

This report is a snapshot of the 2008-09 season at TimeLine Theatre. We hope it gives you a sense of what your investment in TimeLine has helped us achieve. Through aggressive planning, and the generosity of our supporters, we continued to grow despite the troubled economy.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

---

TimeLine 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.

### **PROGRAMMING**

---

We produced four subscription series shows in 2008-09. We also presented an off-night production, and continued our play reading series TimePieces. Here is a look at the 2008-09 season by the numbers.

We had **1,354 subscribers** to our 2008-09, and sold an additional **8,427 single tickets** during the season.

#### ***Weekend by Gore Vidal***

**August 23 – October 12, 2008**

##### **Chicago Premiere**

Played for 43 Performances

Average Nightly Attendance – 79 patrons

Average Sold of Capacity – 94%

Total Attendance – 3,377

Total Revenue – \$76,601

#### ***Not Enough Air by Masha Obolensky***

**January 24 – March 22, 2009**

##### **World Premiere**

Played for 48 Performances

Average Nightly Attendance – 61 patrons

Average Sold of Capacity – 72%

Total Attendance – 2,909

Total Revenue – \$56,404

#### ***A House With No Walls by Thomas Gibbons***

**November 1 – December 21, 2008**

##### **Chicago Premiere**

Played for 43 Performances

Average Nightly Attendance – 53 patrons

Average Sold of Capacity – 63%

Total Attendance – 2,274

Total Revenue – \$47,631

#### ***The History Boys by Alan Bennett***

**April 25 – October 18, 2009\***

##### **Chicago Premiere**

Played for 55 performances

Average Nightly Attendance – 86 patrons

Average Sold of Capacity – 102%

Total Attendance – 4,718

Total Revenue – \$110,657

TimeLine also presented a staged reading of ***Machinal by Sophie Treadwell***, which played concurrently with our production of *Not Enough Air*. *Machinal*, the play that inspired *Not Enough Air*, was presented on Sunday and Monday evenings and ran for four weeks.

### **TimePieces**

This season, we presented three plays as a part of our 2008-09 TimePieces Play Reading Series. Each presentation sold out, with 270 patrons attending these three performances: ***Professor Bernhardt by Arthur Schnitzler*** (November 11, 2008), ***Democracy by Michael Frayn*** (May 12, 2009) and ***Windows by John Galsworthy*** (June 16, 2009).

### **Living History Education Program**

TimeLine's Living History Education Program aims to humanize and personalize historical events and issues by engaging students in acting and writing exercises related to TimeLine's productions. During the 2008-09 school year, we continued our partnerships with Carl Schurz and Von Steuben Public High Schools to bring hands-on theater education into the classroom and generate a greater appreciation among students for studying history and dramatic literature.

Through Living History, our teaching artists presented in-class workshops which focused on our productions of *A House With No Walls* and *Not Enough Air*. We worked within 8 classes at our two partner schools, including classes studying U.S. History, Language Arts, Sociology and Drama. We served a total of 224 students last year, an increase of 25% over the 2007-08 school year.

\* While *The History Boys* played through October 18, 2009, the numbers above reflect only the income and attendance through June 30, 2009, which was the last day of the fiscal year that this report is evaluating.

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT OF THE SEASON

---

Contributions from individuals accounted for more than 1/3 of TimeLine's total contributions last year. Here are some statistics from our individual donations:

Total Gifts – 961

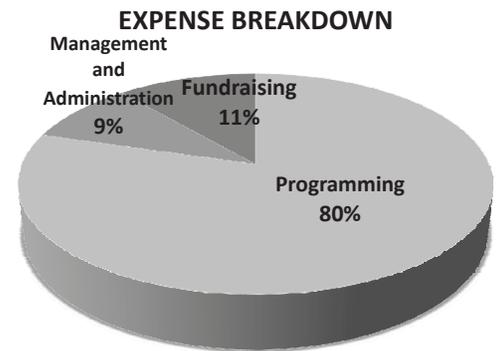
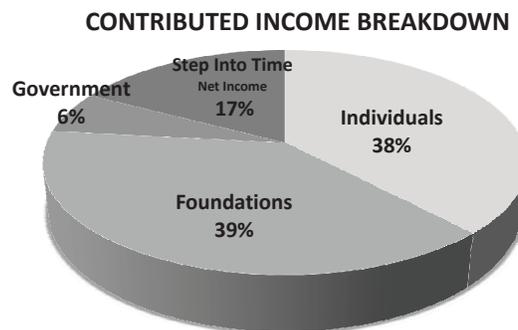
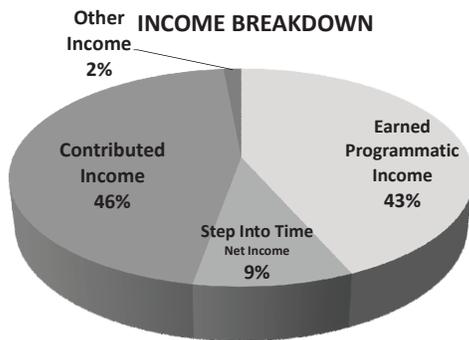
Households making more than one gift – 194

Largest Gift – \$10,000

Smallest Gift – \$5

Median Gift – \$100

We are thrilled to recognize the 15 private foundations that contributed to us in 2008-09. TimeLine also received government support from the City Arts Program of the City of Chicago, Illinois Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts. For a list of corporate, foundation and government sponsors, visit [timelinetheatre.com/donate](http://timelinetheatre.com/donate) and click "Our Supporters."



## STRATEGIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

---

2008-09 was the first year for TimeLine under a new three-year strategic plan. The plan is a working document created to help us identify and accomplish various goals to ensure sustained growth and stability. We accomplished these milestones from the plan during 2008-09:

- **Improve our Wellington Avenue theatre's infrastructure to increase usability and comfort.** We repaired and refinished the lobby flooring, added additional air conditioning, refurbished our dressing room with new carpet, paint and increased electrical capacity, and built out a climate-controlled rehearsal room. We also purchased and installed a new, fully flexible audience seating system which will allow us to save tremendous time and resources between productions, while continuing to maximize the adaptability of our theater.
- **Expand the boundaries of the TimeLine Environment.** TimeLine forged a new partnership with the University of Chicago for *Race In America: A Discussion with No Walls*, an event that addressed the themes of *A House With No Walls*, held on the university's Hyde Park campus.
- **Expand the Living History Education Program to broader communities.** Living History Co-Coordinator Juliet Hart and Janet Ulrich Brooks laid the groundwork for a new partnership with the Social Justice High School at Little Village Lawndale collective.
- **Expand the TimeLine Board of Directors to tap new knowledge and resources.** We welcomed three new Board Members: local business woman and entrepreneur Marti DeGraaf, Deloitte Senior Accountant Kathy Feucht and community leader Bobbie Schultz.

## ACCOLADES

---

There is no question that the 2008-09 season was a banner year for TimeLine Theatre, with our artistic and administrative work recognized as some of the best in the field. Among the accolades we received were:

- 2009 Richard Goodman Strategic Planning Award, awarded to TimeLine in the Non-Profit category for our most recent 3-year strategic plan.
- 12 Equity Jeff Award nominations in our first year of eligibility, with *The History Boys* winning all five awards it for which it was nominated, including Production – Play (Midsize Theater), Ensemble and Direction – Play for Company Member Nick Bowling.
- 2008 Meier Achievement Award for Mid-Career Artists, awarded to Artistic Director PJ Powers. This award is given to three local artists annually.