

Idaho Falls Youth Arts Centre History

- 1992: The Idaho Falls Little Theatre, Inc. is formed as a nonprofit organization. This organization was previously known as the Idaho Falls Mystery Theater. Bylaws are accepted January 22, the Department of State issues Articles of Incorporation on February 3, and the organizational meeting of the Board of Directors is February 27. The first President is Susan Haderlie. On June 29, the Internal Revenue Service grants the organization provisional tax-exempt status as described in Section 501(c)3.
- 1992-1996: Productions of the Idaho Falls Little Theatre include *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Our Town*, *The Butler Did It*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Dead Man's Hand*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Murder for Art's Sake*, *Orfeo and Euridice*, *The MouseTrap*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*.
- Fall 1996: The name of the Idaho Falls Little Theatre is formally changed to the Idaho Falls Youth Arts Centre, Inc. (IFYAC), with a change in mission to emphasizing *youth* opportunities in the performing arts. Articles of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Idaho Falls Little Theatre, Inc. are filed September 13 and the Department of State issues a Certificate of Amendment of the name change on January 27, 1997. Co-founders of IFYAC are Susan Haderlie, Sandi Herrin (first IFYAC President) and Shari Chadwick. The previous by-laws of the Idaho Falls Little Theatre are adopted without change.
- Fall 1996: The previously existing Idaho Falls Youth Symphony (IFYS) with Eric Wenstrom, conductor and founder, comes under the nonprofit organizational umbrella of the IFYAC. Other programs include the Idaho Falls Youth Chorale and weekly after-school performing arts classes in voice, drama, and creative movement.
- November 1996: IFYAC hosts first annual *Extravadance* show at Idaho Falls Civic Auditorium, featuring dancers from Ricks College, Rexburg, Idaho.
- December 1996: IFYAC's first stage production, Menotti's one-act opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* is performed at the Idaho Falls Civic Auditorium, and includes youth and adults.
- Summer 1997: First theater camp for youth (*Alice in Wonderland*) at Ammon Elementary School. Producer Shari Chadwick, Director Rachel Keppner, Music Director Amber LaPray and Shari Chadwick.
- Fall 1997: Shari Chadwick is elected president of IFYAC.
- 1997-1998: David Rutherford serves as the IFYS conductor while IFYS founder and conductor Eric Wenstrom takes a sabbatical leave.
- January 1998: Southeast Bonneville Strings Program comes under IFYAC (after-school instruction in stringed instruments, including a summer camp). This program comes to be known as "Suzuki Strings."
- June 1998: Second Theater Camp at Bonneville High School is *Robin Hood* with Fran Nichols directing.

- December 1998: Second production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* at the Idaho Falls Civic Auditorium.
- 1999: Idaho Commission on the Arts (ICA) awards IFYAC a grant to support after-school strings program (classes, camp, and youth symphony).
- November 1999: IFYAC's first semi-professional musical production, *The Secret Garden*, is also the first musical to be performed at the recently renovated Colonial Theater in downtown Idaho Falls. Roger Merrill is director and Shari Chadwick is producer. A fourth evening performance is added, due to the positive community response. The major corporate sponsor is U.S. West with state support from the Idaho Commission on the Arts.
- January 2000: Record number of students in Suzuki Strings (110) and Performing Arts Classes (50).
- April 2000: Over 100 students attend first "Fiddle Frolic."
- Spring 2000: IFYAC President Shari Chadwick receives Music Club's 1999 "Woman of the Year" and Idaho Falls Arts Council's "2000 Arts Award," in part for her work with IFYAC and creator of the Suzuki Strings program.
- Summer 2000: Summer Theater Camp, *Night on Broadway*.
- September 2000: Sue Rope elected president of IFYAC.
- November 2000: Barbara Higgs produces *Big River*, directed by Roger Merrill. First IFYAC production in which lead actors receive payment.
- January 2001: Suzuki Strings enrollment is about 80 students.
- January 3, 2001: IFYAC organization receives final ruling by the Internal Revenue Service of nonprofit organization (tax-exempt) status under section 501 (c) (3).
- February 2001: IFYAC featured on Channel 8 TV as their "Community Builder of the Month." IFYAC's programs are credited with allowing kids to develop their artistic side and enhancing their self-esteem. Participating kids say their IFYAC experiences have "changed their lives."
- Spring 2001: IFYAC offers several one-day workshops in audition techniques, mime, fiddling, and a strings master class.
- April 2001: IFYAC organizes and hosts the first annual *Evening of Dance* at the Civic Auditorium, which features selections from over a dozen regional dance studios.
- July 2001: IFYAC fifth consecutive Summer Theater Camp, *Wizard of Oz*, with 2 sold out performances at Bonneville High School Little Theater.
- August 2001: Idaho Falls Youth Symphony program and assets are transferred to nonprofit umbrella of the Idaho Falls Symphony Society.
- September 2001: Jeannie Frazell elected president of IFYAC Board.

