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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



PINUMBRA THEATRE COMPANY

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

M I L E S T O N E

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS PENUMBRA THEATRE COMPANY

1997 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 1996 - June 30, 1997

CONTENTS

3 LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CHAIR OF THE BOARD
5 MISSION STATEMENT

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

7 MA RAINLEY'S BLACK BOTTOM

9 A RABIN IN THE SUN

11 FENCES

13 BLACK NATIVITY

SPECIAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

15 A NEW THEATRE ?/LATE NIGHT SERIES

17 4TH ANNUAL JAZZ I AM & 20TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

19 ACCESS & EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

21 FINANCIALS

23 CONTRIBUTORS

27 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & STAFF

MILESTONE

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS PENUMBRA THEATRE COMPANY

1997 ANNUAL REPORT

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CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE ARTIST, DIRECTOR & CHAIR OF THE BOARD
2 MORGAN STATEMENT

10 THE 1997 ANNUAL REPORT

11 THE 1997 ANNUAL REPORT

12 A YEAR IN REVIEW

13 FINANCIAL

14 BLACK HISTORY

15 THE 1997 ANNUAL REPORT

16 A NEW THEATRE (JANUARY 1997)

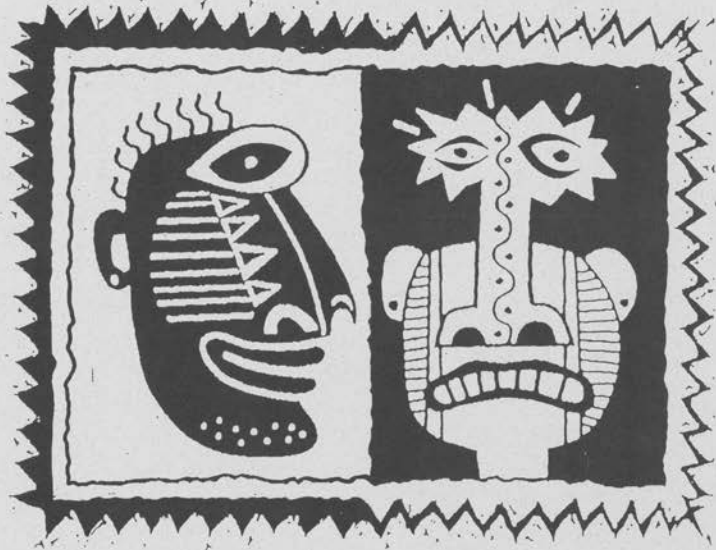
17 THE 1997 ANNUAL REPORT (JANUARY 1997)

18 ARTS & EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

19 FINANCIAL

20 CONTENTS

21 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MEMBERSHIP & STAFF



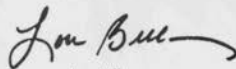
LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIR AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

What a year! The 1996-1997 season marked our twentieth consecutive year producing artistically excellent theatre that provides realistic portrayals of the experiences of African Americans and others of the African Diaspora. Penumbra's steadfast adherence to its artistic mission has won the respect and admiration of artists, audiences and critics on the local as well as the international level. Our twentieth season has been, by far, our most satisfying. Twenty years without amending or making concessions to our mission is a benchmark of which to be most proud.

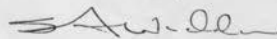
Ticket office reports for the season show that mainstage productions played to over 83 percent total capacity and our collaboration with the Cutlrie fell just short of twenty thousand tickets sold, in two weeks!

We reorganized from board (of directors) to board (that upon which plays are presented). 20th Anniversary activities and aggressive cost-cutting measures helped eliminate our deficit, ending our year with a positive unrestricted net asset balance of \$24,288. We are on track. Large and in charge!

The above argues for celebration of our accomplishments. We always remember our rich history and pay homage to the spirit and traditions of those that came before us, that is where we come from. As August Wilson says "... I'm standing in my grandfather's shoes." As we look to the future, we are excited and full of hope. We have full confidence in our mission and our ability to tell the never-ending stories that fall within our *raison d'être*. Thank you for helping us acknowledge our leadership and responsibility by reaffirming our commitment to our mission.



