



# SUCCESS STORIES

## from Michigan City Area Schools

### SUCCESS begins with Dan Meisner

...ACTOR ...PRODUCER  
...THEATRE COMPANY FOUNDER  
...MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS SUCCESS STORY

Dan Meisner is a guy *made* for the stage. The 2003 Michigan City High School graduate obtained his bachelor’s degree in Acting from Purdue University, where he performed in a dozen shows, including major roles in *Richard III*, *Urinetown*, and *Living Out*. He also starred in *Tecumseh!*, the country’s largest outdoor drama, and was cast in Great River Shakespeare Festival productions of *Macbeth* and *Julius Caesar*. Last year, he co-founded a Theater Company in Chicago, Ka-Tet, which staged its first play last summer to wide critical acclaim.

**INSPIRED TO ACT:** Dan credits his Coolspring Elementary School music teacher, Jeanne Bolen, for giving him his start, casting him in the school production, *Santa Knows Best*. “She kept insisting that I read for the lead role,” says Dan. “I was a rambunctious kid, but shy, too. Mrs. Bolen just wouldn’t let me stay in the background.”

**BRIGHT FUTURE:** Dan stayed in the spotlight at Barker Middle School, Michigan City Jr. High, and MCHS. An honor student, he performed in the top choirs and bands and starred in many musicals and plays, including *Pajama Game*, *Can’t Take It with You*, and *Wizard of Oz*...as Head Winkie. “So many teachers were incredibly influential to me,” says Dan. “Dennis Keinitz, Stan Holdcraft, Fran Booth, Jay Showalter, Theresa Galloway...these people are passionate about what they do. And passion has a real impact on students.”

**SECRET TO SUCCESS:** “Don’t give up on something just because you feel uncomfortable about it. Pursue it full-on unabashed, and see where it takes you.”

For more on  
Ka-Tet Theatre, visit  
[www.katettheatre.org](http://www.katettheatre.org).

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