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 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 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!
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. 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, virtual 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.

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

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.

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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).
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 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.
A ROLLICKING, 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 Shantyannes
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 Shantyannes, 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

MURDER FOR TWO

A HILARIOUS WHODUNNIT

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

CRITIC’S CHOICE!
- The San Diego Union-Tribune

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

SHOWS: 31 • PATRONS: 2,781
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 Shantyannes, 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!
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.

**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.

**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.

**EDUCATION FOR ALL**

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.

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.

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**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.
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.

REVENUE: $865,750

To highlight their work on our stage and behind the scenes.

on the principle that all artists should be fairly compensated for their contributions, and we are proud that ensure all members of our community are represented in all areas of our work. NV A was founded technicians, and creative minds in San Diego and North County, and for our inclusive hiring practices

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FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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 artists, 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 put our work on stage and behind the scenes.