

## **TYT needs your help – we won't be able to produce any more shows after this season**

TYT is committed to bringing a professional theatre experience to area youth. For this reason, TYT spends **thousands of dollars for each show** on licensing, theatre rental, set building, printing, advertising, and more. TYT has dim prospects for the future right now based on our current budget. To help keep our programs running for kids we want to show you how TYT spends its budget, how we operate to enrich the lives of children and theatre patrons.

### *How much does it cost to put on a TYT show?*

TYT pays professional license fees for the shows we produce. License fees for each show can run anywhere from \$2,000 to \$10,000 depending on the show's popularity, the number of performances, the number of tickets sold and the price of the ticket. These up-front fees go to paying royalties for writers of plays and music.

*The licensing fees for Annie Jr cost \$3,200 for a 5-show run; total show budget is \$16,000*

We also require a large amount of parent volunteer hours to make the production run smoothly. In total dollar terms, TYT runs each show at a cost of around \$20,000, more or less.

### *How much does it cost to rent a theatre?*

Although TYT could put on a show anywhere (like a school cafeteria), we seek to rent professional venues to increase the production value of our shows as well as provide the kids with as close to a professional experience as possible. Rental for a professional venue, which includes the time to rehearse on stage as well as actual performances can run several thousand dollars for each production. These costs are included in the total show budget.

### *Is TYT part of the Tecumseh Public School system?*

No. TYT is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which provides a theatre experience for children. TYT is not a part of the TPS, however TPS gave \$2500 support to TYT. In this relationship, TPS does not have to bear the

costs of running a theatre program and TYT gets the benefit of having TPS school kids in our productions.

### *Do the children have to pay a fee to participate?*

Yes. Each child pays a \$75 participation fee for each show. That money is used for purchasing a professionally videographed DVD (\$25), a show t-shirt (\$10), a professional theatre makeup kit (\$20), and the remaining \$20 helps to pay for part of the licensing fees.

### *Does TYT pay anyone who helps produce a show?*

Yes. Each show has a budgeted stipend for various positions within the show. Directors, music directors, producers, choreographers, set designers, stage managers, and light and sound techs all receive modest stipends in return for their time. TYT feels that these stipends help attract and keep talented people in these positions, who are giving time well above and beyond their normal jobs and lives. They generally are at every rehearsal, and/or on weekends, spend extra time helping to build stages and set lighting, and have to do the jobs that no one else can get to. This can add up to spending several hundred personal hours on a single show by just one person.

### *Does TYT make money selling tickets to shows?*

Not always. Each show has a budget for forecasted tickets sales. Not all money from the ticket sale goes to TYT, part of it goes to the professional venue. It's not unusual for a less popular play to lose money, meaning fewer tickets were sold than money was spent on the show. Any money TYT makes over budgeted costs on a show goes back into the general budget to produce future shows, and to help offset any previous show losses.

### *Does TYT do any fundraising activity?*

Some, but with the amount of time our volunteers give to our shows it's difficult to do much else. The majority of our funding comes from patrons like yourself and ticket sales. Occasionally TYT also gets grants from various institutions. If you have fundraising ideas, please contact us.

Website: [www.tecumseyouththeatre.com](http://www.tecumseyouththeatre.com)

Email: [board@tecumseyouththeatre.com](mailto:board@tecumseyouththeatre.com)

**BENEFACTOR:** Over \$2,500.00  
6 Complimentary Tickets to each TYT show.  
Name in all advertisements for every show.  
Name announced at the beginning of every performance.

**SPONSOR:** \$2,500.00  
4 Complimentary Tickets to each TYT show.  
Name in all advertisements for every show.  
Name announced at the beginning of every performance.

**PATRON:** \$500.00  
2 Complimentary Tickets to each TYT show.  
Name in all advertisements for every show.  
Name announced at the beginning of every performance.


**CONTRIBUTOR:** \$250.00 - PLATINUM  
\$200.00 - GOLD  
\$150.00 - SILVER  
\$100.00 - BRONZE  
Name in advertisements for every show.



**NEIGHBOR:** Under \$100.00  
Name in advertisements for every show.

**TYT** TEAR OFF AND REMIT TO:  
TECUMSEH YOUTH THEATER - P.O. BOX 2 - TECUMSEH, MICHIGAN 49286

I am interested in becoming a member of the TYT family at the following level:

Benefactor <input type="checkbox"/>	Contributor:	Contributor:	Neighbor <input type="checkbox"/>
Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/>	Platinum <input type="checkbox"/>	Silver <input type="checkbox"/>	
Patron <input type="checkbox"/>	Gold <input type="checkbox"/>	Bronze <input type="checkbox"/>	

Print name as you would like it to appear: \_\_\_\_\_

The current budget for TYT after producing the 2012/2013 season is under \$7,000. This is not enough to procure licensing and pay rent for even a single show, so without significant support our program will end. Please tell everyone you know about our situation, and ask them to give what they can. Our kids are depending on us to provide them with something extraordinary!

*Does TYT open its books to anyone who wants to see how money is being spent?*

Absolutely yes! As a TYT patron we believe it is your right to know and understand how we spend our budgets. At any time feel free to use our web page to contact a board member and request a budget review.

*Can TYT donations be written off on my taxes?*

In most cases, yes. TYT is a 501(c)3 and charitable contributions should be reported as such as on your taxes. TYT can also give receipts for contributions.

*Can my United Way donations go to TYT?*

Yes they can! When you donate to United Way you can specify what charity gets your contribution, including TYT.

*What other kinds of donations does TYT get?*

TYT relies on local area business to help support shows. For example, food and supplies are donated for end of show cast parties, and each gets a mention in our program. We encourage you to patronize these friends and when you do, please mention you appreciate that they give to TYT!

TYT also accepts donations of anything it takes to put on a show. Building materials, sewing/costuming supplies, knick knacks, oddities, volunteer service hours...anything we can use!

*Can I donate my time to TYT?*

Yes! TYT appreciates any donations of personal time. If you have special talents to offer TYT can make use of them. We need people to serve as board members, grant writers, artists, accountants, IT support, and any other wheel that makes the machine go! Please contact us via our web page and let us know how you want to help!

*How do I donate money to TYT?*

Pick a contribution level and find any Board member at any show. Or contact us by email, or by mail at P.O. Box 2, Tecumseh, Michigan, 49286. We can accept checks, cash, and soon online payments.