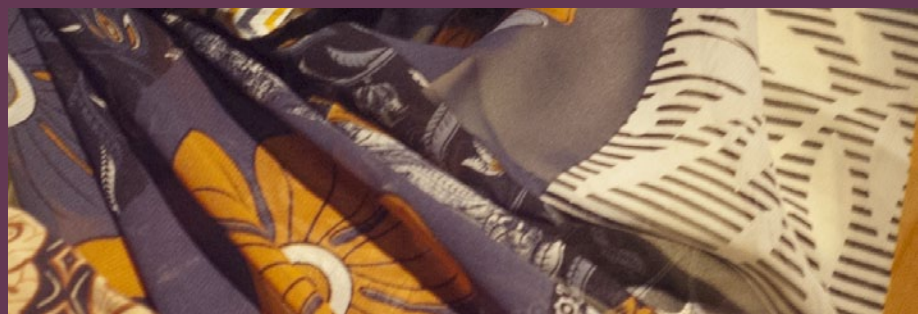
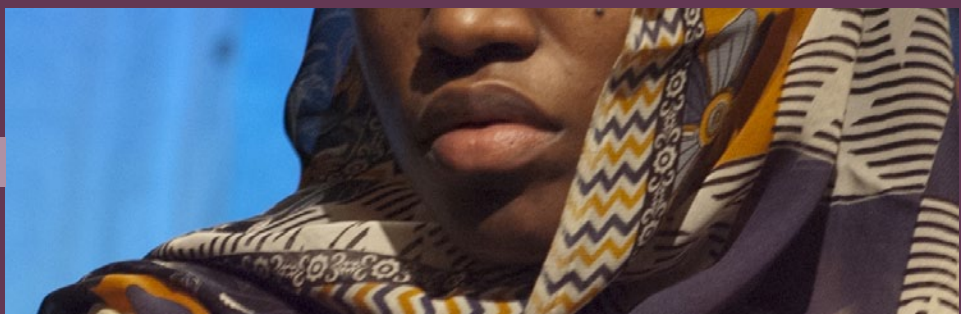


Timeline

Theatre Company

YESTERDAY'S STORIES.
TODAY'S TOPICS.

2010
ANNUAL REPORT
2011



COVER PHOTO: Mildred Marie Langford in *In Darfur*
THIS PAGE: Andrew Carter and Terry Hamilton
in *Frost/Nixon*



OUR MISSION

TimeLine Theatre Company presents stories inspired by history that connect with today's social and political issues. Our collaborative artistic team produces provocative theatre that engages, educates, entertains and enlightens.

TIMELINE THEATRE

Our 2010-2011 Season

Thanks to TimeLine Theatre Company's ever-expanding and passionate group of supporters, the 2010-2011 season was a remarkable success, distinguished by an increase in subscriptions, an expansion of our full-time staff and Board of Directors, acclaim for the four productions presented during the season, including a new play commissioned and developed by TimeLine, and, perhaps most notably, being named the nation's theater "Company of the Year" by *The Wall Street Journal* for 2010.

On stage, we began the season with the Chicago premiere of Peter Morgan's internationally acclaimed *Frost/Nixon*, going inside the real-life 1977 television interviews between journalist David Frost and former president Richard Nixon. An almost instant sell-out right after opening, the production was hailed by *Time Out Chicago* as "a stunner, stylish and hard-hitting. It's driven by two ferocious performances at its center."

Within a week of closing *Frost/Nixon* the theatre was transformed into 1950s France for the world premiere of *To Master the Art* by William Brown and Doug Frew. This play about Julia and Paul Child was initially conceived and commissioned by TimeLine in 2006 and received developmental workshops at TimeLine to prepare it for full production. The investment paid off with a production that sold out three days after opening, prompting the *Chicago Tribune* to call it one of the "toughest tickets in Chicago right now."

From France we traveled to Africa for the Chicago premiere *In Darfur* by Winter Miller, a provocative drama informed by the playwright's first-hand experiences accompanying Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof in Sudan. This account of the horrors of genocide is an intense, based-on-real-life story that sparked lively discussion in our theatre. The *Chicago Tribune* declared: "The piece is theatricalized with such immediacy that you won't turn away for a moment [it] hits you in the gut."