- Fall 2001: IFYAC collaborates with nine other performing arts organizations to offer a reduced-price “sampler ticket” for ages 35 and under.
- October 2001: IFYAC organization recognized by the Idaho Falls Transition Team for support of 2001 Disability Mentoring Day.
- November 2001: IFYAC’s *Fiddler on the Roof* production with Barbara Higgs as producer, Roger Merrill as director, and John Bidwell as “Tevye,” sells more tickets than any other show in the renovated Colonial Theater, completely selling out three of four nights.
- December 2001: Inventory of sets, costumes, etc. moves from commercial storage to Colonial Theater basement under rental arrangement with Idaho Falls Arts Council.
- 2002: Part-time staff position created (Executive Director), and Sue Rope accepts position. In May, Ms. Rope receives a Zonta Club of Idaho Falls “Woman of Distinction” award recognizing past volunteer contributions to the community.
- April 2002: Second annual *An Evening of Dance*.
- April 2002: IFYAC collaborates with the Idaho Falls Arts Council to provide hands-on technical theater training for select high school youth at the Colonial Theater. The project receives funding from the Idaho Commission on the Arts. The young people run lights and sound for a free matinee and 3 evening performances of *Forever Plaid*.
- May 2002: First all youth musical production during the school year, *Bugsy Malone, Jr.*, with Shari Chadwick directing, involves 75 youth from 20 area schools.
- July 2002: Sixth Summer Theater Camp, *Music Man* produced by Carol Shipman is held at the Colonial Theater for the first time.
- November 2002: IFYAC produces the post-Broadway premiere of *Jane Eyre, the Musical*. Producer is Diane Myers and director is Roger Merrill. Composer and lyricist Paul Gordon attends opening night performance and visits BYU-Idaho classes.
- December 2002: IFYAC sponsors a String Teacher Workshop with guest teacher Tamara Howell from Bountiful, Utah. Ms. Howell is the Regional Suzuki Violin Coordinator for the Davis/Weber region and has a private teaching studio.
- March 2003: Executive Director, Sue Rope, introduces the idea of an Arts Education Partnership with Higher Education Partners who will award teacher internships for IFYAC’s after school performing arts classes, including strings. The framework encourages partnerships with primary and secondary schools, arts organizations, youth organizations, and businesses. Phase I will be between IFYAC and BYU-Idaho beginning next fall.
- April 2003: Third annual *An Evening of Dance* at Civic Auditorium. Twenty-six dance numbers of various styles are performed by 15 dance studios. Proceeds dedicated towards a dance workshop to benefit all participating studios.
- June 2003: Fifth Summer Strings Camp at Rocky Mountain Middle School, with Bill and Marilyn Crocker leading. Guest teacher Tamara Howell from Utah.

- July 2003: Seventh annual Summer Theater Camp, *Riverboat Revue* at Colonial Theater, Fran Nichols drama director, Jodi Ricks choreographer, and Cindy Bensen vocal director. The show includes two melodramas, *Rascals under the Big Top* and *The Paper Bag Princess*, along with musical numbers, some written by youth. Six teens learn directing and stage management skills. Camp coordinated by IFYAC board members Sharon Caldwell and Carol Shipman.
- August 2003: Second annual Roaring Snake River Youth Jam. IFYAC and Chesbro Music Company team up with display booths and performing area that includes Karaoke, Junk Jam (percussion play), Youth Strings Performances, Youth Musical Theatre Performances, and guitar, harmonica, and recorder clinics.
- August 2003: Dance workshop with Kay Anderson from Southern Utah University. Mr. Anderson is choreographer for fall musical production.
- September 2003: Eastern Idaho Children's Choir begins with conductor and artistic director Renie Clements.
- November 2003: Production of Stephen Schwartz's and John Caird's *Children of Eden*, Producer Carol Shipman, Director Valeen Archibald, and Music Director Solveig Nyberg-Akert. at the Colonial Theater.
- November 2003: IFYAC hosts 7th BYU-Idaho *Extravadance* show at the Idaho Falls Civic Auditorium.
- December 2003: Eastern Idaho Children's Choir performs as part of Chorolaires Christmas concert in Colonial Theater.
- January 2004: First Eastern Idaho Children's Choir concert with special guests Idaho Falls High School Expressions and Idaho Falls High School sextet. Held at Trinity United Methodist Church.
- February 2004: Courtesy of the Idaho Falls Arts Council, IFYAC members and others participate in a music workshop with two members of The Blind Boys of Alabama, who present two evening performances at the Colonial Theater.
- March 2004: IFYAC produces School District 91 Spring musical, *Once Upon a Mattress*.. IFYAC provides show management experience, sets, and props, as well as volunteers and staff.
- April 2004: Kary Ledbetter assumes position of Executive Director of IFYAC. Former Executive Director Sue Rope assumes IFYAC board position.
- June 2004: Eastern Idaho Children's Choir spring concert. Special guest Teresa Clark, professional storyteller. Held at Trinity United Methodist Church.
- July 2004: Eighth annual Summer Theater Camp, *Once On This Island* at Colonial Theater, Cindy Benson drama director, Jodi Ricks choreographer, and Shari Couillard vocal director. The show includes one act along with musical numbers. Two teens learn musical directing and

