To accomplish our mission, New Village Arts produces full seasons of mainstage productions, and has done so for the past 17 years in the City of Carlsbad with award-winning actors, designers and directors. To date, New Village has received over 20 Critics Circle Awards honoring the work done on NVA’s mainstage and regularly receives “Critics Choice” designations from leading reviewers. Surrounding these productions, NVA hosts talkback discussions and other supplementary events designed to create conversation and cultivate community based on the themes of our productions. We also maintain The Foundry Artist Studios, a collaborative studio space for local visual artists, and we offer robust theatre programs in partnership with local schools. This year, NVA launched Monday Night Live!, a theatre program for young adults with special needs, and will also begin programming Mindful Theatre, improvisation and acting classes for seniors focused on increasing brain activity through performance to combat the effects of Alzheimer’s and dementia. In Season 17, NVA will also launch its bilingual Teatro Pueblo Nuevo program, working with North County’s Spanish-speaking communities. NVA exists to serve its community and has been embedded in the social and cultural structures of Carlsbad since opening its doors in 2001. NVA has been fortunate to receive support from the City of Carlsbad and other local corporations, who recognize the importance of a resident professional theatre company as a crucial component of an inclusive and creative community. We, in turn, prioritize serving our community by presenting works that respect the diversity surrounding us, engaging every citizen with relevant and inspiring stories.
It is with great pride that we present the annual report for the sixteenth season of New Village Arts. This season brought NVA great critical success, saw our staff and education programs grow, and saw improvements to our space that our audiences and community partners have enjoyed all season long.

In June and July of 2016, NVA embarked upon the biggest renovation to our theatre space since we moved into our current location 10 years ago. With a Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant from County of San Diego Board of Supervisors member Bill Horn, we were able to install donated seats from the City of Carlsbad’s Schulman Auditorium, update our lighting and sound booth, and upgrade several key technical elements of our theatre operations. Many patrons have shared their appreciation of the updates and our individual donations rose significantly with a Seat Naming Campaign in the fall.

While theatre is the main focus of the company, NVA has an expansive series of education and outreach programs to serve all members of the community. We have been providing professional theatre experiences in the local high schools for over a decade. With the latest program, VERBITAS, students chose a topic relevant to their lives that they wanted to explore through theatre. They then conducted interviews in the community to deepen their understanding of the topic, and under the guidance of NVA’s professional teaching artists, they put the interviews together into a performance inspired by actual people and real events. This documentary theatre program was run at Sage Creek High School and the Army and Navy Academy this year, and is expanding into El Camino High School in the Fall.

A program born out of our weekly KIDS ACT camps for children from 4 – 16, MONDAY NIGHT LIVE! was created last year for teenagers with special needs. The program was expanded into a full production of THE LITTLE PRINCE in July. This production, sponsored by the National Foundation for Autism Research, the Nordson Foundation, Centre ARTES at Cal State San Marcos and the City of Carlsbad Arts Office, was a fantastic collaboration between professional designers, directors, actors, musicians, the students and their neuro-typical peers, and was performed at the Dove Library to enthusiastic crowds.

NVA received a record eight nominations for the San Diego Theatre Critics Guild Circle Craig Noel Awards this season. Rosina Reynolds won for Outstanding Actress for her portrayal of the title role in God of Carnage. Tim Fouch won for Outstanding Actor for his portrayal of你能在大象河口看到最壮观的瀑布，那是在中国关山市的雨林瀑布国家公园，整个公园面积有75平方公里，森林覆盖率超过80%。整个瀑布群由20多个大小不一的瀑布组成，其中最大的瀑布落差达到50多米，瀑布气势恢宏，令人震撼。整个公园内植被茂盛，空气中弥漫着清新的空气，是游客喜爱的避暑胜地。公园内还建有步道，游客可以近距离观赏瀑布。整个公园是中国雨林梯田的典型代表，是雨林生态系统研究的理想之地。
NVA kicked off its Sixteenth Season -- an exploration of The American Experience -- with the quintessential American musical, celebrating the many diverse voices that have harmonized throughout history to make America what it is today. First-time NVA director Teddy Eck brought a fresh, millennial perspective to this familiar show, with bold and innovative casting choices, unique character interpretations, and a talented, exuberant cast and crew. Audiences loved this fresh take on OKLAHOMA!, and the production attracted many new patrons while garnering unanimously glowing reviews from critics. OKLAHOMA! also saw NVA’s outreach and marketing efforts reach new heights. The cast appeared on Tonight in San Diego, San Diego’s premiere late-night talk show, engaged in fun and unique “flash mob” style performances in North County, and staged an “Instagram Takeover” on NVA’s social media pages to promote the show. With many sold-out performances and rave reviews, OKLAHOMA! set a new standard for NVA’s musical performances.