We extended the impact of *In Darfur* by partnering with four non-profit aid organizations working in and spreading the word about Darfur, and we featured Art Works Project's DAFUR/DAFUR photo exhibition in our lobby. The stunning collection of large-scale photographs showed the rich multi-cultural region of western Sudan and eastern Chad while also exposing the horrors of the region's ongoing humanitarian crisis.

The 2010-11 season concluded on a lighter and more local note with the 1920's classic Chicago comedy often considered responsible for defining the newspaper business, *The Front Page* by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur. *The Wall Street Journal* noted that "it's the in-your-face intimacy of TimeLine's *Front Page* that makes it so special." The transformation of our theatre into a classic 1920s pressroom in-the-round led not only to a dynamic performance space but also a Joseph Jefferson Award for Outstanding Scenic Design. The production was a big success

at the box office as well, enjoying an extension of three weeks.

Complementing the four shows in our subscription series, TimeLine also continued the TimePieces play reading series and hosted numerous panel discussions such as the Sunday Scholar Series, featuring experts on the themes and issues of each play.

for Campbell & Company; Rick Gray, Senior Vice President, Marketing and Communications, Hudson, who rejoined TimeLine's Board after previously serving from 2001-2006; and Michael B. Lowe, a retired Executive Vice President for Harris Bank. And the company added two new full-time positions—Associate Artistic Director and Audience Services Manager—expanding TimeLine's full-time staff by 50 percent.

In Darfur featured Art Works Project's DAFUR/DAFUR photo exhibition in our lobby. The stunning collection of large-scale photographs showed the rich multi-cultural region of western Sudan and eastern Chad while also exposing the horrors of the region's ongoing humanitarian crisis.

Completing its fifth year of serving Chicago Public School students, TimeLine's Living History Education Program continued to grow and extend its impact. This year's Living History activities encompassed two TimeLine productions, and also covered historically inspired stories not currently being presented on our stage.

In addition to elevating artistic programming, TimeLine also undertook infrastructure development behind-the-scenes. We welcomed three new additions to the Board of Directors: Robert Alpaugh, Senior Consultant

The continued success and growth TimeLine has experienced over the last season would not have been possible without the generous support of TimeLine's donors, subscribers and individual ticket buyers who are helping TimeLine achieve new milestones and contribute to the vitality of Chicago's artistic community.

“Why doesn’t New York have more Off-Broadway companies like TimeLine? ... The fact that we don’t is one of the many reasons why I’ve come to feel that the Windy City is blowing the Big Apple out of its once-secure spot at the top of America’s theatrical tree.” — *The Wall Street Journal*



