

MTV
arts

The JJ Project



Making dreams reality!

The JJ Project...

...Fulfilling our mission, realizing a dream.

Rare is the 11-year-old whose biggest dream in life is to direct a theatrical production. Get to know JJ House, though, and it is easy to see why such an uncommon desire perfectly suits this unique boy.

His zeal for life twinkles in his dark eyes. His passion for theatre radiates through his bright smile during a live show - whether in the audience or on stage. His personality is so infectious, it is impossible to fathom how so much energy is confined to a wheelchair.

However, The JJ Project is not merely about granting a childhood wish. Neither is it solely about overcoming disabilities. It is about how one boy's hope and cour-

age can inspire the community. That is why MTVarts needs your help to make JJ's dream a reality in September 2013.

With supervision from veteran director Bruce Jacklin, JJ will manage all aspects of a production of the musical "How I Became a Pirate." He will approve to his production staff children who have previously been involved with MTVarts, where they will be mentored by MTVarts' volunteers; he will oversee auditions for Jeremy Jacob, the lead character; and he will guide the actors through the rehearsal process. Then, JJ will fulfill a dream that began four years ago and present his show to the entire community on the Knox County Memorial Theatre stage.



Attending MTVarts' 2009 production of "The Wizard of Oz" ignited JJ's incredible love of live theatre. Afterward, he began directing shows in his bedroom using a cast of stuffed animals with cotton swabs as microphones.

In 2011, JJ's cousin, MTVarts Vice President and People First of Ohio Executive Director Sadie Hunter, suggested he pursue his passion and audition for MTVarts' "Cinderella." Worried his need of a wheelchair would preclude him from being cast in the show, JJ was hesitant about the idea. Sadie convinced him to try and he earned a part on the strength of his audition.

JJ loved performing and overcame all obstacles he faced due to the limited accessibility of the stage. He invested himself completely in the show and became a favorite among his fellow cast members and the entire MTVarts organization because of his enthusiasm for theatre and life.

"The summer of 2011 was the greatest time JJ has had in his life so far," his mother, Sharon, said. "He will never forget the cast of 'Cinderella' and the friends he made."

When the performances ended, the realization of JJ's dream began. He told MTVarts he would someday like to "direct a show like Mr. Jacklin," planting the seed that blossomed into The JJ Project. **Read more of JJ's story online:** www.mtvarts.com



Born April 3, 2002, with 36 broken bones, Jarrell Jatice Wilkerson was diagnosed with Osteogenesis Imperfecta (brittle bone disease). Doctors at OSU told his 14-year-old biological mother he wouldn't live through the night. Jarrell defied the prognosis and survived a month in the hospital.

He was placed in a foster home where he received the nickname "JJ."

Sharon House, a nurse in the home, quickly became attached to him and she and her husband Ray petitioned to adopt JJ in 2005. Three years later, he became their son.

"JJ is such a blessing and a wonderful addition to our family that we couldn't imagine our lives without him. He is that special," Sharon said. "Our wish is for JJ to live a long a blessed life doing the things he loves."

JJ and MTVarts

A young boy with dark skin and curly hair is sitting in a black wheelchair on a stage. He is wearing a black t-shirt with a red and blue graphic, grey shorts, and black and white sneakers. He is holding a large, open book and looking down at it. The background is a red curtain.

The JJ Project



A production of
"How I Became a
Pirate," the musical,
directed by
JJ House

September
27-28

Knox County
Memorial Theatre
Mount Vernon, OH

"How I Became a Pirate"

Book, music and lyrics by
JANET YATES VOGT
AND MARK FRIEDMAN.

*"It's a story of hope
and courage...
a story that must
be told."*

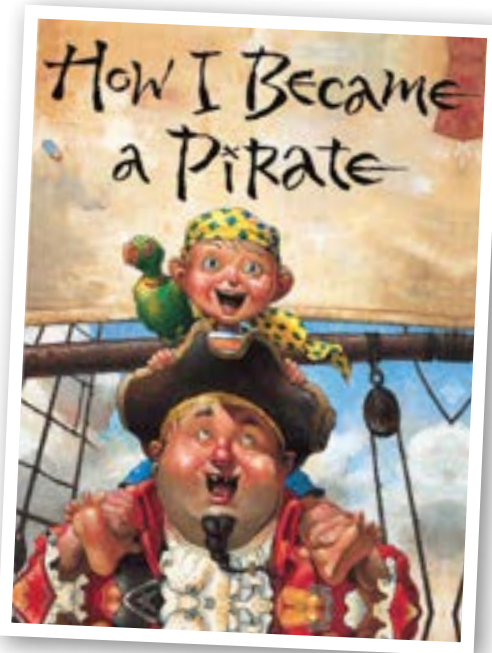
Dreams become reality when someone believes!

MTVarts will manage the theatrical
production. Funding will come from
private and corporate donations
and tickets sales.

www.mtvarts.com

People First of Ohio will partner with
I-CONN Video Production to produce
a documentary film. Funding will come
from private and public sources.

www.thejjproject.org



Yes...

You can help make JJ's dream a reality in several ways - donate financially, bring friends to come see the show in September, and spread the word about this important project.