Lou Bellamy
Founder & Artistic Director



Stewart Wickless
Chair, Board of Directors
Vice President, Marketing
Minnesota Vikings

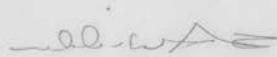
LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIR AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

What a year! The 1997-99 season marked our twentieth consecutive year producing outstandingly excellent theater. This provides evidence of the expertise of African American and others of the African American Community Theater. Our artistic mission has been the respect and celebration of African American and others on the local as well as the international level. Our twentieth season has been by far our most exciting. Twenty years without searching or making concessions to our mission is a testament of ability to be most proud.

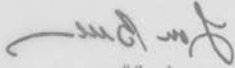
Ticket office reports for the season show that minority production played to over 80 percent total capacity and our collaboration with the Capital Hill put about of twenty thousand tickets sold in two weeks!

We recognized from board (chairman) to board (chairman) that when which play are presented, 20th Anniversary activities and programs were not enough. We are on track. We are on track. We are on track. We are on track.

The above argues for celebration of our accomplishments. We always remember our rich history and look forward to the spirit and tradition of those that came before us. That is where we come from. As August Wilson says, "I'm standing in my grandfather's shoes." As we look to the future, we are excited and full of hope. We have full confidence in our mission and our ability to tell the never-ending stories that tell within our vision drive. Thank you for helping us acknowledge our leadership and responsibility by continuing our commitment to our mission.



Len Bellamy
Chairman of Board
African American Community
Theater



Len Bellamy
Founder & Artistic Director



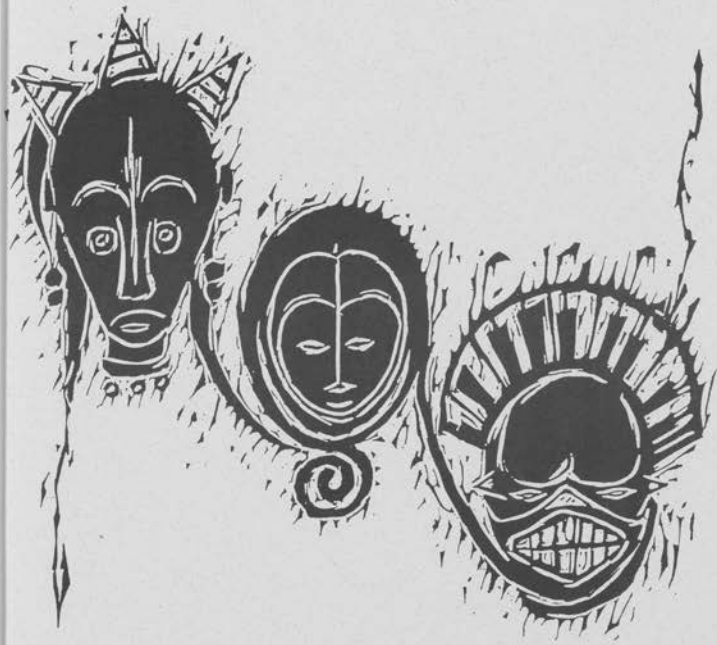
Len Bellamy
Founder & Artistic Director

MISSION STATEMENT

Penumbra's mission is to produce professional productions that are artistically excellent, thought-provoking, relevant, entertaining and presented from an African American perspective. Penumbra's goals are: to increase public awareness of the significant contributions that African Americans have made in creating a diversified American theatrical tradition; to encourage and facilitate a culturally diverse and all inclusive America by using theatre to teach, criticize, comment and model; to use theatre to create an American mythology that includes African Americans and other people of color in every thread of the fabric in our society; to redefine and expand the consciousness of our audiences and our theatrical communities to include a sympathetic and realistic portrayal of people of color; to encourage and facilitate a proactive approach toward the staging of plays that address the African American experience; to increase the opportunities for audiences to view drama that falls within our *raison d'être* by providing the only consistent professional platform for the illumination of the African American experience in drama in this region; and to continue to maintain and stabilize an African American performing arts community.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to produce professional productions that are artistically excellent, thought-provoking, relevant, entertaining and preserved from an African American perspective. Our goals are to increase public awareness of the significance of African American contributions that African Americans have made in creating a diversified theatrical tradition to encourage and facilitate a culturally diverse and all inclusive America by using theatre to teach critical comment and models to use theatre to create an African American mythology that includes African Americans and other people of color in every thread of the fabric of our society to rectify and expand the consciousness of our audiences and our theatrical communities to include a sympathetic and realistic portrayal of people of color to encourage and facilitate a progressive approach toward the staging of plays that address the African American experience to increase the opportunities for audiences to view drama that fall within our nation by providing the only consistent platform for the illumination of the African American experience in drama in this region and to continue to maintain and stabilize an African American performing arts community.



THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM

BY AUGUST WILSON

SPONSORED BY THE GENERAL MILLS FOUNDATION

OCTOBER 2 - NOVEMBER 24, 1996

Directed by
Claude Pury

Produced by
Lou Bellamy

In the 1920's, black musicians were struggling to make their voices heard in a world that didn't want to listen. Wilson's powerful combination of drama, humor and the blues illustrates that struggle. Bold, proud and determined to do things her way, legendary blues singer Ma Rainey prevailed.

■ August Wilson's powerful combination of drama, humor and blues, was seen by 10,000 theatre-goers including over 2,000 students.

■ "Actors shine in Penumbra's August Wilson reprise..."
Tad Simons - Twin Cities Reader

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM

BY AUGUST WILSON

SPONSORED BY THE GENERAL MILLS FOUNDATION
OCTOBER 2 - NOVEMBER 24, 1996

Produced by
Leon Bellamy

Directed by
Charles Furd

plans under Ma Rainey prevailed.
illustrates that struggle. Bold, proud and determined to do things her way, legendary
didn't want to listen. Wilson's powerful combination of drama, humor and the blues
in the 1930's black musicians were struggling to make their voices heard in a world that

10,000 theatre-seats including over 2,000 students
August Wilson's powerful combination of drama, humor and blues was seen by

Two seasons - Twin Cities Reader
"Actors shine in Furd's Wilson reprise..."



Edna Duncan
as Ma Rainey

A RAISIN IN THE SUN

BY LORRAINE HANSBERRY

SPONSORED BY THE ST. PAUL COMPANIES

JANUARY 15 - MARCH 9, 1997

Directed and Produced by

Lou Bellamy

The hopes and fears of a 1950's working-class black family trying to build a better life are explored in Hansberry's classic adaptation. This tale shows the Younger family - mother, daughter, son, daughter-in-law, and grandson - sharing a dark, cramped apartment, working hard and watching their lives slowly fall apart. A ray of hope and a whole lot of courage help the Younger's grab a piece of their collective dream.

🎭 *A Raisin in the Sun* was seen by 10906 theatre-goers, grossing over \$100,000 in total ticket revenue.

🎭 "The Penumbra production... achieves a feeling of ensemble that reveals the true underpinning of the play, a community of family in which survival depends on all its members."

Michael Sauter - Drama Logue

A RAIN IN THE SUN
BY LORRAINE HANSBERRY
SPONSORED BY THE ST. PAUL COMPANIES
JANUARY 12 - MARCH 2, 1967

Directed and Produced by
Lorraine Hansberry

The hopes and fears of a 1950's working-class black family trying to build a better life are explored in Hansberry's classic adaptation. This tale shows the Yonder family - mother, daughter, son, daughter-in-law, and grandson - sharing a dark cramped apartment, working hard and watching their lives slowly fall apart. A ray of hope and a whole lot of courage help the Yonder's step a piece of their collective dream.

☉ A Rain in the Sun was seen by 10,000 theater-goers during over 100 performances in total ticket revenue

☉ The production's spectacular success achieves a feeling of triumph that reaches the true understanding of the play's community of family in which several elements on all its members.

Michael Zuckerman - Director



FENCES

BY AUGUST WILSON

SPONSORED BY DAIN BOSWORTH INCORPORATED AND MEDTRONIC INC.
MAY 10 - MAY 25, 1997

Directed by
Claude Purdy

Produced by
Lou Bellamy

August Wilson's words were brought to life for the first time on the Guthrie Theater stage with Penumbra's reprise of *Fences*. Penumbra's stunning production of Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning story revolves around Troy Maxson, a former Negro League baseball player turned cold by unfulfilled dreams. His patient but frustrated wife, Rose, is caught in the middle when Troy, in his bitterness, refuses to let his son play high school football. In the end, everyone, even Troy, is freed from their own self-restricting pain.

