

Organization: The Spot Sun Valley
Project Title: Young Company Musical (*Pippin*)
Grant Amount: \$10,000

1) Objectives & Outcomes (max. 200 words)

The Spot Young Company Musical aims to inspire youth of the Wood River Valley to engage passionately and artistically in the process of bringing a piece of theater to life. For youth that want a career in the arts, or who are simply looking for a positive outlet and safe space to express themselves, we provide comprehensive training and performance opportunities that cannot be found elsewhere in the valley.

This year, we had 20 exceptionally talented participants who found confidence, camaraderie and a love for the performing arts through their experience in *Pippin*. The production itself was a wild success. We heightened our expectations, and they rose to the occasion – giving stellar focus in rehearsals and performances alike.

The largest takeaway from this year as the Director was seeing the kids who have been bullied for being Gay/Trans/‘Weird’/unconventional – who don’t necessarily fit in at their school or neighborhood – find their “tribe” of people at The Spot. As this project involves kids from across the valley and multiple high school, the teens are exposed to others with their same interests, and with a little positive reinforcement I found they excelled when they finally had the confidence to just be themselves.

2) Impact (max. 150 words) Direct from a post-show survey of the participating teens:

1. “I learned so much about myself and what I am capable of during Pippin. This project was extremely impactful because it taught me the importance of responsibility; I learned a lot about how much work goes into real, professional musicals – hard work is always rewarded.”

2. “This project was very impactful to me because I worked with people who made me feel safe and be able to be myself without being judged. Even though these things seem very simple and common, they are not really for me, so it was very impactful for me.”

3. “Acting at The Spot has definitely influenced my self-confidence. Being a teenager and an overall person in the world comes with all kinds of insecurities that acting has helped me work through. Also, I am now *fantastic* at public speaking, something I have to do at school a lot for presentations and things.”

3) Budget

Expenses	Amount requested from WRWCF	Actual Expenditures
Lighting & Sound Equipment	1,000	745
Set	2,000	2,300
Costumes/Props	1,500	900
Printing/Admin	300	560
Marketing	300	421
Performance Rights	2,500	2,610
Musicians	1,200	1,500
Music Director	1,200	1,200
TOTAL	10,000	10,236