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|---|---|
| ☐ Friends of MTVarts \$25-199 | ☐ Friends of MTVarts \$1,000-2,499 |
| ☐ Friends of MTVarts \$200-499 | ☐ Director's Chair \$2,500-4,999 |
| ☐ Friends of MTVarts \$500-749 | ☐ Producer's Circle \$5,000+ |
| ☐ Friends of MTVarts \$750-999 | |

**Donate online at www.mtvarts.com or mail your check to:
MTVarts Inc., 1558 Coshocton Avenue, PMB 168, Mount Vernon, OH 43050**

MTVarts is a 509 (a)(2) non-profit organization granted 501(c)3 tax-exempt status.

Your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law.

For more information visit our website, call us at 740-358-0168,
or email producer@mtvarts.com

A close-up, warm-toned photograph of a child's head and shoulders in profile, looking down at an open book. The child has dark, curly hair. The book is held open by a hand on the right. The right page shows the title 'How I Became a Pirate' in a handwritten-style font, with authors 'Melinda Long' and 'David Shannon' below it. The illustration depicts a young boy with a wide, happy smile, wearing a yellow and black polka-dot pirate hat and a dark vest over a light shirt. He is standing on a wooden ship's deck. The background of the illustration is a warm, orange-brown color. The left page of the book is blank and white. The overall lighting is soft and warm, creating a cozy atmosphere.

I will help make JJ's dream reality!



Who We Are

MTVarts is an audience-driven, non-profit theatre organization comprised completely of volunteers. We desire to bring top-quality, affordable, family entertainment to our community.

What We Do

- Promote performing arts activities through www.mtvarts.com
- Create a family-oriented summer musical
- Perform educational outreach through The Classic Series
- Establish partnerships with Bruce Jacklin & Company, Orange Barrel Production Company, Right Brain Productions, People First of Ohio and others.

Our Mission

We will inspire our community to dream, give them the courage to pursue those dreams, and instill the confidence that comes from acquiring the necessary skills to fulfill.



Connect with us on Facebook:
facebook.com/mtvarts

Use a QR code reader
to visit our website



Our dreams are as diverse as those who make up our all-volunteer organization. Which of those dreams we attain depends on the passion and support of our volunteers, audiences, and donors.



It is about how one boy's hope and courage can inspire the community.

Get to know JJ House, and you will soon see why MTVarts made his dream a reality.

Attending the Gala

Come yourself...

Single ticket \$75

...With your first mate...

Pair of tickets \$100

...or bring the whole crew!

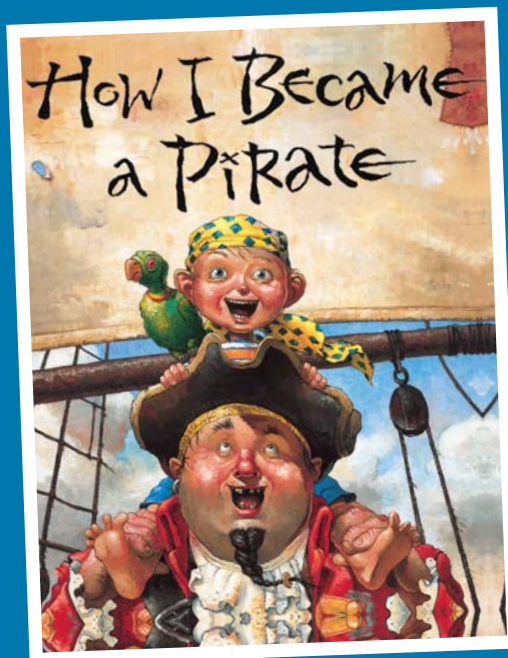
8 tickets, plus a special
Booty Bonus \$400

For Gala tickets, please visit
First-Knox National Bank main office
or Coshocton Avenue office,
or email scott@mtvarts.com.

Limited number of seats available.
Make your reservations today!
More details at mtvarts.com.

MTV arts

Invites You to a Gala Reception
in Support of



The JJ Project

Directed by
JJ House

Friday, September 27, 2013

Curtain 7:30 p.m. at the
Knox County Memorial Theatre

Gala immediately following at the:

Mount Vernon Country Club
8927 Martinsburg Road
Mount Vernon, Ohio

Pirate Privileges

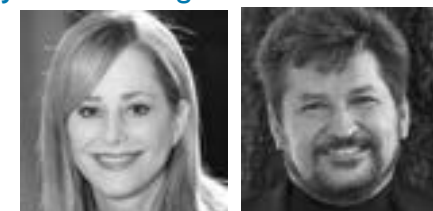
Gala tickets include...

- PREMIER seating for the opening night production of "How I Became a Pirate."
- An after-show reception at the Mount Vernon Country Club, including hors d'oeuvres, champagne toast and a cash bar (sorry, no credit cards accepted).
- An opportunity to meet JJ, "The Crew," and the pirate cast.

Plus...

Meet our Special Guests

Composer, Lyricist and Playwright team,
Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman



Theatrical Rights Worldwide,
Fred Stuart, Director of Marketing



"How I Became a Pirate" Director
JJ House

