



**“We Enrich
Our Community
Through
Great Theatre.”**

– OCP MISSION –

**“[The Playhouse exists]
...to raise the drama from
a purely amusement
enterprise into an
educational, cultural force.”**

OCP FOUNDERS’
STATEMENT

**“The Omaha Community
Playhouse isn’t a mere
building. It’s the spirit that’s
been put into the Playhouse
by thousands of volunteers
over the years.”**

– HENRY FONDA –



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About the Playhouse

For over 80 years, the Omaha Community Playhouse (OCP) has presented an exceptional range of plays and musicals while offering unique educational programming for adults and children interested in the performing arts.

The OCP is the largest community theatre in the United States in terms of facility size, subscription membership base, season size, and volunteers.

Each season over 2,000 volunteers work alongside a professional staff of 35. They not only supplement the organization’s work force, but bring creative energy and talent to the theatre – and ultimately the community. Since 1924, volunteers have auditioned, sewn costumes, sold tickets, performed, run lights, moved sets, cleaned up, and carried on.

OCP productions have often been cited as “Broadway-quality.” This is a direct result of volunteer talent guided by on-staff theatre professionals.

The OCP showcases a full season of comedies, dramas, mysteries, and musicals, presented on two stages. The OCP also produces its nationally-renowned version of Dickens’ classic *A Christmas Carol*, originally adapted by former Playhouse artistic director Charles Jones.

Facility

The Omaha Community Playhouse features two state-of-the-art performance spaces. The 601-seat Mainstage Auditorium proscenium theatre features comfortable, stadium-style seating, advanced visual technology and acoustic excellence – a perfect environment to present our larger productions. The Howard Drew Theatre is a “black box” theatre. Depending on the production’s specific scenic/stage requirements, the flexible risers allow for audiences of between 200 and 230. The intimate surroundings are ideal for more progressive, avant garde scripts.

The OCP also features a large rehearsal hall, dance studio, costume shop, scene shop, classrooms, Green Room, and a new beautifully-landscaped outdoor plaza.

Education

The education and outreach department provides an artistic educational center which offers a variety of acting, voice, and dance classes for adults and children. Curriculum directors create workshops and residencies for local elementary and high schools. These programs expose theatre to those who might not otherwise experience it.

Another remarkable educational project is the Theatre Technical Apprenticeship Program. Offered in conjunction with Metropolitan Community College, this school-to-work program through the U.S. Department of Labor allows high school and college students to train with the professional staff and learn the technical aspects of theatre. Students earn school credit and upon graduation join the technical workforce, supporting the performing arts.

History

Founded in 1924, the OCP quickly established a pattern of steady growth paralleling the city’s own development. Now a cultural landmark and icon of Omaha, the OCP has been a place where people could practice their avocation. The OCP has fostered artistic talents from people throughout the community.

Hollywood legends Dorothy Brando (Marlon’s mother), Henry Fonda, Dorothy McGuire, and Jane Fonda as well as Broadway stars Kevyn Morrow and Tony Award winner John Lloyd-Young honed their talents on our stage. American painter Grant Wood shared his talent with the Playhouse, designing one of our early production’s sets.

The OCP is a treasured community tradition with a well-earned reputation for excellence in performance and production - hosting over 100,000 audience members each season.