More than THEATRE

Sharing the performing arts with the world since 1970.
Quite simply, MCT, Inc. is an umbrella organization sitting atop two distinct yet connected programs: a community theatre production company and the world’s largest touring children’s theatre.

Within our home community of Missoula, Montana, we are an arts organization committed to staging local productions, children’s musicals, revues, showcases, and operas. Across the country and throughout the world, we are recognized as the premiere group that brings performing arts opportunities to communities—most notably to kids—who might not otherwise have access to them.
Thank you for so many wonderful years and delightful memories. Your program launched a thousand ships and brightened all of our futures.

- Carlsbad, NM
MCT is a nonprofit organization governed by a volunteer board of directors. We are deeply attuned to the important role the arts play in all communities. Each of our companion programs supports our underlying values—the importance of access, the power of creativity, a commitment to excellence, and our belief that theatre facilitates the universal desire to connect.

In 1970, co-founders Jim Caron and Don Collins created MCT. During the first few years, our company of adults performed children’s shows in the Missoula area. We began touring in the early 1970s when Miles City School in eastern Montana invited us to bring our musical version of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs to town. Rather than risk winter travel with the children playing the Dwarfs, Caron tried something new: he found kids in Miles City to play the roles. The experience inspired visits to other Montana communities with the specific intent of casting local children. The scope of our touring increased rapidly, and today, the International Tour is our largest and most important program.

MCT Programs

> Children's Theatre
> The Tour
> Missoula-Area
  Local Camps and Classes
  Performing Arts Camp (PAC)
  Next Step Prep
> Community Theatre
It is through touring that we impact thousands of children annually. As many as 47 pairs of touring artists are on the road at a time. In a typical year they cast more than 65,000 children, teach theatre workshops to 160,000-plus kids, and entertain a total audience of 750,000 people of all ages.

At every stop, our teams of touring artists, whom we call Tour Actor/Directors or TADs, cast local kids in a children’s musical which they perform after just six days of rehearsal. We also teach three or more theatre workshops per week, thus bringing even more children into the MCT experience.

MCT tours to nearly 1,200 communities annually within all 50 states and Canada. We also travel overseas to work with kids in Japan, Turkey, Germany, Bahrain, and other countries. Most stops are in small towns and U.S. military communities that are only rarely visited by theatre companies.

In each location, our team of two professional actor/directors arrives with a set, lights, costumes, props, and make-up... everything it takes to put on a play—except the cast. We partner with a local organization, typically a school, arts council, youth center, performing arts center, or a parks and recreation department.
WE ALL LOVE Missoula Children’s Theatre—truly the best in their field. Thank you!

- Eglin Air Force Base, FL
“MCT is the BEST at developing talent in young people, at broadening their horizons, and at encouraging teamwork and responsibility in youth. Thank you!”

– Wakefield, NE
Every year, we write a new musical to add richness and variety to our repertoire of more than 30 original children’s musicals. We base our musicals on well-known fairy tales such as *Hansel and Gretel*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. We write the scripts, compose the music, and create the sets, costumes, and props. Our teams meet local children at Monday’s audition, and before everyone goes home, the cast is set and parts assigned. By performance day, which is usually Saturday, a diverse group of kids has become a cohesive ensemble with a shared goal. The audiences rave about the great sets, colorful costumes, memorable music, and most of all, the kids’ amazing performances.

We know many theatre professionals who first caught the bug as kids when MCT toured to their town, but our focus is not on preparing children for showbiz careers. The Missoula Children’s Theatre gets kids involved in musical theatre as a way to teach values and life skills, inspire big dreams and aspirations, and encourage creativity.
Children’s programs constitute the core of our local activities. We offer a variety of camps and classes for children and teenagers. These take place at our downtown Missoula headquarters or during summer camps in locations near Seeley and Flathead Lakes.

“My children absolutely loved their experience and I did too...Your organization is top notch!”

- Missoula, MT
Local Camps and Classes

In Missoula we offer four weeklong theatre day camps and two, six-week afterschool performing arts classes for children. All children’s programs culminate with performances at the MCT Center for the Performing Arts. The four camps feature shows in the touring repertoire, and during one of the six-week classes, participants perform in the world premiere of our newest children’s musical.

