



# BACKSTAGE

[www.stagebridge.org](http://www.stagebridge.org)

STAGEBRIDGE

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## Exciting New Plans for 31<sup>st</sup> Season

Grab your hat and stay close to your car so you don't miss any of the exciting events Stagebridge has planned this season. There will be two new musical adaptations of books by popular authors; a public performance season at The Ashby Stage of selections from *A Chorus Line* and other Stagebridge performing troupes; the initiation of our new Performing Arts Training Program (PATI); storytellers sharing personal stories with children in local schools; workshops for student nurses; storytelling circles at low-income senior housing and much much more. We are on track to surpass last year's totals of working with 85 agencies, 20 schools, doing 491 performances and workshops for over 27,000 people! Read more about the season plans.



We are expanding our public performance season with the world premiere of *Sylvia's Advice on How to Age Gracefully on the Planet Denial* and a chance to meet the author/cartoonist Nicole Hollander February 5-21 at The Ashby Stage in Berkeley. In May, we will also premiere the musical adaptation of *City Green*, a popular children's book with author Dyanne DiSalvo-Ryan attending the shows. For the first time, we'll offer a full season of Monday night Stagebridge Showcase performances at The Ashby Stage in December, April and June. These will feature performances by our improv troupe, the *Antic Witties*, our singing trio, *The Dreamers*, and selections of work by our actors, playwrights and storytellers.

The Performing Arts Training Institute features a full array of classes taught by some of the Bay Area's finest artists and teachers. The Institute has 150 students and 18 who are enrolled in the first ever certificate program that will award certificates in acting, directing and storytelling which will prepare them for teaching and performing work.

Much of what Stagebridge does is behind the scenes, out in the community. This year the company will continue its successful partnership with Satellite Housing, Inc., HUD housing for seniors, offering ongoing workshops in storytelling and acting. We'll also expand our partnership training docents for the Oakland Museum of California (see article). We

will be continuing our partnership with Samuel Merritt University, training student nurses to be more empathetic towards older patients. And our performing troupes will be reaching out to the senior community throughout the Bay Area. Finally, our work with local schools continues to expand, thanks to our federally funded Storybridge project that brings older storytellers and master storytellers into elementary schools to bridge the generations, share stories and help students improve their listening and speaking skills. It's a lot! That's just some of the ways that Stagebridge is serving the community and continuing to bridge the generations

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