© 19,618 theatre-goers saw Penumbra's critically-acclaimed production of *Fences* at the Guthrie Theater.

© "...this *Fences* snatches the attention of its audience and unrelentingly tightens its grip and pain until it leaves onlookers drained and tear-stained. Lou Bellamy shines."
Peter Vaughn - Minneapolis Star Tribune

Peter Vaughan - Minneapolis Star Tribune
 "This Fences watches the attention of its audience and unrelentingly tightens its grip and pain until it leaves onlookers drained and tear-stained. Leon Bellamy shines."

© Theatre-goes saw Pumphrey's critically-acclaimed production of Fences at the Guthrie Theater.
 © 1988

football in the end, everyone even Troy is freed from their own self-rectifying pain caught in the middle when Troy in his bitterness refuses to let his son play high school baseball player turned cold by unfulfilled dreams. His bitterest wife Rose is Pulitzer Prize-winning story revolves around Troy Watson, a former Negro League player with Pumphrey's reprise of Fences Pumphrey's stunning production of Wilson's August Wilson's words were brought to life for the first time on the Guthrie Theater

Produced by
 Leon Bellamy

Directed by
 Claude Pinsky

MAY 10 - MAY 22 1993
 SPONSORED BY DAVIN BOWWORTH INCORPORATED AND MIDTRONIC INC.

FENCES

BY AUGUST WILSON



BLACK NATIVITY

BY LANGSTON HUGHES

SPONSORED IN-PART BY LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD

NOVEMBER 20 - DECEMBER 29, 1996

Directed by
Lewis Whitlock

Produced by
Lou Bellamy

In another milestone for Penumbra, the 1996-1997 anniversary season marked the 10th year of *Black Nativity*, the roof-raising, foot-stomping, Twin Cities holiday tradition. Set in Joplin, Missouri, it's an uplifting collection of gospel, dance, scripture and carols woven around the story of the birth of Christ.

- ◀ During this production of *Black Nativity*, Penumbra saluted Dara Caesar, Joe Carter, Kathryn Gagnon, WJE Hammer, Greg Ray, and Mike Wangen - all original ensemble members.
- ◀ Celebrating the decade-long success of *Black Nativity*, Penumbra commissioned Piece by Piece, a quilt shop and safe haven for youth, to create a quilt which depicts the wonder and authenticity of this production. The quilt's creator was advanced quilting instructor Aurette Johnson.
- ◀ "a peach of a play that inspires with its grace and skill and its reminder that it is possible to forge a new beginning based on love, faith and joy."
Peter Vaughn - Minneapolis Star Tribune

BLACK NATIVITY

BY LIVINGSTON HUGHES

SPONSORED IN-PART BY LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD
NOVEMBER 20 - DECEMBER 22, 1997

Produced by
Loren Bellamy

Directed by
Lewis Willlock

In another milestone for Penumbra the 1996-1997 anniversary season marked the 101st year of Black Nativity, the root-raising foot-stomping, Twin Cities holiday tradition. In Johnnie Wilmore, it's an uplifting collection of gospel, dance, scripture and carols woven around the story of the birth of Christ.

During this production of Black Nativity, Penumbra's artistic director, Dana Carter, and her husband, Mike Warden, all original ensemble members.

Celebrating the decade-long success of Black Nativity, Penumbra commissioned piece by piece a duet, trio and solo to create a quilt which depicts the wonder and authenticity of this production. The quilt's creator was awarded stipend by instructor, Annette Johnson.

"A piece of a play that inspires with its grace and skill and its reminder that it is possible to forge a new beginning based on love, faith and joy."



SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

A NEW THEATRE ON THE HORIZON ?

A preliminary investigation into Penumbra's organizational and programmatic needs show that its facility is inextricably tied to its future success. With support from the Richard Coyle Lilly Foundation Penumbra completed a case statement entitled *Penumbra Theatre Company: A Look to the Future*, which details the need to move forward on investigating creating a new space for the theatre. Facility Task Force members include: Archie Given, Phyllis Harvin, David Hawkinson, Terry Hoffman, Susan Kimberly, Joseph Kingman III, Paul Orinseth, Tatiana Petelish, Jan Plimpton, John Rupp, William Sands, William Stevens, James Stronge, Reverend Carl Walker, Angela Pinderhughes Washington, and Grant West. Polly Nyberg serves as Facilities Project Manager.

