

The Story So Far...

One of the reasons we called ourselves "Running to Places" when we began in 2007 was that we figured we would forever be homeless and nomadic. Over the course of our first decade, we did our work in any available venue that we could afford. We developed a model to use theatre as the means to develop young people into the best versions of themselves through the practice of essential life skills that come along with putting on a show. We made participation in R2P entirely FREE, so that the doors were open to everyone. We worked to become a stable and fiscally healthy organization to ensure that we would be around for all the kids still to come.

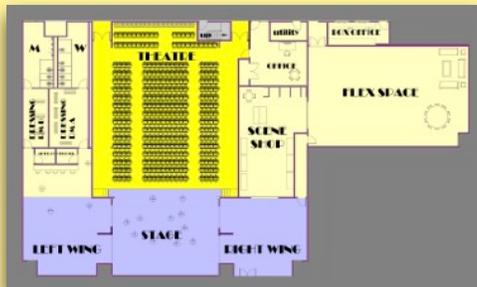
However, as we now begin our second decade, we believe it is time to spend less time "running." If we spent less time chasing down venues and trucking scenery across the county, we could focus on our mission of serving the young people of our community. **It's time for us to settle down.** The question, then: What could this home be?

The Dream:

So, we know we're not talking about building a two-million dollar theatre from scratch. Let's start by...

- Finding an existing space that's ripe and ready for reimagining...
- It should be somewhere that kids and families already know and that they easily can get to from all over...
- We're a youth community theatre, so finding something that fits our identity would be ideal...
- Naturally, it has to be achievable financially and logistically...
- Bonus points if creating this new theatre could help out other community organizations and the local economy itself...

Guess what? We checked all those boxes and more!
We're going to build a theatre in the mall!



The Plan:

Remember the original movie theaters at the mall? They're still there! Hiding in plain sight between Best Buy and the former Sears entrance are black boxes bristling with potential. R2P will rent a portion of the multiplex and renovate it to feature a **340-seat auditorium, rehearsal room, scene shop, costume storage area, dressing rooms, box office, and business office** - moving all of our operations under one roof. And most importantly, we'll be able to offer more opportunities to more teens than ever before possible!



R2P will maintain our five-show season, but we'll be able to run them longer, over multiple weekends, to better serve both our kids and our audiences. We'll bring along much-needed traffic to our mall contributing to the stability and longevity of that anchor of the Tompkins County.

And in between the runs of our shows? For starters, our fellow community groups have already expressed great interest in the space for performances, rehearsals, storage, meetings, and more. Also, our own kids will now have a laboratory and playground of their very own. Student-directed pieces, garage band concerts, in-depth technical trainings, master classes by guest artists, experimental projects, and countless ideas yet to be born - the sky's the limit! And all the while, **we'll be upholding our promise to keep participation in R2P entirely free.**

Running to Places Theatre Company is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
Photographs © George Cannon

How It's Possible:

Making our home at the old movie complex is achievable in part because it already is a theatre! Unlike other "found space" conversions, the room is already light and sound proof, has sloped floors, and even has a manager's booth overlooking the hall. The facility still has fully-functioning HVAC, sprinklers, bathrooms, and power - plus an asset of infinite value: ample free nearby well-lit security-patrolled parking! Don't drive? No problem - the mall is served by four TCAT lines. **The rent we have negotiated is reasonable and affordable for us.**

Additionally, **we have a lot of what we need already in hand** thanks to the generosity and resourcefulness of our immediate R2P community, including a basic but versatile lighting and sound package will be long-term loaned to us by our resident designers. All of the architectural work for the renovation is being done pro-bono by R2P board members The Architects Drew. The project will be managed by Jerry Dietz and C.S.P. Management, who have been the wind in our sails from the very beginning. Also on board to advise us is KTC's recently retired Artistic Director Rachel Lampert, who previously partnered with Jerry Dietz to shepherd the new Kitchen into existence.

What's Next:

Our goal is to raise \$150,000 by the end of the summer. The Shops at Ithaca Mall has offered to give us September and October rent-free to transform the space into our new home. Our goal is to wrap up construction and renovations in November. Can you imagine the scores of hard-working teens opening our 2019 Season in our new home?

How You Can Help:

Gifts of any size will get us closer to our new home. We will be selling seats and there are many naming opportunities. Please contact Joey Steinhagen at joey@runningtoplaces.org or 607-216-8750 to learn more and hear about donor recognition. You can make a contribution securely at www.runningtoplaces.org. Checks payable to "Running to Places" may be mailed to 1013 West State St., Ithaca NY 14850. Please note "R2P Running Home Fund" in the memo section.

On behalf of all of young people we serve -

THANK YOU!

We create theatre.

Running to Places (R2P) is a youth community theatre company that brings together middle & high school students from across the area. We rehearse and perform a complete season of fully-staged productions, reaching an audience



of over 5,000 annually. By working with experienced mentors, company members learn best practices in a wide range of disciplines within the theatrical arts – from singing, acting, and dancing to lighting, sound, scenery, costumes, props, choreography, and stage management.

We tear down barriers.



Thanks to support from our community, **participation in R2P is FREE.** We have eliminated barriers to entry to keep our doors open to any interested young person, providing equitable opportunities for all.

Everyone who auditions is offered a place in a show — no one is ever “cut” or excluded. Our welcoming community connects teens and families from across Tompkins County and beyond. They forge lasting friendships with people they otherwise would never have met.

We empower youth.

We're in the business of youth development, helping raise our community's children and making excellent theatre in the process. We teach them life skills with theatre as both the means and the end. We provide a supportive environment for young people to grow as artists and citizens of the world. By treating youth with respect and nurturing them as artists, members of a community, and the future leaders of our society, we set the stage for them to become the best versions of themselves – for life!



Our Mission:

Running to Places is a youth theatre company, fostering a safe and supportive community which provides opportunities for the development of life skills to all interested youth through theatre.

Who's Who at R2P

Founder/Artistic & Resident Director
Joey Steinhagen

Board of Directors
James Drew, President

Dick Furnas, VP/
Treasurer

Deborah Drew,
Secretary

Heidi Goldstein

Kati Torello

Lilly Westbrook

Ex-Officio:

Jerry Dietz

Jack Goldstein

Linda Harris

Finance Manager
Virginia Marques

Resident Artists:

Music Director
Jeremy Pletter

Scenic Designer
Deborah Drew

Lighting Designer
Natty Simson

Costume Designer
Liz Woods

Props Master
Janet Olsen

Technical Director
James Drew

YOUNG PEOPLE WHO DO THEATRE LEARN:

- to work well under pressure with a deadline they can't move,
- to improvise when the unexpected happens,
- to take and assimilate direction quickly and graciously,
- to excel as individuals while contributing to an ensemble effort,
- to be confident in front of groups,
- to exercise their bodies and imaginations,
- and to connect deeply with people outside of their everyday experience.



RUNNING to PLACES THEATRE COMPANY

Community through Artistry

1013 West State/MLK Jr. Street Ithaca, NY 14850
call/text: 607-216-8750 info@runningtoplaces.org
www.runningtoplaces.org



R2P is Running Home

After more than 10 years on the road, it's time for R2P to settle down.

We have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to create a permanent theatre of our own.

Will you please help?

