

## *Spotlight on Youth*



Students attending a Student Matinee at the Martha Cohen Theatre.

The Calgary Foundation (TCF) and Alberta Theatre Projects (ATP) believe that a vibrant community is one where *all* people, no matter what cultural or financial background, should be able to experience the thrill of a theatrical performance.

An Anonymous Fund at The Calgary Foundation has been supporting this belief by providing ongoing funding to ATP's *Spotlight on Youth* program that provides opportunity for students who might not be able to afford a theatre experience.

Since 2007, this Anonymous Fund has subsidized approximately 7,500 students to take part in theatrical programs that open new doors and provide new experiences to children. In the 09/10 Season alone, 3,042 took part in the *Spotlight on Youth* programs at ATP - participating in both the Classroom Connections program and the Student Matinee Series. The Classroom Connections program brings live theatre, professional artists and youth together through backstage tours and classroom visits, and assists teachers in integrating the arts into their curriculum. The Student Matinee Series offers classes the opportunity to see the contemporary ATP productions at the Martha Cohen Theatre stage.

*Spotlight on Youth* has been a huge success, as ATP is constantly receiving inspiring letters from the children, parents and teachers. One teacher wrote, "Spotlight on Youth provided an amazing and affordable opportunity for many interested students, but mostly inactive theatre goers. Theatre for our students is not an affordable recreational option for most of our school population. Yet, there we were, enjoying a fantastic show, one hundred strong, after a highly informative, educational and inspiring tour. It was just an incredible experience."