NVA continued its exploration of The American Experience with GOD OF CARNAGE, the Tony-winning comedy of bad manners. Pitting two warring sets of parents against each other during the tumultuous 2016 election season proved to make this production particularly resonant and thought-provoking. The San Diego Union-Tribune described the show as “a primal, projected expression of our national teeth-baring free-for-all.” Featuring an all-star cast of NVA veterans and a seasoned production team, GOD OF CARNAGE was an artistic, provocative display of acting and design that received overwhelming praise from critics. The production also featured two talkbacks from local scholars on the role of civil discourse in contemporary American society -- a particularly potent theme during election season -- giving audiences a chance to engage critically with this unique modern comedy.

"FRESH, SPIRITED, AND FUNNY! IT’S AN ‘OKLAHOMA!’ FOR TODAY!"
- PAM Kragen, The San Diego Union-Tribune

"STRIKING AND INGENIOUS... A RAW AND TIMELY COMEDY!"
- JAMES HEBERT, THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE
The 1940s Radio Hour

Written by Walton Jones
Directed by Dana Case
Music direction by Tony Houck
December 1 - 31, 2016

A dab of sentimentality, a dollop of nostalgia, & a heaping spoonful of humor and holiday cheer...
THE 1940s RADIO HOUR COOKS UP A BUCKET OF WARM FEELINGS!

-Pat Launer, Jazz 88.3

After its resoundingly successful run during the 2015 holiday season, NVA brought audiences back to WOV -- the little radio station that could -- for a warm and inviting musical treat. Featuring much of the original cast, plus some new faces, an additional musician, and brand new musical arrangements. THE 1940s RADIO HOUR was a touching tribute to the men and women in uniform who serve our country, and a celebration of the timeless music of the era. Critics and audiences alike praised this remounted production, with many sold-out performances, and consistent guest comments that it was even better than the previous year.

NVA engaged with our community and broadened our scope with a mailing campaign and advertisements throughout greater San Diego, attracting our greatest ratio of first-time patrons for this festive holiday treat. The production also featured a successful small donor campaign to support our education and outreach programs.

An Iliad

Written by Lisa Peterson & Denis O’Hare
Adapted from Homer’s Iliad
translated by Robert Eagles
Directed by Jacole Kitchen
January 27 - February 26, 2017

"Powerful and gripping... Linda Libby gives a fascinating, tour de force performance!"
- Pam Koster, The San Diego Union Tribune

NVA continued the season’s thematic exploration of The American Experience by condensing Homer’s epic tale of warriors and their sacrifices into ninety “relentless, compelling, and devastating” minutes (Charlene Baldridge, Theatre Critic). Linda Libby received universal praise for her stunning, humorous, and heartbreaking performance (underscored by Gunnar Biggs on bass), while Jacole Kitchen made an indelible mark on San Diego theatre with her professional directorial debut.

Partnering with Justin Hudnall and So Say We All, a local spoken-word and writing organization, New Village Arts sought to explore the haunting true stories of war from local veterans. In collaboration with So Say We All’s Incoming veteran writing program, NVA proudly presented the true stories of veterans returning to civilian life through our lobby display and a moving performance by three Incoming writers, which took place after the final performance of An Iliad.

91% of audience members rated the show as “very good” or “one of the best.”
45% of patrons attending were first-time visitors.
NVA concluded its season-long exploration of *The American Experience* with the true stories of centenarian sisters Bessie and Sadie Delany, who invited audiences into their living room for a home-cooked meal and the true stories of the last century. The daughters of a former slave, their lives took them through Restoration, the Jim Crow era, the Civil Rights movements of the 1960s, through the end of the 20th century. Heartwarming, provocative, and funny, *Having Our Say* was a smash success with audiences and critics alike, who praised Milena (Sellers) Phillips and Sylvia M’Lafi Thompson for their sparkling performances, under the inspired direction of Melissa Coleman-Reed in her directorial debut.

NVA brought *The American Experience* to life with the San Diego professional theatre premiere of an American classic. NVA’s past success with Odets’ work inspired this acclaimed revival, which focuses on the struggles of a lower-middle class Jewish immigrant family during the Great Depression. As each member yearns for their version of the American Dream, loyalties and relationships are tested. Executive Artistic Director Kristianne Kurner directed the production using the same methods and practices originally employed by Odets and the Group Theatre in the 1930s.