THIS PAGE: Karen Janes Woditsch and Terry Hamilton in *To Master the Art*

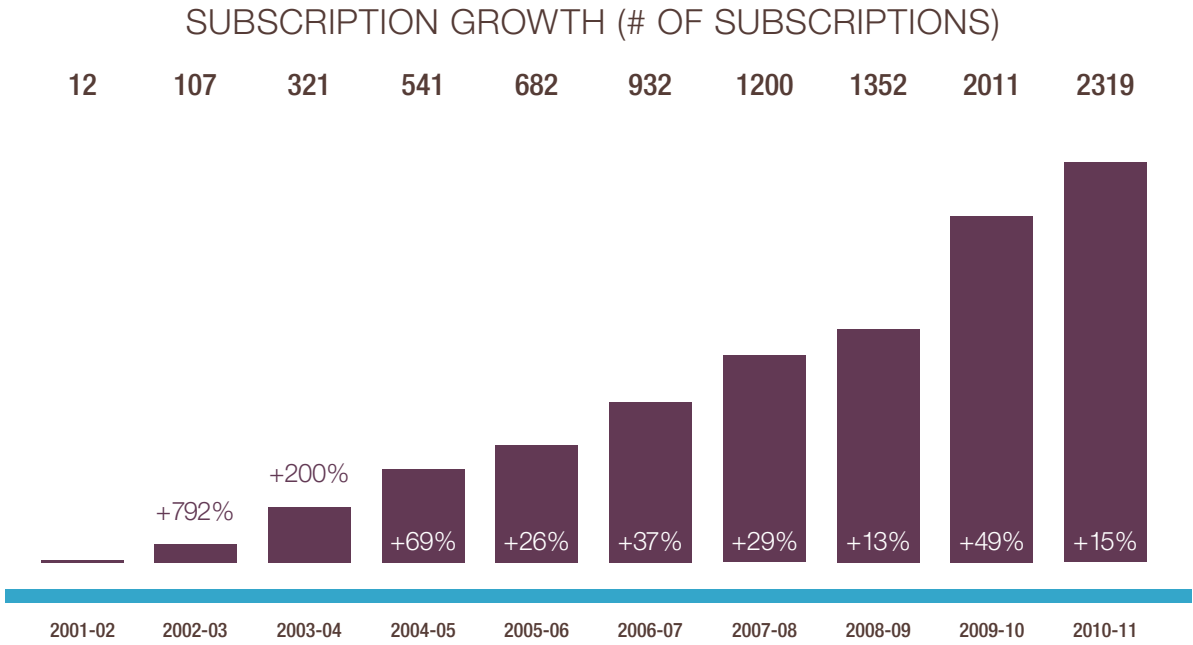
TIMELINE THEATRE

Significant Accomplishments

In all areas of the organization TimeLine continued to grow, meet new challenges and achieve new successes during the 2010-11 season. Significant accomplishments include:

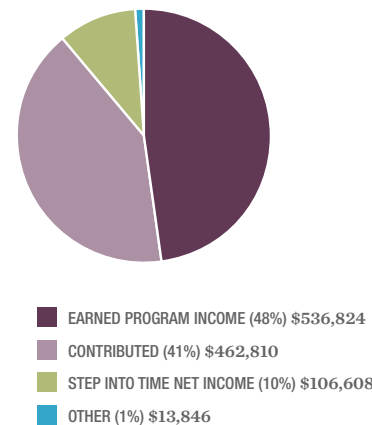
- Completing our 14th consecutive year operating in the black and eliminating a budgeted deficit through better-than-anticipated fundraising and subscription campaigns.
- Being named theater “Company of the Year” by *The Wall Street Journal*, 2010.
- Presenting the world premiere of *To Master the Art*, the first play commissioned by TimeLine to be produced.

- Increasing subscriptions 15% over the last season.
- Expanding our staff to include Nick Bowling as full-time Associate Artistic Director and Tracy Domeracki as full-time Audience Services Manager.
- Receiving our second consecutive, and eighth total Jeff Award for Outstanding Production (2009-10 season’s *The Farnsworth Invention*).
- Building our Board of Directors with the addition of Robert Alpaugh, Senior Consultant for Campbell & Company; Rick Gray, Senior Vice President, Marketing and Communications of Hudson; and Michael B. Lowe, retired Harris Bank Executive Vice President.

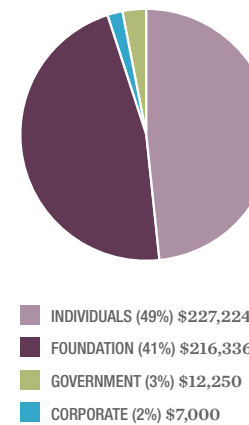


TIMELINE THEATRE Financial Report

UNRESTRICTED INCOME BREAKDOWN (TOTAL = \$1,120,088)



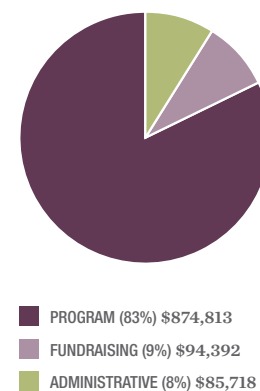
CONTRIBUTED INCOME BREAKDOWN (TOTAL = \$462,810)



ANNUAL FUND FACTS

925	136	\$10K	\$1	\$100	\$245.65
TOTAL # OF GIFTS FROM INDIVIDUALS	HOUSEHOLDS MAKING MULTIPLE GIFTS	LARGEST GIFT	SMALLEST GIFT	MEDIAN GIFT	AVERAGE GIFT

EXPENSE BREAKDOWN (TOTAL = \$1,054,923)



STEP INTO TIME: BIRTH OF THE BLUES

On March 26, 2011, more than 200 TimeLine enthusiasts gathered in the historic ballrooms at Germania Place in Chicago's Gold Coast neighborhood for TimeLine's biggest party of the year—*Step Into Time: Birth of the Blues*.