technical lighting and sound skills. Camp coordinated by IFYAC board member Sharon Caldwell.

- August 2004: Third annual Roaring Snake River Youth Jam. IFYAC and Chesbro Music Company team up with display booths and performing area that include Karaoke and Youth Strings Performances.
- August 2004: One day *StarMaker Audition Workshop* is held at Iona Community Center. Thirty-six youth sing, dance and play under the guidance of four skilled teachers: Shari Couillard, Danielle Matheson, Patrick Nolan, Julia Nolan.
- September 2004: Annual membership meeting is held at Trinity United Methodist Church. Jim Sevy, Susan Sargent and Cherie Stoddard are elected to the Board as Vice-President, Choir Director and Secretary, respectively.
- October 2004: Premier production of *StarMaker Xtravaganza Talent Show and Contest*. Producers Rich and Shari Couillard. 110 youth audition with 42 participating in the final show and contest. More than \$1500 in prizes and 11 awards of distinction. Idaho Falls Civic Auditorium.
- November 2004: Production of Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods*, Producer Shari Couillard, Director Dave Coffman, and Music Director Camille Blackburn at the Colonial Theater.
- December 2004: First storyteller's classes led by professional storyteller, Teresa Clark. An 8-week series of classes called "Storyteller's Showcase" with a final storytelling concert on the last day of class. Ten students participated, including a wheel-chair bound youth.
- March 2005: IFYAC produces School District 91 Spring Musical, *South Pacific* for the second year in a row. IFYAC provides show management experience, sets, and props, as well as volunteers and staff at Clair E. Gale Jr. High Auditorium.
- April 2005: Fourth annual *An Evening of Dance* at Civic Auditorium. Thirty dance numbers of various styles are performed by 15 dance studios. Proceeds dedicated towards a dance workshop to benefit all participating studios.
- May 2005: Senior Send-off at University Place. Shari Couillard is MC, youth participants in IFYAC programs that are seniors in high school perform for friends and family.
- July 2005: Ninth annual Summer Theater Camp, *The Hobbit* at Clair E. Gale Jr. High Auditorium, Fran Nichols drama director, Todd Schwieder choreographer, and Shari Couillard and Cindy Benson vocal directors. The show includes one act along with musical numbers. Two teens learn directing and technical lighting and sound skills. Camp produced by Sharon Caldwell and Shari Couillard.
- September 2005: Susan Hulse assumes position of Executive Director of IFYAC.
- September 2005: Annual membership meeting is held at Iona Community Center. Cyndi Wallace, Susan Bradley, Sharon Parry and Michelle Hutchison are elected to the Board as Vice-President, Treasurer, Choir Director and Youth Representative, respectively.