During the run of *Awake & Sing!*, NVA invited several experts in various fields to give lectures and talkbacks on the various themes and subjects pertinent to this piece, as a part of the ongoing efforts to create a forum for discussion and deeper thinking within our community. A critical success and a timely reflection on immigrants in America, *Awake & Sing!* continued the season’s provocative reflection on contemporary America while bringing a classic piece of American theatre to San Diego audiences for the first time.
New Village Arts has continued its relationship with Aleta Barthell and Kids Act. Offering acting, improvisation, and performance camps and classes throughout the year, Kids Act gives young art lovers ages 4 - 17 the opportunity to create unique and exciting theatrical experiences in a variety of formats. During Season Sixteen, Kids Act served over 160 students, with 12 unique camps and courses throughout the season.

MONDAY NIGHT LIVE!
NVA teaching artist Samantha Ginn transformed her Mondays with Sammie improvisation class into Monday Night Live! This improv program is designed for teenagers with autism and other special needs. The success of Monday Night Live! has prompted NVA’s education programs to expand and engage with our diverse community of young people. NVA has also brought students from Monday Night Live! to assist as interns and to receive specialized training in arts administration, and students have acted as liaisons for NVA in the community and at special events.

PETER PAN
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CARLSBAD
Through a partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Carlsbad, teaching artists Avery Henderson and Kelly Derouin developed a youth production of Peter Pan. This production worked with the mission and goals of the BGCC and NVA to provide an inspiring and inclusive arts experience for the community, while celebrating the joys of childhood, friendship, and imagination.

In collaboration with Kids Act, New Village Arts produced The Little Prince in July 2017. This unique production paired teenagers with autism and other special needs with neurotypical peers in a celebration of imagination and creativity. Using a new adaptation by Kids Act founder and teacher Aleta Barthell and directed by Monday Night Live! director and frequent NVA collaborator Samantha Ginn, the celebrated all-ages classic by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry gained new life by allowing the young actors to help shape the story to their lives and experiences.

James Hebert of the San Diego Union-Tribune wrote of The Little Prince, “Its feel was magical and its spirit uplifting... And the show’s whimsical storyline--of visits to various planets where difference is not always understood or appreciated--seemed an inspired fit for the journeys of many of these teens’ real lives.”

The Little Prince was supported by a grant from the City of Carlsbad, as well as from the National Foundation for Autism Research, The Nordson Foundation, Center ARTES at Cal State San Marcos, and The Dr. Carol Channing and Harry Kullijian Endowment for the Arts, and was presented at The Dove Library’s Schulman Auditorium.

“Love is invisible to the eye. What is essential must be felt through the heart.”
THEATRE IN THE SCHOOLS

Throughout Season Sixteen, NVA continued to develop its relationships with local high schools by developing new and innovative programming that reflected the lives and experiences of students, while refining and expanding upon existing education programming and developing new programming for the upcoming academic year.

UNTOLD
A VERBITAS THEATRE PROGRAM

Teaching Artist Blake McCarty developed and implemented NVA’s newest educational program, Verbitas Theatre, at Sage Creek High School. Students conducted interviews with individuals regarding their experiences with depression, anxiety, addiction, gender identity, sexuality, and more, and used those interviews to tell the true story of the mental health crisis in America, where it is estimated that one in every four people struggle with some form of mental illness. NVA’s newest staff member, Nadia Guevara, assisted in the development of this program, which was presented at the Carlsbad Cultural Arts Center in March.

TRUE VALOR
A VERBITAS THEATRE PROGRAM

In another extension of the Verbitas program, NVA teaching artists Blake McCarty, along with Anna Rebek, Tiffany Tang, and Erica Rothman, worked with the cadets of the Army & Navy Academy to develop a documentary theatre piece about veterans’ experiences both during wartime as well as in returning to civilian life. After conducting interviews with local veterans and their families, the ANA cadets transformed their stories into a powerful and moving portrait of the true cost of service.

ROMEO & JULIET
PRESENTED WITH THE SAGE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA AND AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENTS

NVA continued its Shakespeare in Schools programming in Season Sixteen, partnering once more with Sage Creek High School to produce a full production of Romeo & Juliet, directed by NVA’s Director of Connectivity, AJ Knox. Students worked closely with representatives from the SCHS American Sign Language Department to integrate ASL accessibility into Shakespeare’s timeless classic.

From the Students:

“Having a director from NVA... was a great learning experience... I was also pushed farther than I thought I could possibly go as an actor and learned just how to push myself.”

“This was my third experience with NVA’s Shakespeare Unit. I have thoroughly enjoyed it each year and I have been able to grow so much.

“I’ve had an excellent time working with NVA and hope that NVA will continue to work with Sage Creek High School!”

