

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FLAT ROCK PLAYHOUSE SUPPORTING PLAYERS WANT YOU TO “COME PLAY WITH US”**

*The Supporting Players of Flat Rock Playhouse are seeking enthusiastic and passionate individuals to join their family of volunteers.*



*Pictured (left to right): Terrie Haft, Karolyn Killian, Natalie Callahan, Tamsin Allpress, Elizabeth McCormick, Beth Couch, and Candice McGinnis.*

**Flat Rock, NC (February 18, 2020)** – Flat Rock Playhouse and The Supporting Players are excited to announce they are welcoming volunteers who will participate in various programs that take you behind-the-scenes at the State Theatre of North Carolina.

“The Supporting Players of Flat Rock Playhouse is a great way to meet and work with people that are like-minded and have a desire to come alongside the staff to help secure the future of performing arts in western North Carolina, “ remarks Karolyn Killian, President of Supporting Players. “It is a pleasure and a joy to volunteer my time and talent for such a wonderful group of people that are dedicated to excellence in live theatre and our community!”

The Supporting Players serve Flat Rock Playhouse to enhance the overall theater experience for patrons, actors, and families. They have contributed over 30 years of volunteer service and \$1 million in giving history. The Supporting Players have many volunteer opportunities including a meal program for the summer apprentices, audition support, actor shuttle services, gardening, and the annual Backstage Ball fundraiser.

"The Supporting Players are instrumental members of Flat Rock Playhouse. When you look at the numbers alone - it's incredible what they do," says Lisa K. Bryant, Producing Artistic Director of Flat Rock Playhouse. "The Transportation Committee drove over 5,000 miles shuttling dozens of actors in 2019. Our gardeners have planted over 200 species of plants, and participants in the Feed Me Program delivered over 40 meals to our apprentices and interns. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without their support, and we are beyond grateful for the impact they make not only in service to FRP but as friends and advocates who support live arts."

The Supporting Players are a unique way to get an inside look into life on the Rock while making an impact on our community. If you are interested in joining this passionate collective of volunteers and becoming part of the Flat Rock Playhouse family, make sure to tune into WTZQ on March 10th at 8:00 am to hear from some of the Supporting Players. Additionally, you can visit [flatrockplayhouse.org/volunteer](http://flatrockplayhouse.org/volunteer) or email [volunteer@flatrockplayhouse.org](mailto:volunteer@flatrockplayhouse.org) to learn more!

The Supporting Players are led by President **Karolyn Killian**, Secretary **Candice McGinnis**, Garden Committee Chair **Tamsin Allpress**, Education Committee Chair **Natalie Callahan**, Membership Committee Co-Chairs **Beth Couch and Elizabeth McCormick**, and Transportation Chair **Terrie Haft**.

## **FLAT ROCK PLAYHOUSE**

In 1937, a group of struggling performers, led by Robroy Farquhar, organized themselves as the Vagabond Players. The Vagabonds worked in a variety of places over the course of three years, and in 1940 found themselves in the Blue Ridge region of Western North Carolina. The local and tourist community welcomed them with open arms when they presented their first summer season of plays in a 150-year-old grist mill they converted into The Old Mill Playhouse at Highland Lake. So successful was that summer, they returned in 1941. After WWII, the Vagabond Players reorganized came back to the region and opened a playhouse in nearby Lake Summit. The Lake Summit Playhouse thrived during the post-war years and soon the Vagabond Players were looking for a larger and permanent home. In 1952, the troupe of performers, and a newly formed board of directors made an offer to buy an 8-acre lot in the Village of Flat Rock. This new home made the Vagabonds "locals" and a rented big top gave birth to Flat Rock Playhouse. As the beautiful Western Carolina region continued to grow, so did the Playhouse and in 1961, by Act of the North Carolina General Assembly, Flat Rock Playhouse was officially designated The State Theatre of North Carolina. What began as a few weeks of summer performances in 1940 is now a nine-month season of plays including Broadway musicals, comedy, drama, and theatre for young audiences.

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