

# IT'S SHOWTIME!

**2024 SEASON**

Dear Ohana Arts Family,

We are delighted to bring you our 2024 newsletter! As always, thank you for being the reason we continue to operate and to bring you new and improved programs every year. Our students and families keep us inspired! Those of you who support us, by coming to our shows, funding our programs, and giving us constant encouragement are the heartbeat that keeps the organization alive and flourishing.

### Ohana Arts Spring Program

2024 marks our first season of year-round programming! As many of you know, we have offered an annual summer intensive musical theater summer program for youth since 2010. One of our major goals was to be able to offer after school programming during the school year, especially since drama and music programming continues to sustain budget cuts in the public school system every year. We have been receiving requests from students and parents for extracurricular technique building classes and production opportunities. In January 2024, we launched our first in-person Spring after-school musical theater workshop series. Our students in 2nd-6th grades, participated in a workshop culminating in a workshop musical production of "The Lorax." Students in 7th-9th grades participated in a workshop that culminated in a musical showcase featuring numbers from "Six" and other musicals. Students in 10th-12th grades participated in a workshop that culminated in an abridged production of "Heathers" (Teen Edition). The workshops were focused on technique and confidence building in acting, dance, and singing. They began with a two-week audition class, in which students learned all the details of preparing for a successful



Spring Musical Theatre Workshop III students performed selections from "Heathers" the musical.



Spring Musical Theatre Workshop II students performed selections from "SIX" the musical among others.

audition from the appropriate ways to dress to the final presentation of a vocal and monologue audition which received feedback masterclass style. Students had an opportunity to repeat the audition process to improve their presentations. The workshops continued with opportunities to experience the rehearsal process of a musical production, including a complete read-through blocking and music rehearsals, and character development. Rehearsals for all three workshops took place at the Manoa Music School, and performances were held at Medici's Supper Club.



**Spring Musical Theatre Workshop I students performed an abridged version of "The Lorax".**



**"Get Your Grease On!" Spring Break Camp at Camp Mokule'ia.**

**"Get Your Grease On!" Spring Break Camp**

Ohana Arts students, staff, and faculty convened at Camp Mokule'ia for a Grease-themed one day retreat.

This was an excellent bonding opportunity and day of fun. Older students and staff led a variety of relay races and games. Older students and faculty also taught a few musical numbers and dances from "Grease" which were performed at a special dinner for students and parents that night. Everyone had a great time, and all participants left with an Ohana Arts "Get Your Grease On" t-shirt as a memento!

**Ohana Arts 15th Annual Summer Program**

Ohana Arts held its 15th annual summer program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Kennedy Theatre. In the first three weeks of the program, students had the opportunity to take classes in acting, music and dance. In the mornings, students learned musical theater techniques, and also prepared numbers for a musical showcase at the end of the three week period. The showcase was called, "If I Could Dream," encouraging students to dream big and to think outside the box.

Students in 7th-12th grades also had the opportunity to choose a performance



**"If I Could Dream" MTT Showcase featured students enrolled in the first three weeks (MTT, Session I) of our summer program.**





The MTT program also included a weekend of class performances based on special topics for grades 7-12.



For grades 3-6, students in the MTT program participated in a “mini musical” workshop production of “The Lion King Kids”.



The second half of the summer program concluded in a festival of 3 fully staged productions. Pictured above is a photo from “Moana Jr”.

concentration in the afternoons, enabling them to study and perform in a specialized topic outside the normal regiment of musical theater. Some students participated in a movement for the actor class which gave them the opportunity to learn the finite details of movement in the bodies of different characters. Other students joined a musical writing class which furnished them with techniques in plotting out a musical, and finding moments where songs would be significant in moving the plot forward. All secondary level students took an intro to Shakespeare class, learning how to decode the English of Shakespeare’s time, and how to apply their acting choices when using Shakespearian English.

Students in 3rd-6th grade had the opportunity to put up a workshop production of “The Lion King, Kids” in the Ernst Lab Theatre. The production was a 40-minute version of Disney’s “The Lion King.” Students had the opportunity to learn fully choreographed musical numbers, and learned scene work.

The second half of the Ohana Arts summer program was divided in to three musical theater productions. Elementary school students were in a beautiful and colorful production of, “Moana Jr,” directed by Cari Chung, music directed by Jenny Taira, and choreographed by Mahi’ai Kekumu and Azaliah Kekuna.

Students in 7th-12th grades were divided into two productions. “West Side Story” was directed by Tim McGarrigal, music directed by Jenny Taira, and choreographed by MacKenzie O’Coyne. The production enjoyed four performances in Kennedy Theatre.

Ohana Arts also put up a production of “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” which took place at the Ernst Lab Theatre. Students got the unique privilege of being directed by a cast



The second half of the summer program concluded in a festival of 3 fully staged productions. Pictured above is a photo from “West Side Story”.



The second half of the summer program concluded in a festival of 3 fully staged productions. Pictured above is a photo from “25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee”.

member of the Broadway production, Jenni Barber who played the principal role of Olive Owstrovsky on Broadway, directed our production, and the show was music directed by Hawaii’s own Roslyn Catracchia and Jenny Shiroma.

**Ohana Arts at Hanahau’oli School**

This summer was our second in partnership with Hanahau’oli School! We offer a half-day, four week program in the mornings, Monday through Friday for outgoing kindergarteners through 4th graders taking place on the Hanahau’oli School campus as part of their summer school offerings. Our very own Lexi Scarbrough directed the production of “Winnie the Pooh KIDS” The production took place at the Hanahau’oli School Pavilion.

