

**elephant ensemble theater**  
*sponsorship proposal 2008*



*Bringing the art of theater, collaboration, education, and laughter to New York City hospitals*

## **elephant ensemble theater – a brief overview**

- **Elephant Ensemble Theater is a not-for-profit organization that brings theatrical performances to children in New York City hospitals.**
  - What differentiates Elephant Ensemble from similar organizations is its commitment to seek out hospitals which do not have the funding to provide on-going programs for their kids. Elephant Ensemble is dedicated to providing performances and programs for kids that are positive, uplifting, and educational.
- **Elephant Ensemble Theater provides these services completely free of charge, and is currently funded through small private donations, relying a great deal on the volunteerism of its actors and participants.**
- **Since its inception in 2006, Elephant Ensemble has assembled a company of award-winning professionals with experience working with children and children's theater.**



## elephant ensemble theater – “thumbelina” 2007/8

*Thumbelina: The Story of a Brave Little Girl* was written especially for kids in hospitals, emphasizing themes of friendship, family, and the power of hope.



*Thumbelina (Mollie Lohinski) meets a Spider (Rick Plaucher) in the woods at the Mt. Sinai KidZone TV Production, October 2007.  
(Right) Thumbelina's greeted by a Funny Bug (Christopher Van Jura) on his way to work at Montefiore Children's Hospital, March 2008.*



## our mission

- To provide face-to-face theatrical performances for children in hospitals, seeking out those that do not have the resources for such programming.
- We provide interactive programs for kids in hospitals, such as a clowning/music workshop.
  - Elephant Ensemble believes in trying to lift the spirits of these children whenever possible.
- We also emphasize to the children, through collaboration, that they are not alone, that people in the outside world acknowledge their struggles. And allow them, in spite of their circumstances, just to be kids.





Journalist Indu Nepal with the 2008 cast of Thumbelina.



# sponsorship proposal

- **The performance costume for the Elephant actors is their Elephant t-shirt, accessorized with costume pieces to represent different characters.**
  - The back of the shirt bears the logo of Elephant's sponsors, seen by hospital professionals, staff, parents, and patients.
- **In 2008, Elephant Ensemble estimates it will perform at 12 hospitals across New York City, with an average of 2 performances a month.**
- **Sponsors in 2008 can be assured that they will benefit greatly from increased performance and activities schedule.**
- **What you'll get out of it?**
  - Logo Placement on our website, t-shirts, and all advertising, and inclusion in all pr materials and press releases, as well as the satisfaction of making a huge difference in children's lives.



*How would an association with Elephant Ensemble affect your company's profile?*



## elephant ensemble theater is tax deductible

Elephant Ensemble Theater is tax deductible  
through sponsorship from The Field.

*The Field is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization serving the New York City performing arts community. Contributions made to The Field and earmarked for Elephant Ensemble Theater are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information about The Field contact: The Field, 161 6th Avenue, New York NY 10013, (212)691-6969, fax: (212)255-2053, [www.thefield.org](http://www.thefield.org). A copy of The Field's latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from The Field or from the Office of the Attorney General Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.*



## how we spend our funds

- **100% of donations received from the general public have gone towards the expense of building the shows for the children.**
  - This includes costumes, actors' travel expenses, and administrative costs for the current volunteer staff.
- **To date, Elephant Ensemble has forged relationships with Mt. Sinai Children's Hospital, Brooklyn Hospital, The Ronald McDonald House of Long Island, and Montefiore Children's Hospital in the Bronx, to name a few.**
- **Our goal is to enhance the daily life of the children who reside in New York City hospitals.**



# where greater funding will take us...

*Elephant Ensemble believes  
that laughter, music, and education  
are the best medicines for children.*

## *Be A Clown Workshop*

In our clowning workshop, children learn the essence of how to make each other laugh, every day. Ensemble member Mollie Lohinski has attended clown training in the US and Europe, and has performed clowning routines since her teenage years. Her workshop is interactive, for kids of all ages, and focuses on how to laugh, how to tell a joke, and how to smile at the trials of life.

## *Elephant Musician in Residence*

Elephant Ensemble is pleased to welcome published songwriter Mark W. Evans. Mark has developed two programs for kids, depending on which suits a particular hospital. The first is an hour-long songwriting workshop, where he writes a cheerful, simple song with the children to a well-known tune. The second is as a roaming musician, from room-to-room, where he serenades the kids with some happy stock favorites.

## *Educational Theater*

*The Story of Sacagawea* tells the story of the brave Native American girl who led Lewis and Clark through their Northwest expedition. The message of this historically-based, audience-interactive play teaches kids about the power young people have, even in the face of adversity.



**“Christine and I started Elephant Ensemble when we were working office jobs and hoping to put our theater training to good use. I cashed in my pension so that we could have initial funds, and every free moment we had was spent developing programs for kids that could make a difference.”**

*Liza Lentini, Creative Director of Elephant Ensemble Theater*



## summary

- Elephant Ensemble Theater is a New York City-based company that brings free programs and performances to children in hospitals.
- Our services are appreciated by hospital professionals as well as children, as Elephant researches the hospitals in need, making the process as easy for them as possible.
- With more funding, Elephant could have more programs and greater outreach.
- Sponsors' names and logos are prominently featured on everything Elephant – t-shirts, website, promotional and public relations materials, and advertising.



## testimonials

*Thumbelina* was selected as the key performance at National Love Our Children Day, a premiere New York City event to promote the fight against child abuse.

“The words selfless, giving and talented come to mind when I think of the Elephant Ensemble Theater. This group donates their talent to children in New York City hospitals who would otherwise be focused on their illness and their hospital experience – neither of which is pleasant. Bringing a message and a fun escape to these kids is a gift that goes beyond unwrapping. Kudos to the Elephant Ensemble Theater for their work and their caring.”

*Ross Ellis*

Founder and Chief Executive Officer  
Love Our Children USA





**thank you for supporting new york city's children**

[info@elephanttheater.com](mailto:info@elephanttheater.com)

212 252 4742

[elephanttheater.com](http://elephanttheater.com)