



OFFICE

100 North Main St.
Greensburg, PA 15601

PHONE

724.832.7464

EMAIL

stagerightgbg@gmail.com

WEB

www.stagerightgreensburg.com

Facebook

Stageright

Twitter

@srgreensburg

Request for February 2nd to be Heart of the Arts/John Noble day in Westmoreland County.

Stage Right School for the Performing Arts and Professional Theatre Company is celebrating its 15th year in 2013. Over the years we have grown from a small studio with 12 students and no theatre company, to an active and exciting place of creativity where 150 students study and work side by side with teachers and actors who form the core of a Professional Theatre company. Stage Right has worked tirelessly for 15 years to make a difference in the community. We've partnered with organizations like the Greensburg/Hempfield Library, the Westmoreland Museum of American Art and countless others, to create programs that bring the art of theatre to as many people as possible in a new and meaningful way. With Library Director Ceasar Muccari, we created the Books Come Alive Program, which for the past 12 years, has entertained thousands of families in local area libraries. We have created Anti-Bullying, and Internet Safety programs that have traveled to nearly every school district in Westmoreland and the surrounding counties, using our art to help improve the lives of children. Our ambassador group, the Stage Right Sensations, performs at hundreds of functions a year, spreading joy and good cheer to rest homes, outdoor festivals and private parties. Our graduates, who've chosen to pursue the arts professionally, have found placement in schools from NYU to CMU and everywhere in between. In recent years we have established relationships with organizations that service children with special needs and have created programs specifically designed for them. We have also established a thriving Homeschool theatre program for kids ages 8-18 that produces 3 shows a year for this growing and active population. Our professional theatre company brings dozens of artists to town every year to entertain audiences and mentor to our students. We are an organization always striving to move forward and find bigger and better ways to service all corners of our community.

In addition to my tireless staff and incredible volunteers, there are others, without whom, none of this would be possible. I'm talking about Angels. We list them as that in our program, but that's in relation to a specific monetary donation. The Angels I would like to talk about are the reasons why we have endeavored to create The Heart of the Arts Award. JFK believed the cultural well-being of any community is a determiner of how healthy that community is as a whole. But regardless of the passion and hard work of local artists, without the help of people outside of the arts who support the work just as passionately, there is no way to survive. These better Angels of our community's nature don't just provide access to money and other people with money. These people provide the inspiring spirit and pat on the back necessary to keeping those of us who create the art going and striving to do more. These are the party throwers, the glad-handers, the defenders of you and your ideas. They are the individuals who gain you respect in circles where the people don't understand or care about anything but money. They cheerlead and console. They fight for you and with you, if they think you're doing something that will disturb your own dream and at the end of the day they'll be there to ask; What's next! They never stray far from their heart or the heart of what they love and support.

Therefore, it is our wish, in our 15th year, to not create another 'Party' or self-aggrandizing special event, but instead, to create a celebration for the sort of person I've described. It is with great pride that we announce the first recipient of The Heart of the Arts Award; John M. Noble.

Mr. Noble has been an active and committed member of this area's arts community for over 20 years. A tireless supporter of young people in the arts, he created the "Westmoreland Night of the Stars." This showcase of high school musicals is in stark contrast to other like programs in other counties. Where as those are competitions, the Night of the Stars is a celebration of the kids and their love of theatre. This program has involved more than 10,000 students and their families from 17 westmoreland county school districts and homeschoolers over the years, raising over \$300,000 in awards and scholarships for high school musical

theatre programs. This is a wonderful achievement but is by no means his sole contribution to the area. John has been a long time supporter/sponsor of the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit serving special needs kids -annually hosting the Breakfast with Santa" and leading the Christmas carol sing a long. For more than twenty years he has been the costumed guest reader for "dr Seuss" day at local elementary schools and the Jeannette head start program. He has also volunteered his services for Greensburg Community Days - hosting the annual "Greensburg Idol." These are just a few of the things John does for the local arts community. He is also what I would call the 'perfect' audience member. Do hear the hearty 'Hah!' down front? That's John, enjoying the show and the talent onstage more than anyone. He perennially travels throughout the county to support young talent and their families in their efforts. He is well-known for stopping in at a high school or middle school or Stage Right musical theatre rehearsals, encouraging the kids during the creative process and giving casts there first audience feedback. This always provides a boost for everyone. As does it when word that Mr. Noble is in the audience at the Nutcracker, or middle school choral concert or museum art exhibit or, most recently, the first grade Christmas pageant at Metzger. It can be hard for someone not involved in the arts to understand why something as seemingly simple as showing up is so important. That's because with John its more than showing up, its like he's there with you onstage cheering you on, encouraging you. For an artist, that's everything.

In addition to what I've mentioned, John has been associated with Stage Right nearly since its inception. Firstly he was a parent of two incredibly talented kids. He was also maybe the only parent in our history who never once complained about the role his child received. For that alone he should be given an award. His involvement grew and deepened over the years. Though performing as a volunteer, his commitment to his roles on stage and off was always deep and abiding. He instantly was 'all-in' when it came to Stage Right. He promoted shows, cajoled friends, who would become long-time ticket buyers, into seeing their first show. He was a wonderful example to the students and opened up avenues for us when we were the new kids on the block. He did the exact same thing for any arts organization that asked for

his time. He was also a financial angel when needed, and all arts organizations need those. But as I said, this is not that kind of reward.

This is an award for those unique individuals who could take their riches and free time and travel the world, buy mid-life crisis cars, exclusively support athletic departments, or at the very least ignore arts and culture in favor of more popular things. But these special kind of people don't do that. Instead, they understand that without the arts our community is lessened as a whole. They understand that the world is diverse and not every kid wants to play ball. They understand that children need things that make them dream, that speak to their imaginations, that gives them a glimpse of something they never knew they could be a part of. John understands that we need the Ballet, we need the Symphony and the Museum and Stage Right. John has demonstrated for years that he understands that the heart of this and any community is its arts community. In seeing this and supporting it and making it happen in so many ways, he has become the Heart of the Arts. For that we humbly thank him and hope you will see fit to name this day in his and the award's honor.

Sincerely,
Anthony Marino
Artistic Director
Stage Right!