Step Into Time, TimeLine's annual fundraiser, is a unique celebration of our mission of exploring history that raises funds vital the organization's success. At *Step Into Time: Birth of the Blues*, guests experienced a look back at the early years of this powerful musical style, its continuing influence on Chicago's music scene and its unique ability to lift our spirits. The evening featured musical performances remembering some of the most famous ladies of the blues, including Big Mama Thornton, Billie Holiday and Koko Taylor, and guests dined on a delicious gourmet dinner, shopped live and silent auctions and tried their luck at two raffles.

By the time the last song was sung and the last prize was auctioned, the event broke company records, raising more than \$100,000 in net proceeds to support TimeLine's general operations.

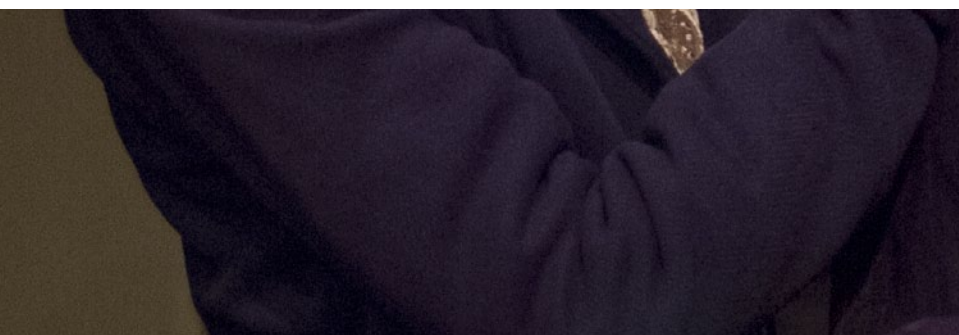
STEP INTO TIME COMMITTEE

Nicole Thomas, *Chair*
Robert Alpaugh
Michelle Cucchiaro
Norman Cutler
Jill Hurwitz
Jennifer Moeller
Rob Waters



FROM TOP, FROM LEFT:
The 2011 *Step Into Time* Committee Jennifer Moeller, Rob Waters, Nicole Thomas (Chair), Jill Hurwitz, Robert Alpaugh, Michelle Cucchiaro and Norman Cutler; entertainers Tina Brown, Nambi E. Kelley, Bethany Thomas, Rebecca Finnegan and Melody Betts; TimeLine Company Members Juliet Hart, David Parkes, Nick Bowling, Janet Ulrich Brooks, Lara Goetsch, PJ Powers and Ben Thiem.

“This isn’t the first time that a TimeLine production changed my mind about a show that had previously struck me as too glib for its own good...To accomplish such a feat twice in a row is not just impressive but downright extraordinary.” — *The Wall Street Journal*



Bridgette Pechman Clarno and PJ Powers in *The Front Page*

TIMELINE THEATRE Artistic Programming

Chicago Premiere

FROST/NIXON

by Peter Morgan

directed by Louis Contey

August 17 - October 10, 2010

(48 Performances)