- October 2005: Production of *StarMaker Xtravaganza Talent Show and Contest*. Producers Rich and Shari Couillard. 110 youth auditions with 42 participating in the final show and contest. More than \$1500 in prizes. Idaho Falls Civic Auditorium with Alex Boye as MC.
- November 2005: Production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, Producer Jim Sevy, Director Doyle Jenkins, and Music Director Shari Couillard at the Colonial Theater. Sold out every night with a cast of more than 100.
- January 2006: Story Club begins with storyteller Teresa Clark. They meet every third Thursday at Grand Teton Mall. Planned for January through June.
- February 2006: The following people are voted onto the board and committees. Annette Wilding Treasurer, Susan Bradley Theater Director for Summer Theater Camp, and Joy Sorensen Mentor Director.
- April 2006: Fifth annual *An Evening of Dance* at Civic Auditorium. Thirty dance numbers of various styles are performed by 15 dance studios. Proceeds dedicated towards a dance workshop to benefit all participating studios.
- May 2006: Senior Send-off at University Place. Michelle Hutchison is MC, youth participants in IFYAC programs that are seniors in high school perform for friends and family. The audience enjoys video footage of the seniors in their younger years participating in IFYAC productions.
- June 2006: Tenth annual Summer Theater Camp, *Honk* at Rocky Mountain Middle School. Fran Nichols serves as drama director. She is assisted by Alana Butikofer. The choreographer is Lisa Davie and the Choir Director is Cindy Bensen. DeAnn Cook creates the costumes.
- September 2006: Eastern Idaho Children's Choir begins again with Director Dana Gallant. Two choirs for ages 7–14. Try outs are a big success. There are 24 members in the Lyric Choir and 20 members in the Prelude Choir. Rehearsals held at Taylorview Jr. High School.
- September 2006: Annual membership meeting is held at Cooper Norman Co. The following people are newly elected to the Board: David R. Anderson President, Ted Dawson Vice-President, Bruce Wilding Treasurer.
- November 2006: Production of *Oliver* at the Colonial Theater, Producer Marcia Morrissey, Director Valeen Archibald, and Music Director Solveig Nyberg-Akert. Guest performer is Edward Hightower. The 42 member cast includes 26 children.
- January 2007: Eastern Idaho Children's Choir holds concert at Taylorview Jr. High School. Very successful beginning for this group which will continue through the rest of the school year.
- February 2007: Extravadance returns with a performance at the Civic Auditorium, and the audience is thoroughly entertained by the talented dancers from BYU-Idaho.
- February 2007: New members are elected to the Board. Erik Warnberg Theater Director for Fall Musical, Mary Sturgill Theater Director for Summer Theater Camp.

- April 2007: Evening of Dance at Civic Auditorium. 19 studios participate.
- May 2007: Eastern Idaho Children's Choir holds concert at Taylorview Jr. High School. 45 children participate, as well as the Hillcrest High School Choir.
- July 2007: 11th annual Summer Theater Camp, *The Little Mermaid* at Rocky Mountain Middle School. Over 95 participants.
- September 2007: Annual Membership Meeting with David Anderson, Ted Dawson Vice President, Cherie Stoddard Secretary, Bruce Wilding Treasurer, Adrian Ball Dance Director, Annette Wilding Music Director, and Susan Hulse as Executive Director.
- November 2007: *Music Man* Fall Musical directed by Mary Kaufman with Marcia Morrissey Producer, Solveig Nyberg-Akert Music Director, Nicki Thiel Choreographer, Joy Sorensen Mentor Director, Vicki Williams Costumes, and DeAnn Cook Costumes.
- January 2008: Eastern Idaho Children's Choir performs a concert at Taylorview Jr. High Directed by Dana Gallant.
- April 2008: Evening of Dance at the Civic Auditorium.
- May 2008: Eastern Idaho Children's Choir performs a spring concert at Taylorview Jr. High.
- May 2008: Board is re-constructed with Scott Holmes holding a strategic planning meeting team with past IFYAC leaders and supporters electing Shari Couillard President, Doyle Jenkins Vice President, Annette Wilding Secretary, Cathy Plummer Treasurer, Ariane Ball Dance Director, Kris Day Music Director, Joy Sorensen Fall Theater Director, Mary Sturgill Summer Theater Director, Susan Hulse part time Executive Director.
- July 2008: Summer Theater Camp performs *Pocahontas* at Rocky Mountain Middle School.
- Oct 2008: Annual Member Meeting held electing Susan Hulse President, Kaye Woodfield Vice President, Gwenda Lee Secretary, Cathy Plummer Treasurer, Nancy Bennett Music Director, Mary Sturgill Summer Theater Director, and members at large Shari Couillard, Sharon Caldwell, Kip Later, Joan Morse, Steve Rush, Annette Wilding, and Kristy Wood.
- October 2008: *Night on Broadway* showcases local performers in lieu of a Fall Musical.
- January 2009: Eastern Idaho Children's Choir performs concert at Taylorview Jr. High. Directed by Dana Gallant.
- April 2009: Evening of Dance at the Civic Auditorium. Produced by Carrie Ragan.
- May 2009: Eastern Idaho Children's Choir performs spring concert at Taylorview Jr. High.
- July 2009: Summer Theater Camp performs *Enchanted Sleeping Beauty* produced by Lois Murphy and directed by Alana Butikofer. Costumes by Vicki Williams and DeAnn Cook.
- September 2009: Board elects Roberta Jordan President, Melissa LaPray Vice President, Cathy Plummer Treasurer, and Gwenda Lee Secretary. Program Directors: Summer Theater

Camp Jyl Jenkins; Dance Kip Later; Fall Musical Doyle Jenkins; Children's Choir Nancy Bennett.

- October 2009: Tina VanderMeer hired as Executive Director.
- November 2009: *Annie* is performed at the Colonial Theater. Producer is Joy Sorensen, Director Gayle Tingey, and Music Director is Shari Couillard. Costumes by Vicki Williams and DeAnn Cook.