

THE THERESA NEWS

COMING SOON!

Divine Desserts COOKBOOK



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Please fill out the form for "divine desserts" on our web site at www.theresafoundation.org

THE THERESA NEWS

THE THERESA ALESSANDRA RUSSO FOUNDATION

SPRING 2009

Lights on Broadway

RAVE REVIEWS!

The Theresa Foundation began as a grass roots organization to perpetuate the memory of one little girl with the world's greatest smile and bounciest pig-tails. Since 1992, friends and family have donated countless hours gathering funds and spreading the word in Theresa's memory. It has truly been a "Labor of love"!

During the course of the past 15 years the Theresa Foundation has brought music, dance, art and recreation programs to life in countless schools and camps, not only on Long Island and in New York State, but in many small villages, towns and counties throughout the United States.

The Annual Theresa Awards is the highlight and culminating event for the Foundation. Our amazing honorees (Richard Courtney, Sandy Braun and Matt Makar) were the focal point of this wonderful gathering, and I am always blown away by the dedication and contributions of our Theresa Award Recipients. It is uplifting to find that among us, there are those who truly care and dare to share their love and talents with the world around them.

During this beautiful spring season, we wish to express our sincere thanks to you, our supporters, not only for your financial support, but also for the expression of confidence and belief in the mission of the Foundation. We realize that these are difficult times in so many ways. There are numerous worthwhile causes and organizations that compete with your charitable interests. This makes us all the more grateful for your support.

Thank you for every gift, past, present and future that you have made or will commit to make to the Theresa Foundation.

You honor us, and we want you to know that we do not take your generosity for granted.

Susan S. Russo



Theresa Foundation Supports the Anchor Drama Program!



The 2009 Stars of Anchor's Production of High School Musical
left to right Dante Russo, Michael Brennan, Matthew Gianotti, Lindsay Caiazzo, Samantha Koulias and Susan Russo

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LIGHTS ON Broadway!

15th Annual Theresa Awards

An Extraordinary Night

On March 30th, 2009, The Theresa Foundation proudly produced a one night only concert performance of "Extraordinary: The Musical" to benefit the Theresa Academy of Performing Arts. With book and lyrics by Dante Russo and music by David F.M. Vaughn, the sold out event (on a Monday night) was held at the renowned Joe's Pub at The Public Theatre in New York City.

The family friendly musical takes the audience on an unexpected ride... after meeting his deaf cousin Hope, nine year old Lester and his imaginary friend Fred take off on an adventure through the living room couch to search for her hearing. Their journey takes them to "The Land of Quiet," where they discover that differences make you extraordinary!

Dante Russo opened the program with the following message: "I find it interesting the word "No." I don't understand where we learn this word "no." We're taught if you're in a wheelchair you can't dance and if you can't hear you can't be in a musical. No. We can do anything, we can do

anything. You can be in a wheelchair and you can dance. And tonight you are going to see, you can be deaf and you can be in a musical. We can do anything, anything, anything, anything! If we all try to do just a little bit of good everyday, we're all going to make this world a much more beautiful place with "yes."

The star studded evening featured some of Broadway's



Allison Spratt and Carly Jibson

finest: Tom Deckman ("Monty Python's Spamalot"), Matt Gibson ("Gypsy" with Patti LuPone), Annie Golden ("Xanadu"), Carly Jibson ("Hairspray"), Sean Samuels (Disney's "Tarzan"), Tami Lee Santimyer ("Nobody's Perfect" at The Kennedy Center), Howie Michael Smith ("Avenue Q"), Allison Spratt ("Cry Baby"), Alexandria Wailes ("Mother



Howie Michael Smith and Annie Golden

"Courage and Her Children" with Meryl Streep at The Public Theater) and Kirsten Wyatt ("Grease"). Everyone in this event donated their time for rehearsals and the performance.

The Extraordinary Benefit raised over \$2,500 for the Theresa Academy of Performing Arts which is in formation.

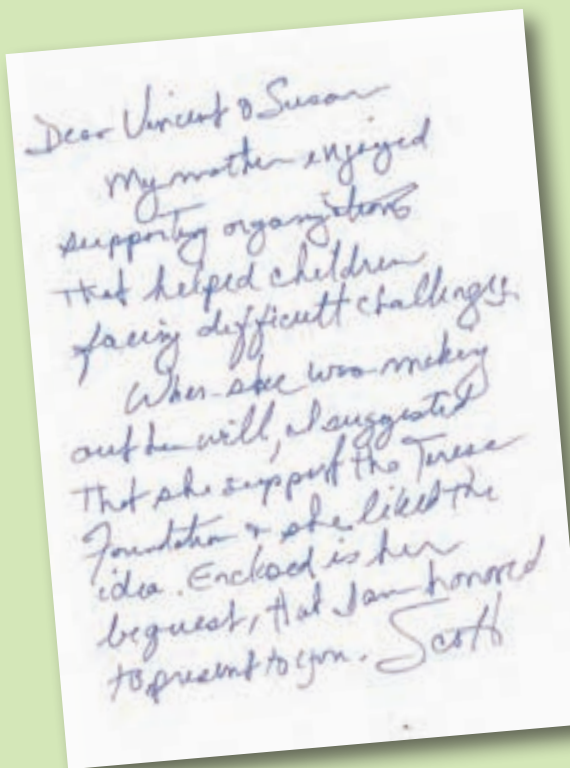


Full Company



Tom Deckman and Tami Lee Santimyer

Photography by Amy Shaughnessy for BroadwayWorld.com



A Special Gift is made to the Theresa Foundation



We are deeply touched and grateful to Betty Severns and her family for the \$10,000 bequest made to the Theresa Foundation