Percent of Capacity – 96%

Total Attendance – 4,114

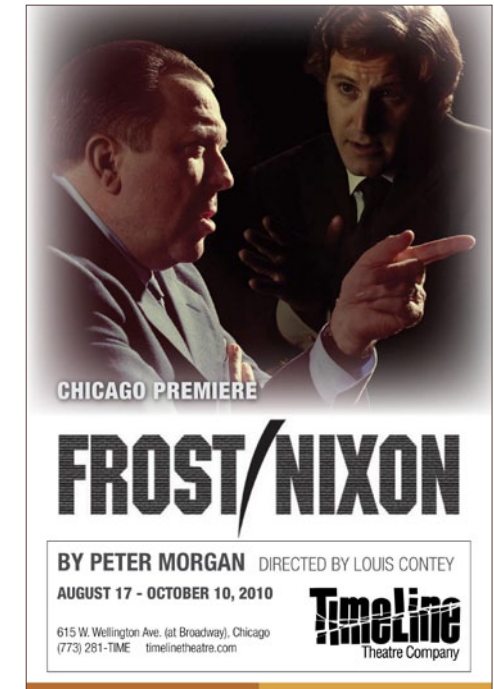
Total Revenue – \$105,386

Three years after the Watergate scandal ended his presidency, Richard Nixon has agreed to break his silence in a series of interviews with up-and-coming British broadcaster David Frost. Behind-the-scenes it's a battle of egos for the upper hand in controlling history, but as the cameras roll, the world is riveted by a remarkably honest exchange between one man who has lost everything and another with everything to gain.

For cast/production team listing, visit <http://bit.ly/FN1011>.

**2011 EQUITY JEFF AWARD
NOMINATIONS:**

Production – Play, Midsize; Director, Play – Louis Contey; Actor in a Principal Role, Play – Terry Hamilton; Lighting Design – Keith Parham; Projections/Video Design – Mike Tutaj



FROM TOP, FROM LEFT:
Poster image from *Frost/Nixon* with photography by Ryan Robinson; Terry Hamilton and David Parkes in *Frost/Nixon*

“Louis Contey’s taut staging turns what could be sensationalized pseudo-history into engaging, exhilarating drama.” — *Chicago Reader*

“An excellent, intimate, foodie-friendly staging, resonant with atmosphere and the kind of classic, cozy, autumnal kitchen ambiance that makes one want to swear off takeout food from this moment forth.” — *Chicago Tribune*



FROM TOP, FROM LEFT:
Poster image from *To Master the Art* with photography by Ryan Robinson; Craig Spidle and Karen Janes Woditsch in *To Master the Art*

World Premiere

TO MASTER THE ART

by William Brown and Doug Frew
directed by William Brown

October 26 - December 19, 2010

(50 Performances)

Percent of Capacity – 97%

Total Attendance – 4,783

Total Revenue – \$119,173

Commissioned by TimeLine in 2008, this world premiere recalls the adventure and romance of Julia and Paul Child's journey of discovery to Paris during the 1950s. From the bistro where Julia fell in love with food, to the kitchen table where she recreated everything learned during cooking class, to a room where Paul was grilled by U.S. agents about alleged Communist contact, this is the story of a larger-than-life culinary icon and her remarkable husband as they struggle to find themselves as Americans abroad.

For cast/production team listing, visit:
<http://bit.ly/TMTA1011>.

2011 EQUITY JEFF AWARD:

Original Incidental Music - Andrew Hansen

2011 EQUITY JEFF AWARD NOMINATIONS:

Production - Play, Midsize; New Work,
Play- William Brown and Doug Frew;
Actress in a Principal Role, Play - Karen Janes Woditsch; Sound Design, Midsize - Andrew Hansen

Chicago Premiere

IN DARFUR

by Winter Miller
directed by Nick Bowling

January 18 - March 20, 2011

(49 Performances)

Percent of Capacity – 84%

Total Attendance – 3,920

Total Revenue – \$95,495

Playwright Winter Miller's experiences accompanying Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof in Sudan inform this provocative account of the horrors of genocide. In a camp for internally displaced persons in Darfur, three lives intertwine — an aid worker trying to save lives, a Darfuri woman searching for safety and a journalist who believes that one front-page story can help stop the madness. Together they tell an intense, inspired-by-real-life story that demands international attention.

For cast/production team listing, visit:
<http://bit.ly/InDar1011>.

2011 EQUITY JEFF AWARD:

Projections/Video Design - Mike Tutaj

2011 EQUITY JEFF AWARD NOMINATIONS:

Original Incidental Music - Andrew Hansen;
Lighting Design - Nic Jones and Jesse Klug; Sound Design, Midsize - Andrew Hansen

“A fiercely vivid, ingeniously crafted multimedia production... You will not walk away indifferent.” — *Chicago Sun-Times*



FROM TOP, FROM LEFT:
Poster image from *In Darfur* with photography by Ryan Robinson; Gregory Isaac and Mildred Marie Langford in *In Darfur*

