arts relies on donations from individuals as well as private and public support. While earned revenue through ticket sales comprises the majority of our income, the generosity of our community is essential to maintaining our artistic integrity and sustaining new creative developments. Thanks to continued and renewed fundraising efforts, NVA expanded its network of donors and has continued to provide exciting benefits for all donors, sponsors, and subscribers.



EXPENSES: \$855,499

The majority of our expenses go directly into creating the award-winning, creative productions that NVA has become known for. We pride ourselves on working with some of the greatest actors, designers, technicians, and creative minds in San Diego and North County, and for our inclusive hiring practices that ensure all members of our community are represented in all areas of our work. NVA was founded on the principle that all artists should be fairly compensated for their contributions, and we are proud to highlight their work on our stage and behind the scenes.



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS & DONORS



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To join NVA's Board, contact Alex Goodman, Managing Director:
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