**Ohana Arts at Blue Note Hawaii**

We ended the summer of 2024 on a high note! Students, alumni, and faculty came together for a special musical showcase, “HISTOREWRITE” at Blue Note Hawaii, featuring numbers from “Six” the musical and past Ohana Arts shows. This event was a special reunion and reminder of the incredible memories that have been created since our beginnings. The event was well attended and a great time was had by all.

**2nd Annual Swing for the Stage Golf Tournament**

Ohana Arts had its 2nd Annual “Swing for the Stage” golf tournament at the Hawaii Prince Golf Course. Over 100 players were on the course to swing for Ohana Arts, raising over \$27K. The



Ohana Arts students and alumni presented “HISTOREWRITE” at Blue Note Hawaii on August 18th, featuring songs from past and present Ohana Arts shows.



banquet program included a performance by the Ohana Arts Fall Program "Beetlejuice Jr" cast. A huge mahalo to Broadway Sponsor, **Pacific IVF**, and Playhouse Sponsors **Brotherhood Builders, Jayar Construction, Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association, Warren Tamamoto, and Narito Sheet Metal & Mechanical**. Special thanks to our tournament chair Reid Chung, our amazing "Swing for the Stage" committee members, and the hard-working volunteers who helped the day of, making the tournament a smashing success!

**Ohana Arts Fall Programs**

In August, we began our Ohana Arts Fall offerings. The partnership with Hanahau'oli School continued, and students in kindergarten through 6th grade were on campus rehearsing for their shows. Students in 1st-3rd grade took part in a Disney showcase, portraying heroes and villains through Disney history, including songs and scenes. Students in 4th-6th grades put up a production of "Adams Family KIDS" Productions took place at the Hanahau'oli School Pavilion.

Students in 7th-12th grade were taken through a comprehensive audition process in which they received feedback on their preliminary audition and call-back presentations when auditioning for our Fall production of "Beetlejuice Jr." The final production took place at Tenney Theatre.

**2025 — WHAT'S NEXT?**

We are gearing up for an exciting new year! First, we are excited to announce our **2nd annual Spring programs**. Students in kindergarten through 2nd grade can sign up for an **Introduction to Musical Theater** class and students in 3rd-6th grade can sign up to participate in a production of **"Aladdin KIDS"**. Both programs will begin in January, and will take place at Hanahau'oli School.

Students in 6th-10th grade can sign up for a musical theatre workshop culminating in a production of **"13 the musical"**. Students in 10th-12th grade can sign up for our production and Oahu

premiere of **"Ride the Cyclone."** Rehearsals will take place at the Pacific Buddhist Academy beginning in January for both programs. Please visit our website [ohanaarts.org/classes](http://ohanaarts.org/classes) for dates and other details.



Our 2nd Annual "Swing for the Stage" golf tournament was held on October 4th at the Hawaii Prince Golf Course.



Our Fall Session culminated in three workshop productions including "Beetlejuice Jr", "Addams Family Younger@Part" and a Disney Magic Showcase. Pictured above is a photo from "Beetlejuice Jr".

# PEACE ON YOUR WINGS

A New Musical



In other news, we are very excited to announce that our original musical, **“Peace On Your Wings,”** based on the true story of 12 year-old victim Sadako Sasaki and her thousand paper cranes which enjoyed a successful Japan premiere in Hiroshima in September 2023, was officially invited back for an encore run of performances to commemorate the 80th atomic bomb victim by Hiroshima Mayor Matsui in August 2025! In addition, the show was invited for performances in Fukuoka, the city that was the originally scheduled target of the second a-bomb, being rerouted to Nagasaki due to bad weather. Please visit [ohanaarts.org](http://ohanaarts.org) for the announcement of our 2025 touring “Peace On Your Wings” cast comprised of 32 cast members, ages 8-18. Before the show leaves for Japan, the show will be in Honolulu for a short run the weekend of July 10-13, 2025 at the Kennedy Theatre as one of the featured shows of our Ohana Arts Summer Festival.

Speaking of summer, registration is about to go live on January 3rd to join our **2025 Summer Festival and School!** Sign up quickly as spots fill up fast! Ohana Arts summer shows will include “Shrek Jr,” and “Godspell,” as well as “Peace On Your Wings.”



### How can you help?

It is not too late to make an end of year donation at [ohanaarts.org/give](http://ohanaarts.org/give). Ohana Arts is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and tax deductions can be received for all monetary donations. Donations and sponsorships enable our programs to keep running and growing. Your valuable contributions will be used towards:

- A tuition assistance fund allowing us to offer our classes and production opportunities to students who cannot afford tuition for Ohana Arts programs, thereby making it possible for us to serve more students in communities around Oahu and beyond.
- Funds to offset production costs so that students will continue to have opportunities to perform in fully staged productions with sets, costumes, and live bands and orchestras whenever possible.
- Funds to support the “Peace On Your Wings” three city tour, including Honolulu, Fukuoka, and Hiroshima. Costs include staff and designer fees, as well as student, cast, and crew flights.
- General operating support

As always, we cannot thank you enough for being part of the Ohana Arts family. We truly appreciate our students, alumni, families, faculty, and staff. You have all made ripples which have contributed greatly to the love, lifetime memories, magic, and success of the programs. We hope you will continue to stay connected via our website and social media. We wish you a healthy happy 2025, and we look forward to seeing you next year!

With gratitude,  
The Ohana Arts Team