

THE RESOURCE GUIDE TO OUR ISLAND

OAHU • InsideOut

SEPTEMBER + OCTOBER 2016

Food With Heart

Hawai'i Food & Wine Festival showcases
locally grown fare and gives back to the community

SEAL OF APPROVAL

Easter Seals
Hawai'i receives
community praise

SAVING THE ARTS

Two organizations
join allegiance to
bolster art scene

THE GOOD TABLE

Annual fundraiser
benefits Meals on
Wheels program





Stage Right

Hawai'i Opera Theatre's School Residency program impacts kids.

by Kristen Nemoto

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

For more information about Hawai'i Opera Theatre's education programs, visit hawaiiopera.org/education-outreach.

Who would have thought that the story of *Aida* — an opera by Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi — would make it to the (cafeteria) stage of Niu Valley Middle School? Or, that the lyrics of “Come Friends Who Sail the Sea” from the “Pirates of Penzance” would be sung by Blanche Pope Elementary students? Erik Haines, Hawai'i Opera Theatre's Director of Education, isn't surprised since he has been putting on such big-named productions within O'ahu's schools since 1995.

“It's funny because the kids are a lot easier to con-

vince when it comes to doing an opera,” says Haines with a chuckle. “The adults are a bit more skeptical. They correlate the opera as giant people with horns. The kids, however, think of it as something we're basically doing and they go out there to sing, act and don't think twice about it.”

Inspired by Judith Ryder's former education series at the Cleveland Opera, HOT's version goes a step further by replicating the program for an entire semester compared with Ryder's weeklong session. After collaborating with Hawai'i's Department of Education, theatre members

took off their performers' hats during their off seasons and developed a curriculum for students who otherwise wouldn't have a chance to be part of an arts program.

“Our residency program is great because it gives the kids a chance to succeed in something other than your usual classroom setting,” Haines says. “I've had many instances where we'd cast a kid in our play, and people would be surprised because that kid would be known to not excel in the classroom but they would shine on stage. We hope that it's a stepping stone for these kids. To know that they can be successful in anything.”

COURTESY HAWAII OPERA THEATRE