Stay tuned! Penumbra will announce its plans in Spring, 1998.

NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING SPOKEN HERE: A LATE-NIGHT SERIES

With support from the Jerome Foundation, noted playwright, performance artist, and Penumbra Artistic Fellow Laurie Carlos premiered a new series that explores contemporary multidisciplinary work by local and national performance artists. These artists participated in workshops and presented "works-in-progress" to a late-night audience at Penumbra Theatre. Guest artists included Djella Branner, Jessica Hagedorn, Daniel Alexander Jones, Jake-ann Jones, Kiyoko Motoyama, Cynthia Oliver, Carl Hancock Rux, John L. Sims, and others.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

A NEW THEATRE ON THE HORIZON ?

A preliminary investigation into Frimley's organisational and programme needs shows that its facility is increasingly tied to its future success. With support from the Richard Coyle Lilly Foundation Frimley completed a case statement entitled Frimley Theatre Company: A Look to the Future which details the need to move forward on investigating creating a new space for the theatre. Facility Task Force members include: Archie Greene, Philip I. Levine, David I. Levinson, Terry Holman, Susan Kimbrey, Joseph Kingman III, Paul Osmund, Patricia Pichler, Jan Phipps, John Rupp, William Zunde, William Zunde, James Zunde, Richard Zunde, Carol Zunde, Virginia Zunde, Washington and Grant West, Billy Nye, and Grant West, Billy Nye, and Grant West.

Key trends Frimley will announce its plans in Spring 1998.

A LATE-NIGHT SERIES NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING HERE

With support from the Frimley Foundation, Frimley Theatre will present a new series of plays, written by local and national playwrights, which will be performed in workshops and presented in a late-night audience at Frimley Theatre. Guest artists included Philip Brown, James Hargrave, David Alexander, John Lake, and James Watson. Frimley Theatre will present a new series of plays, written by local and national playwrights, which will be performed in workshops and presented in a late-night audience at Frimley Theatre. Guest artists included Philip Brown, James Hargrave, David Alexander, John Lake, and James Watson.



Performance artists
Jay Otis Powell & L. Williams

4TH ANNUAL JAZZ JAM & 20TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

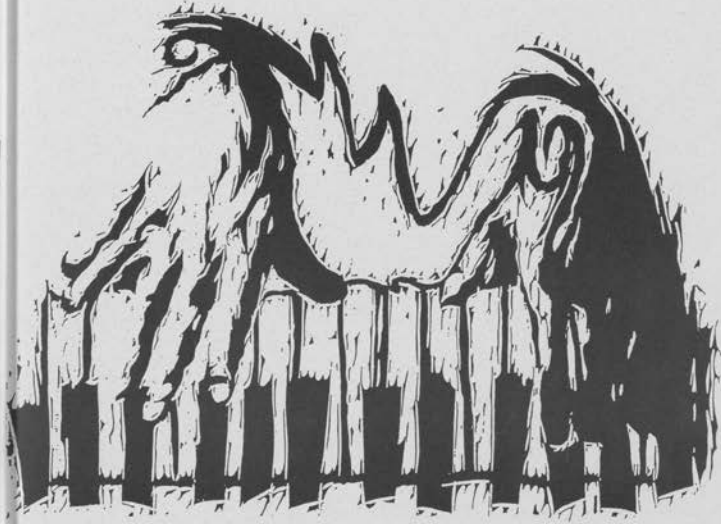
Penumbra's annual Jazz Jam has come to be one of the Twin Cities most exciting spring special events. Initiated in 1993, the Jazz Jam attracted approximately 150 friends to the Fine Line Music Cafe. Having outgrown the Fine Line, in 1996 the Jazz Jam moved to the Metropolitan Clubroom, where over 300 friends enjoyed the jazz stylings of Grammy Award-nominated trumpeter Hannibal Lokumbe. On Friday, May 9, 1997, Penumbra welcomed over 500 Twin Citians to the 4th Annual Jazz Jam & 20th Birthday Celebration. Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson and 1997 Grammy Award-nominated jazz pianist Marcus Roberts and the Marcus Roberts Trio helped celebrate Penumbra's milestone.

