



Dec. 13, 2010

Dear Friends,

We're writing to tell you about a few changes at CMT that will begin in January. We are delighted to announce several new offerings, including a multimedia pilot program for our Mainstage participants and dance classes for our Rising Stars. We also will be offering a supervised pre- and post-rehearsal program for our performers in order to provide our families more flexibility with their transportation schedules.

At the same time, after much consideration, we have concluded that we must increase our tuition. Beginning with the winter shows, tuition for Rising Stars performers will be \$190, and tuition for our Mainstage performers will be \$160. Here's why:

As everyone knows, the cost of just about everything has been increasing. We have imposed cost-savings measures across the board these past two years, and yet the cost of doing business has continued to rise. We receive high marks and generous contributions from major donors, including the City of San Jose, our largest funder, and many foundations and private individuals. In August, the Foothill Performing Arts Alliance told us it would no longer provide funding for performers younger than 14, which will result in a loss of more than \$100 per performer for each production. We have reluctantly concluded that we must ask you to help us defray that cost.

At the same time, we are introducing some new programs, which we hope you will find valuable:

- **Going beyond performance.** To develop our performers' experience as theater patrons, we will give each Rising Stars performer two free tickets to a designated Mainstage show, followed by a special event, such as a conversation with the director. In other words, each *Guys & Dolls* performer will receive two free tickets to a special performance of *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Similarly, each *Starmites* performer will receive two tickets to a special performance of *The Secret Garden*, and so on.
- **Building technique.** To strengthen dance skills of our 10- to 14-year-old performers, we will offer Monday evening dance classes, led by Shannon Self, our director of core education programs and a popular CMT choreographer. We're offering two series of seven classes each, at \$100 per session. You'll find complete details, including schedule, at [www.cmts.org/dance-series](http://www.cmts.org/dance-series). Register at [dance@cmts.org](mailto:dance@cmts.org).
- **For your convenience.** In an effort to ease busy schedules of our families, we introduce our Lime Lounge, offering supervised down-time activities for our performers before and after their rehearsal. We hope you will gain peace of mind -- and flexibility in your transportation schedule -- while your performer is in a safe, secure and supervised environment conducive to homework completion or low-key games and activities. The lounge will be available from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. in Studio C. You can pay as you go (\$6.50 per half hour, plus \$2 for each additional sibling) or you can purchase a Lime Lounge flex pass (20 hours for \$225)

for use whenever you like. We hope this becomes a popular destination for our Rising Stars performers and a great convenience for our families. For more details: [www.cmtsj.org/the-lime-lounge](http://www.cmtsj.org/the-lime-lounge).

- **Multimedia for Mainstagers.** We are particularly excited about our new multimedia program, TADA 2.0, which we are introducing in association with CreaTV, San Jose's public access television station. TADA 2.0 runs concurrently with our Mainstage production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*; CMT tuition fees apply.

As we begin this pilot program, a small group of selected participants will work with CreaTV professionals to develop multimedia skills, including the use of state-of-the-art HD video cameras and editing tools. Participants will create video pieces, working both at CreaTV studios (at 255 W. Julian, just off Highway 87 in San Jose) and at CMT.

We see TADA 2.0 as a wonderful opportunity to expand CMT's offerings and to acquaint interested Mainstage participants with theater-related digital technology. As the program unfolds, our talented participants will gain multimedia skills that will add dimension and excitement to our productions, both onstage and off.

Because this is a pilot program, we intend to limit the number of participants. Applications, including a statement about your interest, are due no later than Jan. 6, the last day of auditions. No previous video or editing experience is required. (Find more details and the application at [www.cmtsj.org/tada-2](http://www.cmtsj.org/tada-2).)

CMT, now the oldest major arts organization in San Jose, is proud of its reputation for excellence and its commitment to casting all who audition. In its 43-year history, no child has ever been turned away for lack of funds. Thanks to the generosity of many CMT friends, scholarships are available.

We hope you are as excited about our plans for the New Year as we are, and we welcome your thoughts and your suggestions. Please do let us hear from you.

Thank you for all your generous support this past year, and we look forward to working together as we seek to reach new heights together in 2011.

With best wishes for happy holidays,

-- Ann Hurst and Kevin Hauge