

HNRS 2020: Theatre for Young Audiences and Puppetry  
Signature Assignment

History of Theatre for Young Audiences In-Class/Online Assignment addressing Learning Outcome 2

**CA:** *Students will demonstrate knowledge of key themes, concepts, issues, terminology and ethical standards employed in creative arts disciplines. They will use this knowledge to analyze works of art from various traditions, time periods, and cultures*

**HNRS:** *The comprehension of abstract arguments and the ability to move between the general and the particular*

**PART I:** Students were divided into small groups and asked to read assigned sections of *Theatre for Children in the United States: A History* by Nellie McCaslin.

- Introduction, Beginnings of Children's Theatre in the United States, The Interest Grows, The Community Takes a Hand (pgs. 1-75)
- Expansion in Depression (pgs. 76-121)
- New Leadership (pgs. 122-162)
- Becoming Professional (pgs. 163-206)
- Angels: Public and Private (pgs. 207-267)
- The Pursuit of Quality (pgs. 268--331)
- New Patterns and Relationships, Time for Assessment (pgs. 332-390)

**PART II:** Students were required to post their responses (two things they learned) in their weekly online discussion question.

Excerpts from student online discussion questions:

"I honestly didn't know that TYA was such a large industry and that so many factors went into it. Like who knew that a children's theater program would help tackle social issues? It's incredible to me what can be changed in the world by education and theater in the lives of young children!"

"I am a history major so I've always kind of known that during the depression most things took a huge hit and especially the arts, but I had no idea that TYA theatre did so well. I think that says a lot about what we value as a country or at least what we valued then."

"In 1962, John F. Kennedy called a special consultant on the arts-August Heckscher. The government hadn't been big on giving aid to the arts up to this point and would leave the funding to personal donors. With this move done by President Kennedy the door to much more funding was open. The biggest programs that helped the most was the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities"

**PART III:** The groups worked together to identify 5 major points from your section, transfer information to a group timeline, use post-it's to add and highlight any interesting facts you encountered, and develop visual symbols to represent pertinent information.

Resulting timeline is in the picture below.

