

THE EDMONTON INTERNATIONAL FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



KIDSRINGE HAITI PROJECT

About The Art Creation Foundation for Children

The Art Creation Foundation for Children (ACFFC), is a non-profit organization based in Jacmel, Haiti, created for education and personal growth of children in need in Jacmel.

The ACFFC was created in 2003 for the personal growth, empowerment and education of children in need, with an arts-based focus.

The organization presently serves over 90 children, ages six months to 18 years, and is managed in Haiti by a staff of local residents. The organization mission is simple: any child who can make a papier-mâché bowl or bird is an artisan and will never starve or be lost to the streets.

ACFFC participants have become a compassionate family and part of an active and caring arts community in Jacmel. The children are mastering traditional Haitian arts and crafts and working with visiting arts groups.

About the FTA – ACFFC collaboration

With the support of TransAlta Festival City, Fringeopolis will feature international creative content at KidsFringe with a special collaborative exchange between the Art Creation Foundation for Children (ACFFC) of Jacmel, Haiti, and Fringe Theatre Adventures (FTA).

Between August 11 and 21, 2011, 10 young artists from the ACFFC will present traditional and contemporary Haitian story-telling and papier-mâché workshops at KidsFringe.

This exchange:

- enhances FTA's international artistic reputation by building connections locally and internationally
- incubates the international artistic component of KidsFringe by supporting visiting young artists from Haiti
- offers broader artistic content to KidsFringe-goers.
- promotes and grows KidsFringe internationally

The ultimate goal of this exchange is to stage a KidsFringe event in Jacmel in 2012.

The ACFFC artists first encountered the Edmonton Fringe when the Festival commissioned the children to produce artwork for the 2010 Family Stage production of *Theo in the Spotlight: A Concert for Haiti*. In May 2010, Tara Langlois and Patti McIntosh, the play's producers, travelled to Jacmel to work with the ACFFC on artwork, video and papier-mâché for incorporation into the Fringe show. (View samples of the artwork at www.juniorglobalcitizen.org.)

“This type of collaboration is extremely important and meaningful for the ACFFC children, as their world is very small on the one hand (the farthest they have traveled is Port Au Prince) and yet global on a virtual basis, with their art work shown world wide. They are Haiti’s leaders of tomorrow and will benefit greatly by having an opportunity to see the world beyond. Haiti is their home and they are proud; they wish to share it with others, just as they wish to become a part of a larger reality,” says Judy Hoffman, President of the ACFFC.

Components of 2011 FTA-ACFFC collaboration

The FTA’s collaboration with the Art Creation Foundation for Children has two components, preparation and presentation. In late May 2011, Patti McIntosh and Mike Ford, Director of Operations for FTA, will travel to Jacmel, Haiti, and work with the children from the ACFFC to ensure that they are well-prepared for their KidsFringe experience.

Preparation includes working with the children to:

- Build a rehearsal stage at the ACFFC
- Stage and rehearse three Haitian folk stories using props and staging designed by the children; award-winning storyteller, playwright and author Tolowa Mollel is helping adapt these folk stories
- Research and write contemporary stories that will share with Edmonton audiences what it is like to be a child and young artist in Haiti; Marty Chan, author, playwright, and Edmonton Public Library Writer-in-Residence, is helping develop these original stories
- Design their papier-mâché workshop

Ten ACFFC children will be selected to present at the Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival based on their age, skill sets and ability to travel.

During the Festival, these children will perform the folk stories, contemporary stories and conduct papier-mâché workshops at KidsFringe. Collaboration with local children (i.e. Camp Multi-Arts, a local francophone arts camp) on a new production is also a possibility.

Each of these presentations will be translated into English, so all KidsFringe audiences will be able to enjoy their work.

ACFFC artists will also sell original artwork on the Fringeopolis site to raise funds for Haiti earthquake relief.

FTA is currently accepting donations to support the ACFFC artists’ stay in Edmonton.

For more information on how to donate, please contact Mike Ford:

mike.ford@fringetheatre.ca or (780) 448-9009

For more information about ACFFC:

www.artforhaitianchildren.org

For more information about Patti McIntosh and Tara Langlois’ collaboration with ACFFC:

www.juniorglobalcitizen.org