

## OUR GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

In addition to continuing to provide artists scholarships, SPA's greatest vision is to bring to life a theatre, nestled close to the Suwanee Town Center area, that would provide an indoor facility for community use and theatrical events. With a community so rich in talent, there is no better place for a "Main Street Theatre" where residents and visitors alike can come together and celebrate *Bringing Art to Life*.

## SPA PROGRAMS

Suwanee Performing Arts was created to provide opportunities for young artists to perform and to provide quality entertainment for the enjoyment of the community. The following programs and events are an integral part of how we fulfill our mission.

**Suwanee Youth Ballet (SYB)** provides quality dance performance opportunities to young dancers in the Suwanee area. SYB dancers participate in performances throughout the year including local festivals (Suwanee Day, Taste of Suwanee, etc.), annual Winter and Spring performances, and SYB'S annual Children's Ballets, centered on introducing ballet and dance to young children of the area. The SYB member is an athlete who learns to be a positive role model to others, a team player, to have self discipline, sensitivity and passion. SYB dares to be old-fashioned by keeping its focus on sharing the art of dance, not selfishly competing for some trophy or prize. SYB is a shining example of beauty, integrity, humility and grace that the community can be proud of. The Suwanee Youth Ballet dancers range in age from 6 to 18 years old; auditions are held every year in late spring.

**Sounds of Suwanee Jazz Ensemble (SoS)** is a vocal and instrumental jazz ensemble that performs at community events throughout the year. SoS is currently home to 12 auditioned vocalists primarily from area high schools. Directed by Leigh Ann Wearne, SoS is "topping the charts" with challenging, a cappella arrangements created by local artist Grayson Baum. Audiences go wild for SoS's tight harmonies of favorite songs. The SoS singers assume the role of ambassadors to our city and proudly rise to the challenge, building confidence, respect, and commitment to community. To complete this ensemble, auditions for the community jazz band will take place later this year.

**Community Art Players of Suwanee (CAPS)** provides an opportunity for local talent to experience theatre made by, with, and for our community. Participants contribute to the social capital of Suwanee, developing the skills, community spirit, and artistic sensibilities of those who participate, whether as actors, producers or audience members. CAPS is another reason that Suwanee needs a theater, a place for us all to play, and will take an active role in seeing it come to life.

**Broadway in the Park** is the signature summer production is performed in Town Center Park each July. SPA's annual fundraising event is our largest community event each year. By turning the amphitheatre into a Broadway stage with professional lighting, sound, costumes and sets, the community's top talent can experience local stardom as they play for the masses. This event has been known to draw crowds into the thousands, delighting business owners, audience members, cast and crew alike. This fabulous, fun-filled night under the stars has been making an impact since 2007! Join us this summer for *HAIRSPRAY* and an original mini-musical - *RAPUNZEL'S TWIST* - as we welcome you back to the 60s with a new twist on an old tale!

**Page-2-Stage** is a fledgling program that allows new theatrical works by local playwrights to come to life at Broadway in the Park. This program helps fund the creation of these new works by local composers and playwrights, and by combing the marketing power of a licensed show it draws attention to an original work. This year's *RAPUNZEL'S TWIST* was created by Patricia Etherton and Berneta Bock Davis; this musical will be performed along with *HAIRSPRAY*, continuing a 60s theme for the whole event! *RAPUNZEL'S TWIST* will be cast with 20-30 young artists, ages 10-14, for the debut of this original show.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Berneta Bock Davis, Founder/Artistic Director

At the age of four, Berneta was sent to study classical ballet under the direction of Tensia Fonseca with the Maryland Youth Ballet, where she gratefully studied alongside some of ballet's finest up- and-coming dancers of the time. When her family moved to Atlanta, Bernie (as her friends call her) quickly made her way into Atlanta's dance scene, once again finding herself among the best of the best classical ballet professionals in the area, performing with the Atlanta Ballet and later with the Bristol Ballet. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree with a double major in Education of Ballet and Performance of Ballet from Virginia Intermont College.

Having studied to be a "Ballet Mistress", Berneta never intended to work outside of the professional ballet realm until she began teaching young children and fell in love. All of the years of training, knowledge and professional experience didn't compare to the joy she received in the classroom. Today, Berneta has more than 25 years of teaching experience; "Miss Bernie" has become a household name for the thousands of families who have been blessed by studying under her watchful, loving eye.

Perfect in technique, Berneta applies the same care and concern for each detail as the Director of the Suwanee Youth Ballet as well as in her position as Artistic Director for SPA. Overseeing the details of productions and events, nothing gets by Bernie without critique. She is SPA's quality control, and everything we do must have integrity to fly.

### Patricia Etherton, Founder/Executive Director

The performing arts worked their magic on this shy child from Illinois, transforming her into a confident young woman ready to take on the world. Patty has been singing for as long as she can remember, and received her undergraduate degree in Music Education from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. After graduation, she toured the country singing professionally with the Lake City Band before settling in Nashville, Tennessee in 1985 with her husband Eric. Patty worked as a realtor for fourteen years, managing a sales team as well as her own successful real estate business. Yet through it all, Patty always found time for children and the arts, directing musicals through her church or community groups. Even today, as Patty is busy running two companies, she still volunteers to direct children's music at Epiphany Lutheran Church. Patty also serves as CEO of Suwanee Academy of the Arts which she and business partner Berneta created in 2003.

