

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH BACKGROUNDER

Under the umbrella of “**Geffen’s Stage for Any Age**,” the Geffen Playhouse has four major education initiatives that touch people of all ages who otherwise wouldn’t have the opportunity to experience theater.

The Geffen Playhouse’s various programs engage more than **27,000** students and community members in the live arts each year. They extend the reach of traditional education programs to include children from as young as toddlers at the theater’s **Saturday Scenes**, to seniors as old as 100 with the Geffen’s landmark **CREATE** program. The Geffen’s Stage for Any Age includes:

STUDENT MATINEES

The foundation of the theater’s education programs, Student Matinees began in 1997 with a free performance of *Harriet’s Return* featuring Debbie Allen. Since then, the Geffen Playhouse has refined the program to consistently provide complimentary tickets and free transportation to see the Geffen’s main stage productions for students of Title I schools in the Los Angeles area, as well as special groups such as incarcerated youth and members of gang rehabilitation programs. Before each student performance, the Geffen hosts a special teacher workshop to provide in-depth insight and original study guides to the teachers. In addition, all Student Matinee performances are followed by interactive discussions with the actors and staff.

ENCORE! SCHOOL TOURS

Launched in 2000, the Geffen Playhouse’s school tour program brings live performances of professional productions onsite at local elementary and middle public schools. To help the students gain a greater understanding of each performance, the theater’s education department prepares age-specific study guides and provides advance support to teachers on related lesson plans.

CREATE

The Geffen’s CREATE (Community Representatives Engaged in Active Theater Education) program, which began in 2001, is a partnership between the Geffen Playhouse and more than 40 community and social service groups. Through CREATE, the Geffen Playhouse provides seniors and other low-income adults access to customized workshops, free performance tickets and pre and post-show discussion groups led by the Geffen’s education department. Called a model program by the city of Los Angeles, CREATE serves an average of 2,200 community members per season.

SATURDAY SCENE FAMILY PROGRAMMING

Saturday Scene, which began in 2000, introduces theater to its youngest audience as well as encourages multiple generations to get involved through reduced-priced, family-oriented productions. Unlike the other components of Geffen’s Stage for Any Age, Saturday Scene focuses on special family programming that is separate and apart from the productions currently in the theater’s season. Positioned as an imaginative alternative to Saturday morning television, Saturday Scene performances begin at 11am on select Saturdays throughout the year. As part of the theater’s outreach program, complimentary tickets are also offered to children’s charities, schools and social service groups.