

ALLIES FOR THE DRAMATIC ARTS

In Fall 2008, twelve students from the BGSU Department of Theatre and Film volunteered to initiate a theatre re-vitalization project to help the students, faculty, staff, and surrounding community of Jessup W. Scott High School in Toledo, Ohio. As Toledo's oldest inner city high school, Scott has a majority population of African-American students and a sorely under-utilized theatre space which needed some minor renovation and programming to bring it to life.

BGSU students, under the advisement of Theatre and Film faculty member Dr. Eileen Cherry-Chandler, and with the support of the faculty of Scott's Performance and Media department, started an after-school theatre program for students. Together, they planned a complete theatre season to showcase student talent and enhance their skills in language arts and performance productions. The group dubbed themselves the Allies for the Dramatic Arts.



Participating BGSU students found it a challenging and exciting opportunity to help make minor technical repairs to rejuvenate the theatre space and to apply their skills in script analysis, acting, and technical production. They conducted workshops in improvisation, basic acting, stage combat, and

technical theatre; then collaborated with the high school students to produce an impressive season that successfully attracted members of the surrounding community to the theatre space. Productions began with an evening of one-act plays in the fall; progressed to a winter production of a contemporary comedic play, "The Somewhat True Tales of Robin Hood"; and concluded with a major musical production in the spring, "Children of Eden".

Through this process the BGSU students worked to develop the talents, self-confidence, teamwork, and interpersonal skills of the Scott students while earning practical experience in working with young people. The students earned BGSU credit through THFM 490, "Service Learning Theatre at Scott High School, Toledo, Ohio".