POST-SHOW TALKBACKS
AFTER EVERY SUNDAY MATINEE

New Village Arts continues its mission goal of being a forum for laughter, discussion, and deeper thinking within our community by providing talkbacks with cast and crew members following each Sunday matinee. These events are free to the public and open to all. With Season Sixteen’s theme of “The American Experience,” talkbacks became opportunities to explore how each play reflects some part of that experience. Talkbacks are also interactive, and became an opportunity for our audiences to reflect upon the role of theatre in facilitating social and cultural dialogues.

LECTURE SERIES
CELEBRATING THE STORIES BEHIND SEASON SIXTEEN’S PLAYS

Throughout Season Sixteen, NVA brought experts in various fields to deliver lecture series based on the themes, ideas, and histories behind the plays. From the history of Clifford Odets and the birth of American Modernism, to the role of Civil Discourse in political and personal spheres, NVA’s lecture series gave audiences the opportunity to enhance their arts experience thanks to the expertise of local, renowned educators, historians, and theatre artists.

INCOMING
TRUE STORIES FROM LOCAL VETERANS PRESENTED BY SO SAY WE ALL

To conclude the run of An Iliad, NVA collaborated with Justin Hudnall and So Say We All, San Diego’s premiere writing and spoken-word organization, to present an evening of readings from So Say We All’s veteran writing program, Incoming. Three veterans presented their true stories of coming home from war and transitioning to civilian life following the final performance of An Iliad. The lobby display for An Iliad also featured excerpts from Incoming’s published collection of true stories.

Pictured (right) are the participants of this powerful and provocative event: Francisco Martinezcuello, Tenley Lozano (and her Service Dog, Elu), Justin Hudnall, and Kurt Kalbfleisch.

SURROUND EVENTS AND COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

To conclude the run of An Iliad, NVA collaborated with Justin Hudnall and So Say We All, San Diego’s premiere writing and spoken-word organization, to present an evening of readings from So Say We All’s veteran writing program, Incoming. Three veterans presented their true stories of coming home from war and transitioning to civilian life following the final performance of An Iliad. The lobby display for An Iliad also featured excerpts from Incoming’s published collection of true stories.

Pictured (right) are the participants of this powerful and provocative event: Francisco Martinezcuello, Tenley Lozano (and her Service Dog, Elu), Justin Hudnall, and Kurt Kalbfleisch.
NVA’s 2017 Annual Gala was its most successful to date. With record-breaking attendance and more funds raised than in any of NVA’s past galas, this 1950s-themed evening of romance, music, and generosity was an unforgettable affair for all involved.

NVA honored The City of Carlsbad, which in turn dedicated February 11 as “New Village Arts Day.” NVA also honored Carlton and Sandy Lund for their many contributions to arts and culture in North County San Diego.

The evening featured music by the Amber Foxx Band, and was emceed by comedian and NVA performer Dallas McLaughlin.

In Season Sixteen, The Foundry Artist Studios grew to be more prominent than ever as an integral part of New Village Arts’ full arts experience. The Foundry gained a new artist, and improvements were made to the space to improve visibility and enhance The Foundry’s curb appeal.

NVA also employed two Foundry artists as properties designers for *God of Carnage*, marking the first time Foundry artists contributed their unique vision to a mainstage production.

The Foundry Artists continued their regular monthly Artist Receptions, featuring live music from talented local musicians. These receptions constitute a free public forum for the community to celebrate the arts and participate in interactive art-making. For each of the six main theatre productions, the Artists also curated exhibits to hang in the lobby of the theatre, in conversation with the work on stage.

Totals:
482 Patrons
$7,657.51 paid out to artists
2017 ANNUAL GALA
NVA’s most successful Gala to date, raising over $57,000—a 40% increase over 2016!

NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT GRANT
NVA received over $32,000 from the Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant which allowed for a complete renovation of our theatre interior and sound booth.

CRITIC’S CHOICE!
Four productions were designated as Critic’s Choice by The San Diego Union-Tribune.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT
NVA added Tiffany Tang (Communications Specialist) and Nadia Guevara (Associate Artistic Director) to its administrative staff and hired new Front of House staff, interns, and teaching artists.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Added three new board members to NVA’s Board of Directors.

SUPPORTING OUR VILLAGE
50% of patrons (that’s over 6,000) shopped and dined in Carlsbad Village during their visit. Popular restaurants include Campfire, Hennessey’s, Vigilucci’s, and Garcia’s.

SAN DIEGO THEATRE CRITICS CIRCLE
NVA received a record eight nominations for actors and directors in the 2016 San Diego Theatre Critics Circle. One actor award—Vincent Laresca—won three performances winning awards for their work at NVA.

SPENDING IS DOWN, EARNINGS ARE UP
Fundraising and Development spending is down and contributed revenue is up; NVA’s ratio of spend to earn went from approximately 1:4 to 1:10.

FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT

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Expenditures

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MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS

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MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS

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STAFF

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