- ☐ Thanks to the following for making this event a success: Barbara Jo Davis and Ken Davis Products, Crocus Hill Flower Market, Carol Meshbesher, Minnesota Monthly, Northwest Airlines, Lowell Pickett and the Dakota Bar and Grill, TNT Productions, and Claudia Wallace Candener.

20TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION & 4TH ANNUAL JAZZ JAM

Marvin Roberts Two helped celebrate Penumpra's milestone 20th Birthday Celebration. Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson and 1997 Grammy Award-nominated jazz pianist Marcus Roberts and the 1997 Penumpra welcomed over 500 Twin Cities to the 4th Annual Jazz Jam & Grammy Award-nominated trumpet Hannibal Loukumbe. On Friday, May 9, moved to the Metropolitan Clubroom where over 300 friends enjoyed the jazz stylings to the Fine Music Cafe. Having outgrown the fine line in 1998 the jazz jam spinning special events initiated in 1993 the jazz jam attracted approximately 150 friends Penumpra's annual jazz jam has come to be one of the Twin Cities most exciting

■ Thanks to the following for making this event a success: Barbara Jo Davis and Ken Davis Producers Corner Hill Power Market, Carol Westphalen Winnetka Monthly Northwest Vintage Jewel Market and the Dakota Bar and Grill. TNT Productions and Charles Wallace Carpenter.



PENUMBRA'S ACCESS AND EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

The 1997 Penumbra Summer Arts Institute

Penumbra offered its summer arts institute for 20 high-school age students entitled *Toward an African American Aesthetics in the Presentation and Appreciation of Black Drama*. The Summer Arts Institute offered participants an opportunity to explore the wealth of "overlooked" contributions to theatre created by African American.

The Penumbra Community Ticketing Fund

The Fund is an initiative established to introduce the African American experience to individuals less likely to have access to Penumbra due to income or social isolation. Free and reduced cost tickets are made available to subsidize attendance to selected performances of each mainstage production. 1997 Fund contributors included Medtronic Inc., Mervyn's California-Midway, and the Saint Paul Foundation's African American Community Endowment Fund.

Study Guides

With support from the Minneapolis/St. Paul L.I.N.K.S. Incorporated, Penumbra now produces study guides for each of its mainstage performances. Study guides are created with assistance from area arts teachers under the guidance of Kiyoko Motoyama, Director of Theatre Education & Outreach. Study guides are made available to Project SUCCESS (Students Undertaking Creative Control Essential to Self-esteem and Success) participants as well as student matinee attendees.

The Penumbra Theatre Youth Company

Realizing a need to connect students attending the Summer Arts Institute to an on-going initiative where they can hone their talents for the future, Penumbra began an informal Youth Company. Penumbra has enlisted approximately 20 students to participate in weekly roundtable discussions on auditioning, acting, and directing.

Internship Program

Each year Penumbra employs more actors, choreographers, dancers, directors and administrators of color than all other theaters in Minnesota combined. It is critical we continue to provide employment opportunities for people of color seeking challenging and creative opportunities in theatre. Currently, Penumbra is in the process of seeking funding for the following artistic/technical internships: Design, Electrical, Audio, Wardrobe, and Production.

FINANCIALS

Penumbra Theatre Company completed a tremendously successful fiscal year, eliminating its operating deficit with a positive unrestricted net asset balance of \$24,388. Contributing to this success were several multi-year grants in the areas of general operations, technological upgrades and organizational capacity building.

Several significant in-kind contributions supporting Penumbra's marketing endeavors helped create a much-needed aura of excitement and spectacle around the theatre.



