

# Kids Take the Stage

## Fall 2010

### Teacher Bios

#### Sue Riedel

Sue Riedel, Artistic Director and Theater Manager of Bell Tower Productions, will be teaching *Let's Pretend*, *Creative Theatrics* and *Acting* this fall. With more than forty years of experience teaching creative dramatics, theater and speech along with thirty five years of directing plays and musicals, Sue is our most experienced teacher.

Sue's first experience in teaching youth theater came as a high school student when she assisted the founder of the Davenport Children's Theatre. Sue graduated from Clarke College in Dubuque in 1968 with a degree in Speech and Theater and continued to teach as part of her studies. Immediately after college Sue was hired by the Dubuque Parks and Recreation Department and was charged with the creation of arts programming. In 1974 Sue founded the Barn Community Theater, oversaw the company's move into the Grand Opera House in 1986 and continued to run the organization until 2001. At the same time Sue was hired as a Speech and Theater teacher at Hempstead High School, this year marks her thirty-seventh teaching at that institution. In addition to her teaching, Sue served as the coach for the extra-curricular speech program and has coached a countless number of award-winning kids. In 2003 Sue was hired as the Artistic Director and Theater Manager of Bell Tower Productions. After two years of working to establish the brand new company, she founded our highly successful youth theater program. In addition to the practical experience listed above, Sue has completed graduate work in Education, Reading Strategies, Talented and Gifted Education, Film and Creative Dramatics. Sue currently serves as on the Dubuque Arts and Cultural Commission and the Iowa Arts Council Board of Directors. She is also a past recipient of the Gold Star Award for Excellence in Teaching.

#### Sue Flogel

Sue Flogel is the co-creator and director of Bell Tower Productions' kids-for-kids summer musical program and will be teaching *Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance! Gotta Act!* this fall. Her 30 years of experience teaching music along with 23 years of directing plays and musicals make her highly qualified to teach this class.

Sue graduated from Clarke College in Dubuque in 1979 with a degree in Music Education. Immediately after college Sue was hired by the Dubuque Community School District. In 1980 Sue found a second home at the Barn Community Theater. During her time with them she worked with the youth theater program, helped with costumes, and was often on stage. When the Barn Community Theater moved to the Grand Opera House Sue followed. Sue's first experience in teaching youth theater came in 1987 at the Grand Opera House, and eventually Sue become

the director of the summer children's shows, a position she held for sixteen years. Sue has been the director of the Bell Tower Theater's *Free Summer Musical Program* for the last five years. In addition to ventures in community theater, Sue also leads a 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade musical at Eisenhower Elementary School every year. This particular program goes above and beyond typical music teacher duties and is the only program of its kind in Dubuque.

Sue received her Masters in Music Education from the University of Northern Iowa in 2000. She is also a past recipient of the Gold Star Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the Dubuque County Fine Art Society's Elisha Darlin Award.

### Chrissy Hogue

Chrissy has enjoyed a theatrical career spanning two and a half decades. Raised in New York City as what's known as a "Theatre Brat" by her father, Mitch Hogue—a comedian, playwright, actor, director, producer and visual artist. After high school Chrissy earned one of 12 spots in the prestigious American Academy of Dramatic Arts, but after one semester at AADA decided she needed a more liberal college education. Chrissy earned her degree at Franklin Pierce College where every performance earned her an entry into the American College Theatre Festival. She was the winner of two Semi-Finalist Acting Awards, two Finalist Acting Awards, one Best Acting Partner Award, one Best Ensemble Award, one Honorable Mention for Performance Award and one Alternate Award. Throughout her career Chrissy has taught numerous classes and workshops, and we are pleased to have her as part of the Bell Tower Theater family.

### Steve Couch

Steve Couch is a comedian/musician that has performed stand-up comedy throughout the New England area in places like Dangerfield's, the Improv and Catch a Rising Star in New York City. He has one comedy album "Ha Ha Holidays" and is working on a second. He loves to help children become more emotionally healthy and intelligent by learning to express themselves through the power of humor and laughter.