It is through Patty's vision and leadership that SPA exists today. The driving force behind the organization, Patty manages the operations while constantly thinking of ways to expand the programs to include more people and more opportunities for sharing the performing arts. She is a bit altruistic and truly believes that art helps to make the world a better place. A true multi-tasker, she volunteers countless hours serving as Executive Director for SPA as well as providing her valuable artistic talents (often working as set and costume designer, composer, playwright, actress, producer and director) and couldn't be happier!

### SPA BOARD MEMBERS:

Betsy Bradley

Brian Garland

Dick Goodman

Amy Kimball-Niepmann

Kimberly Kota

Heather Parker

Marianne Weyen

*SPA wishes to thank the Board Members for the many hours and dollars they generously contribute to help SPA achieve its mission.*



## FAST FACTS ABOUT SPA

Suwanee Performing Arts, Inc.  
341 Main Street  
Suwanee, GA 30024  
770-821-7654  
www.SuwaneePerformingArts.org

### How is SPA structured?

SPA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that is governed by a Board of Directors. Patricia Etherton serves as the Executive Director, and Berneta Bock Davis serves as the Artistic Director. Board members sub-divide into committees to complete a variety of specific tasks, and meet monthly to evaluate progress and set goals. Information about our Board members and their important contributions to SPA can be found on our website.

### What does SPA do?

SPA manages a variety of programs and performance opportunities for performers; this catalog of programs is expanding all of the time. Current SPA programs serve a broad range of performance artists: ballet dancers, singers, musicians, and actors of all ages are invited to audition to participate. Watch the SPA and "Atlanta Performs" websites for audition announcements. The calendar of SPA performances is maintained on the website; check frequently for updates.

### How does SPA do it?

SPA is a non-profit organization that currently depends upon on fee-based programs, corporate partners (both financial and like-kind), patron sponsors and ticket and concessions sales to achieve our mission. We also seek funders and grant makers to expand the opportunities and keep programs at low or no cost to the participants.

### How can I help SPA achieve its mission?

Generous monetary donations ensure that SPA is able to continue its mission of enrichment through the arts. Producing SPA's many exciting programs and events is not possible without contributions from people like you. SPA also benefits from the time and talents graciously donated by volunteers. Seamstresses, carpenters, desktop publishers, movers and shakers of all sorts enhance the delivery of programs and top-quality productions for members of our community to enjoy.

When you donate to SPA, you demonstrate your commitment to *Bringing Art to Life* in Suwanee and invest in our community's social capital. Whether an individual or a corporation, sponsor or volunteer, we welcome all who share our vision.

## SPA CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2011

- February** 25 — 27th: CAPS presents *Laundry and Bourbon*
- March** 19th: *Hairspray* and *Rapunzel's Twist* Auditions (Middle School through Adult)  
26th: Suwanee Youth Ballet's Spring Showcase with **Sounds of Suwanee**
- May** 21st & 22nd: SAA Year End Production of *Alice in Wonderland* featuring SYB
- July** 29th & 30th: **Broadway In the Park** *Hairspray* and *Rapunzel's Twist*
- August** Scholarship Applications due
- September** 17th: Suwanee Day Parade/Performance  
24th: Suwanee Youth Ballet presents *Snow White*
- October** Taste of Suwanee performances by **Suwanee Youth Ballet & Sounds of Suwanee**
- December** 4th: Annual Gingerbread Festival



## OUR MISSION

To enrich peoples' lives through participation in and appreciation of the performing arts. By *Bringing Art to Life* in our community, Suwanee Performing Arts (SPA) helps bring the mission of the City of Suwanee to life as well — "Play Hard, Live Well, Smile More".

## OUR HISTORY

In 2003, Berneta Bock Davis and Patty Etherton opened the doors to a local arts academy with the purpose of giving young artists a loving and nurturing place to study. Bock Davis and Etherton, both performers for more than 25 years, know firsthand how valuable the arts are to the young performer as well as to the community. Aside from a few festivals in the local park, the community offered little opportunity for performing arts students to actually *perform*. To fill this gap, Bock Davis and Etherton founded Suwanee Performing Arts in order to create performance opportunities for local artists— young and old. SPA was incorporated and was granted its non-profit status in 2007. Since that time, SPA has created several artistic programs and originated numerous performance opportunities for dancers, singers, and actors in and around the Suwanee community.

## WHO WE ARE TODAY: BUILDING CHARACTER AND COMMUNITY

Each year, Suwanee Performing Arts auditions young artists who wish to participate in one or more of SPA's performance groups. The arts have been proven time and time again to be one of the most valuable resources you can give a child. Studies show that kids involved in the arts do better in school, stay out of trouble, find ways to positively express themselves, and develop teamwork skills necessary for every facet of life. These benefits suit children from all walks of life, and those children who can least afford to participate perhaps stand to gain the most. Through generous donations and sponsors, SPA provides free dance weekends and scholarships for them to participate in these life-changing opportunities.

Besides the more than one hundred active artists involved with SPA, there will be nearly as many volunteers and thousands of audience members touched by SPA's programs and events this year alone. The programs and events that are offered through SPA also create work opportunities for many of the area's best artist directors and technicians. There are also many theatrical professionals who volunteer their time for SPA because they believe in this worthwhile cause, and know firsthand how art positively impacts the lives of those it touches.