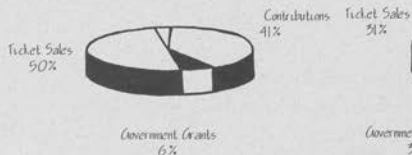
These in-kind contributions include the following:

- © a pro bono brand-imaging campaign led by Periscope Marketing Communications
- © 20th anniversary promotional materials produced by 3M
- © *Black Nativity* media sponsorship provided by KARE-11 TV
- © special promotional advertising provided by Minnesota Monthly

REVENUE & EXPENSES

Fiscal Year 1996 Revenue

Other 3%



Fiscal Year 1997 Revenue

Other 2%



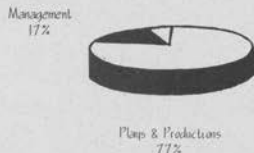
Fiscal Year 1996 Expenses

Fundraising 5%



Fiscal Year 1997 Expenses

Fundraising 6%



The fiscal year 1997 Audited Financial Statement is available upon request.

CONTRIBUTORS

Penumbra Theatre Company wishes to recognize our family of supporters for believing in the power of *theatre for the soul*.

Highlights:

- ◀ In the first round of funding, Penumbra was the only theatre to gain acceptance to the Bush Foundation's Regional Arts Development Program. Penumbra received a two-year grant of \$200,000 for fiscal years 1997 and 1998.
- ◀ The Northwest Area Foundation approved a 3-year grant of \$280,000 for technical system upgrades, staff development, increased marketing and development initiatives and facilities upgrades. Northwest Area Foundation's funding began in fiscal year 1997 and will end in fiscal year 1999.

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION AND GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

3M

AT&T Communications
American Express Minnesota Philanthropic Program
Aveda Corporation
James Ford Bell Foundation
Lillian Wiegler and C. Emil Berglund Foundation
F. R. Bigelow Foundation
Biscuits and Blues
Bush Foundation
Bank Family Foundation
Cakes by Renita
Cherokee State Bank
Crocus Hill Flower Market
Cy and Paula DeCose Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
Dain Bosworth Incorporated and The Dain Bosworth Foundation
The Dakota Bar and Grill
Dayton Hudson Foundation
Donaldson Foundation
Dramatists Guild Fund
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Minnesota State Arts Board
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Northwest Area Foundation
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Kennon and Nina Rothschild
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The Saint Paul Foundation
Star Tribune/Coville Media Company
TNT Productions
Target Stores
Thermo King Corporation
The Toro Company
TCF Foundation
US West
Lila Wallace/Reader's Digest Fund
Wells Family Foundation Trust
Western Bank

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

ROHO GOULDS

Marian Sheld Berges

DAKTARI (REALER) SEVEN SEVEN

Vance Oppenheimer
Constance S. Ota

KIONGOZI (LEADER) SEVEN SEVEN

E. Thomas Berger and Rebecca Rand
Jerry and Diane Blackwell
Walter and Lucy Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. King
Joe and Kathy Kingman III
Jack and Victoria Morris
Kerwin V. and Phyllis Raskobill
Joe and Joanne Strong
Susan W. Waller

MADHUBENEFACTORS SEVEN SEVEN

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Be Compton
Elaine Christensen
Cy and Paula DeCane
Stephen and Pamela Dierck
Joe Dierck and Siddhan Chetty
Terry and Mike Hoffman
Dr. Patricia Clark King
Lyn and Bill Stevens

LEHAMA (COMMUNITY) SEVEN SEVEN

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Robert and Elizabeth Burns
Bruce and Ann Christensen
Mary Sue Condon
Ernest and Christine Davidson
Vernice Dayton
Erin Dixon
Mr. Curtis Ellis
Joe Christensen
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Kurt and Susan Halberg
Wayne Hueston
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Rick Hueston
Betsy and Ricky Hall
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Matthew Johnson
Vernice Kallala
Skip and Pat Kallala

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Ding and Carol Olsen
Stanley Paul
Ellen Mary Sad
Robert Selman, Sr.
Daisy and Dick Thomas
Mary Vaughan
Earl Ward
Leland Jones Williams and Lucy Williams



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Lillian Baker-Kerr and Paul Newman
Mary Baker
Melina L. Barton
John Bates
Joan Baker and George Bell
Shirley Bell
Linda Blackman
Jerry and Jackie Blakey
T.E. Blackman
Dorothy C. Baker
Lee Baker
William Bender
Anthony Bender
Curt and Abby Bender
Charles M. Bender

Chung-Ang River

Alan and Rick Carg
Shirley Carg
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PENUMBRA THEATRE
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