

The PIX Theater of Lapeer, Michigan, has definitely had a positive impact on my life. Two of my friends from school invited me to join a small teen group, Generation Arts, that met there, and seven months and two plays later, I can say I am a more experienced actress. The PIX opens its doors to acts of many different kinds and actors of all ages. In my time there, I have worked with kids in their first play up to people my own age. The generosity of Jill Lyons, Mary Beth Burns, and Amanda Schroeder must not be overlooked. They allowed the Gen Arts group and I to use the theater to write, direct, and produce a play of our own creation, and greatly assisted us in getting the production on its feet, not to mention lighting, sound, and publicity. It was there that I learned the roles of stage manager and director as well as actress, and was able to expand my understanding of the process of creating theatrical productions. Now, as I prepare to study theater in college, I can say that that relatively recent experience has been one of my most valuable ones in the field.

The PIX Theater also has plenty of entertaining touring acts come through, contributing to Lapeer's vibrant community. From tribute bands to petting zoos to classic movie nights, there is something for everyone. The best part is not the affordability (although that is nice), but the sense of community it fosters. I live in a more impersonal town, and I understand the value and sense of neighborhood that a community gathering spot has; as both a teaching environment and a gathering place, the PIX is one of Lapeer's brightest gems.

I am fascinated by the dual nature of the PIX: it is known both for community youth productions and for traveling concerts and other events. Its administrators devote so much time to fostering the youth programs, it is surprising how many other performers have used its stage! I hope it is able to continue its work for a long time—I have seen young performers grow and improve there, and I know it has had a positive and inspiring impact on my own artistic development.

Sincerely,

Adeline Thalhammer

From: **Tara Grantham** <tara.fosdick@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Apr 6, 2023 at 7:41 PM
Subject: Re: favor
To: Mary Beth Burns <marybethburns67@gmail.com>

My son is autistic and has been involved in the youth arts program. This program has helped him make so many friends and really connect with people his age. He is always the happiest after I pick him up from the theater. Not only has he made friends but it has helped him with social skills, communicating, and believing in himself. I'm so grateful for this program and wish there were more like it.

Hi, my name is Meghan Alexander,
I wanted to share about how
amazing Pix theater is to my
family. My family found Pix
about a year ago when ~~my~~^{my}
youngest son needed it the most.
My son Kaden age 10 he was
having a hard time coming out
of his shell and he didn't have
much of a social life.
The theater changed all of that
~~with~~ for him. Acting classes
have helped him be more
social and artistic. He is
a social butterfly with many
friends, He is now always
creating something new and
fun, from making videos of
all kinds, music, art even
magic tricks. I don't believe
he would have found his
creative side without
being part of the theater.
He always says he loves
the theater so much because
he can feel all the magic
it has. I will always be grateful
to the Pix and all who help
keep it going. It truly changes
kids lives for the better.

Mcgham Alexander



Meghan >

Ok. Just checking.
Understudying is a double
edged sword. You want
everyone to be able to go
in...but, you also wouldn't mind
going on yourself 😂

Kaden is a true theatre kid!!!



I couldn't agree with you more.
He told me the other day. Mom
when I walk in to the theater I
just feel the magic 😊 makes
my heart so happy. Last year
was really rough on him. So to
see the joy this has gave him is
everything to me

Theater is magical! That is
possibly the sweetest
comment I've ever heard from
a young person 🥰 I'm so glad



Text Message



"The youth theater program has had a profoundly positive impact on our two girls (ages 10 & 13)

Participating in theater has given my teen and preteen a chance to be involved in a world that isn't social media based - that doesn't have them glued to a screen 24/7... a place where they can make real-life connections and friends. A place where they can express their creativity openly, and be encouraged to be authentically themselves.

Theater gives them something to look forward to, something to work for, and always something to be proud of.

As a parent to two kiddos, who are going through what most of us experience as the most emotionally charged years of our youth... what more could you ask for than some thing that brings only positivity and confidence to their lives?"

A. Spaller

From: Jodi DeVuyst <jdevuyst98@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 8:33 AM
To: info pixlapeer.org
Cc: Mary Beth Burns
Subject: Testimonial

Good morning, ☀

Please find my testimonial below.

"The Pix has been like a lifeline. During the pandemic the virtual theater offerings afforded both of our girls, one of which is special needs, the opportunity to participate with other peers and staff that really cares for the people of our community. Our daughter Abigail has built confidence thru the theater offerings including Gen Arts club since in person was activated once again last summer. Jill has acquired dedicated theater staff/volunteers that share in her desire to enrich both the youth and the community as a whole. One particular director, Mary Beth had spent a lot of extra time coaching and encouraging the actors. The Pix is an asset to the community in so many ways. Thank you for being here and for all of the new friendships created for both our girls and us-Jodi DeVuyst"

Hope it's not too including too many run-ons 😊

Sent from my iPhone