“All praise, then, to Chicago’s TimeLine Theatre for resurrecting *The Front Page* and giving it a staging so full of brassy brio that you’ll wonder why you ever settled for less.” — *The Wall Street Journal*



FROM TOP, FROM LEFT:
Poster image from *The Front Page* with photography by Ryan Robinson; Mike McNamara, Larry Baldacci, Loren Lazerine and Kevin M. Grubb in *The Front Page*

THE FRONT PAGE

by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur
directed by Nick Bowling

April 12 - July 25, 2011

(62 Performances)

Percent of Capacity – 94%

Total Attendance – 5,735

Total Revenue – \$144,723

In this landmark comedy set inside the crowded pressroom at Chicago’s Criminal Courts Building during the 1920s, a group of reporters cover a controversial execution and expose the rampant corruption, scandal and hi-jinx associated with Windy City politics and journalism. TimeLine is thrilled to revive a quintessential Chicago classic and to highlight for audiences the wealth of local history embedded in Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur’s hilarious and semi-autobiographical script.

For cast/production team listing, visit:
<http://bit.ly/TFPage1011>.

2011 EQUITY JEFF AWARD:
Scenic Design, Midsize - Collette Pollard

2011 EQUITY JEFF AWARD NOMINATIONS:
Ensemble; Costume Design,
Midsize - Lindsey Pate

Chicago Premiere

THE FARNSWORTH INVENTION

by Aaron Sorkin
directed by Nick Bowling

July 1 - July 24, 2010*

(21 Performances)

Percent of Tickets Sold – 107%

Total Attendance – 1,976

Total Revenue – \$61,820.50

2010 EQUITY JEFF AWARD:
Production – Play, Midsize

2010 EQUITY JEFF AWARD NOMINATIONS:
Ensemble; Director, Play - Nick Bowling;
Actor in a Principal Role, Play - Rob Fagin;
Lighting Design, Midsize Theater -
Keith Parham

**The Farnsworth Invention was originally presented as the final production of the 2009-10 season and was extended into the 2010-11 season. The numbers above reflect only the number of performances, income and attendance for The Farnsworth Invention from July 1 – 24, 2010.*

“TimeLine’s spare, bare-bones staging, directed by Nick Bowling ... scrapes all the slickness off Mr. Sorkin’s script and infuses it with a surging physical vitality that knocked me off my feet.” — *The Wall Street Journal*

TIMEPIECES

During the 2010-11 season TimeLine presented two editions of our free play reading series, TimePieces, featuring one-night only readings of new or rarely produced historically-inspired plays. Nearly 200 total attendees joined us for readings of *My Kind of Town* by John Conroy (November 23, 2010) and *The Persian Quarter* by Kathleen Cahill (May 24, 2011).

For more information about 2010-11 TimePieces play readings, visit
<http://bit.ly/TimePieces1011>.

LIVING HISTORY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Rooted in TimeLine's mission of exploring history, the Living History Education Program is in its fifth year of serving Chicago Public School Students. Living History aims to humanize and personalize historical events and issues by engaging students in acting and writing exercises related to TimeLine's productions and their themes.

The program consists of six weeks of in-class workshops to allow students to explore topics in history and social sciences through creative techniques. Productions on our stage serve as inspiration for the class lessons, and the entire program culminates in the students attending a matinee performance of a TimeLine production and the opportunity for students to rehearse and perform a scene with an actor from that production.

During the 2010-11 season TimeLine partnered with Carl Schurz High School, Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center High School, Alcott High School for the Humanities, and Social Justice High School, part of the Little Village Lawndale High School, to bring Living History to Chicago Public School students. A total of 488 students have been served by TimeLine's Living History program this season.

This season's Living History activities were inspired by two TimeLine productions – *In Darfur* and *The Front Page*. And this year we expanded the program to include arts

education programming about historically inspired stories not currently being presented on our stage. This new facet of the program works similarly to other residencies and features curriculum-appropriate historically inspired plays and books as the basis for activities and discussion. This facet of the program debuted with two residencies featuring the play *The Crucible* and the book *Day of Tears*.



Cast members of *In Darfur* talk with students during a post-show discussion after a Living History matinee performance.



Timeline

Theatre Company

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