Performing Arts Camp (PAC)

We have three “sleep-away” camps in Montana for which kids audition. East Shore is a weeklong, theatre skill-building camp for 6th and 7th graders. Located on the shores of Seeley Lake at Camp Paxson, the campers’ last event is singing and dancing in a small, on-site showcase. Located at Flathead Lake, the North Shore and South Shore camps are for teens. Talented youth come from all over the world, make life-long friends, and hone their performing skills. The two-week camp culminates in a weekend of shows at the MCT Center for the Performing Arts.

Next Step Prep

This is an accredited musical theatre boarding school for teens. High school students who complete the six-week summer program receive 1.5 high school credits. The goal is to prepare students for acceptance to high-quality college and university theatre programs. We reach out to teens living in rural communities who may not have access to advanced theatre instruction. Students also take master classes taught by guest artists, many with Broadway experience.
In 1993, we re-purposed a former downtown-area public school building for our headquarters. A capital campaign enabled us to design and build a spacious new wing that houses a 332-seat auditorium, box office, and scene-building shop. Before a show, patrons enjoy socializing in our beautiful lobby, which features a two-story soaring atrium, huge windows, unique artwork, and clear-glass columns filled with thousands of colorful marbles. The Missoula Community Theatre has entertained residents of western Montana since 1977. As the community’s theatre, we offer something for everyone in a five-show season that includes musicals, comedies, holiday shows, and dramas and runs autumn through late spring.

All of our productions are professionally produced, directed, and designed in-house. Each production is fueled by the hundreds of volunteers, board members, donors, patrons, and others who comprise our passionate and invested community. We also offer special “Out of the Box” plays, which are smaller productions of thought-provoking, creative theatre in intimate venues across the region.
“Your production was outstanding...the set design and function, costumes, choreography, and music were outstanding. Everyone was cast perfectly. You are a credit to Missoula.”

- Missoula, MT
How To Get Involved

It has been said “happy people have access to art,” and MCT offers endless opportunities for access. Come see a children’s show or a Missoula Community Theatre production. Volunteer to usher, house-manage, stage-manage, or paint a set. Encourage your teens to join our after-school Teen Arts Group. Audition for a play. Learn technical skills such as operating a spotlight or the soundboard. Bring a residency week to your town or school. Give a scholarship to a child. Donate to your favorite program. Attend the adapted show for people on the autism spectrum. “Like” us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and Pinterest, or come to an MCT VIP Night gala. Your support makes our work possible.

MCT connections

How We Give Back

We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by how we commit and dedicate ourselves. As a nonprofit arts organization, we are honored that so many people selflessly donate time, talent, or treasure to us—we could not do our work without them. Our amazing volunteers inspire us to give back. Here are some of the ways MCT and individual employees contribute to community life:

- Give program scholarships to children
- Adapt and present productions for people living on the autism spectrum
- Collect food for Watson Children’s Shelter, YWCA Pathways, and AniMeals
- Donate residencies to Missoula-area schools
- Stage opera in partnership with the University of Montana
- Celebrate Arts in Education Week with special events
- Send our Teen Arts Group to sing in nursing homes and retirement communities
- Build a float and march in the annual University of Montana homecoming parade
- Donate tickets and other items to small nonprofits for fundraisers
- Are active on local boards
- Perform for service organizations
- Loan costumes and scenery for special events
- Speak to civic clubs
- Partner with the Missoula International School to stage touring shows partially in Spanish
- Provide and find talent for commercials, birthday parties, and other happenings around town...

among other things
MCT Vision

MCT fosters creativity and enhances innate capabilities in individuals all over the world by providing access to community-driven performing arts experiences.

MCT strives to transcend any barriers such as language, culture, financial resources, and unique needs to transform lives by actively engaging people in the arts.

MISSOULA CHILDREN’S THEATRE

The development of life skills in children through participation in the performing arts.

MISSOULA COMMUNITY THEATRE

Education, entertainment, and enrichment for all ages through the performing arts.