



Executive Summary

1. SOS Players
Fourth Street Playhouse
900 4th Street
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016
651-438-5416 or 715-441-6902 (cell)
2. Skits Outreach Services, Inc. (SOS) was established in 1990 by June Erdman (Founding Artistic Producer)
3. SOS Players is a non-profit organization
4. website: www.sosplayers.org
5. Executive Director
Sue Oberg
651-438-5416
Sue@sosplayers.org

Associate Director
Jenna Solie
612-964-1802
Jenna5432@gmail.com

Artistic Director
Andy Bernstrom
651-329-5642
AndrewBernstrom1@msn.com

Bookkeeper
Bettyann Henry
Bettyann@sosplayers.org

Summary

Who we are:

SOS Players is a teen educational performance troupe that travels United States, performing shows on social issues that affect young people today. They perform in schools and at conventions, conferences and churches. Their message is that of hope and positive decision-making, accomplished through the medium of prevention theatre.

Core Competencies:

SOS Players core competency is our teens talking to teens. Proving that one of the best ways to influence healthy decision-making in young people is to have peers encourage and demonstrate positive values and responsible behaviors.

The acting troupe's primary goal is to promote individual responsibility and demonstrate the power that each person has to determine their future by the choices they make today. SOS aims to leave each audience feeling hopeful, empowered and informed about available help resources.

Our People:

Sue has held the position of Executive Director, Skits Outreach Services, Inc., since April 2006. Prior to her current position, she was the Director of Booking and Sales for SOS. Sue is responsible for managing all business functions, supervising staff, and coordinating volunteer activities on behalf of The SOS players. She is a member of the SOS Board of Directors and serves as Chairperson of the Artistic Council. Sue has had the opportunity to direct several productions at The Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, Wisconsin including *A Christmas Carol (2005)*, *Anne of the Thousand Days (2006)*, and *Seussical the Musical (2007)*). Her credits also include several performances for the Youth Theater program at the Phipps Center

Artistic Director, Andy Bernstrom, began his time at The SOS Players, Inc. at the age of fourteen. He served as a cast member for four years and served as full-time Artistic Intern during the 1996 – 1997 touring season. Upon completion of his internship, Andy attended Augsburg College and received a B.A. in Theatre Arts. He also holds an M.A. in Education from the College of St. Catherine. Andy returned to The SOS Players in the summer of 2003. He is currently in his fifth season as Artistic Director. Andy is responsible for the recruitment, training, and theatrical education of all SOS actors

Associate Director, Jenna Solie, became an active member of The SOS Players, Inc. when she was sixteen. She toured with the cast for two years before becoming the Artistic Intern for the 2002 - 2003 touring season. Jenna then attended the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse and received a B.A. in Theatre Arts with an emphasis in acting and directing. Previous directing experience includes *The Most Massive Woman Wins*, *King Midas and the Golden Touch*, *Rain*, *The 50th Annual Polk County Picnic*, *The Duck Pond*, *On Common Ground* and *Annie*. Jenna has also led numerous drama workshops for kids of all ages in La Crosse and surrounding areas. After working as Associate Director during the summer of 2006, Jenna returns on board to serve as Associate Director full time. Jenna aids Andy in the recruitment, training, and theatrical education of all SOS actors.

Bettyann joined the staff of The SOS Players, Inc. in the fourth quarter of 2006. Prior to joining the staff, from 1994 to 2000, she was the assistant to the Fiscal and Gallery Coordinator at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, Wisconsin. Bettyann then accepted the position of Financial Administrator for the Phipps Center until her retirement in 2003.

Bettyann enjoys volunteering in the Healing Arts Program of Hudson Hospital and as a driver providing transportation for clinic and hospital patients. She is also a volunteer in the youth program of her church. Traveling and her three grandchildren take up the rest of her time.

The SOS Board and Artistic Council consist of 50 volunteers from Hudson and surrounding communities.

Our SOS youth consists of 40 in our traveling troupe and 40 SOS Juniors. We began with 33 shows and 20 actors in our first year. We have more than doubled the amount of performances each year, adding conferences and churches. Our 17th year finds us reaching over one million teens and adults in seven states with 90 percent of all performances in our home states of Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Our Values:

The Code of Ethics - The founding troupe was determined to start a tradition of integrity. They created a declaration of responsibility called the contract. In later years it has been revised and renamed The Code of Ethics.

- Signed by every actor
 - Remain drug, alcohol and tobacco free
 - Maintain family, religious, and social obligations
 - Maintain a certain Scholastic Performance
- The Code of Ethics is taken seriously
 - The actors stand by this code. The volunteers and staff are available at all times to support them in their promise.
 - The peer-based approach of “Walk the Talk” is a key factor behind the SOS Players’ success.

Description of the Proposed Services:

To help ensure the success of the 2007 Education Minnesota Professional Conference the Players would present for the conference a one-hour performance of your choice of five different shows. (as many as you need)

1. Choices – Grades 3-4-5-6-(for Pre teen years)
2. Teens To Teens – Grades 6-8 or 6-12
3. Teens –Grades 9-12
4. Meth Show – Grades 9-12
5. Respect – Grades 9-12

New Material:

We received requests every day for different topics and issues. Our newest sketches this year are Mean Girls (bullying by females), Grief (dealing with a loss), Special Needs (respect for people with different abilities), Date Rape (presented by 3 males), GLBT (respect for all people) Cyber Bullying ready by March 1st 2008.

Performance Cost:

Each performance of SOS is one hour long and costs \$450.00 plus transportation.