Dear Flat Rock Playhouse Friends and Family,

As the COVID-19 crisis continues, we at Flat Rock Playhouse—along with the rest of our community—are working diligently to react in as positive and responsible a way as we can. With the inability to host large gatherings, safely house artists, rehearse and work in close proximity as our productions require, and to mitigate negative financial implications, we have no choice but to alter our 2020 season. We deeply value your support and want you to be among the first to hear what we are doing at this time.

- **We will reopen with Million Dollar Quartet in mid-July.** Your tickets will automatically transfer to the new dates. Your seat choice, show day and show time will remain unchanged.
- **We’ll then continue the season as planned** with *Jumping Jack Flash-The Music of the Rolling Stones* starting on August 20, and including *Helen on Wheels, Catch Me If You Can, Autumn at the Opry,* and *A Flat Rock Christmas* as well as several other shows. There is no need to change your tickets.
- **Steel Magnolias, A Chorus Line, and West Side Story will move to the 2021 season.** These shows were scheduled for this summer. The Box Office team will personally contact all patrons with tickets to these shows beginning in May.

Sadly, for the first time in 68 years, the Playhouse must forgo hosting our beloved 2020 Apprentice and Intern Company. They were scheduled to begin arriving May 8. With no guarantee that precautions will be lifted by mid-May, and given that the Company would live in shared dormitory-style housing, it is not feasible or responsible to proceed as planned. Without the talents this unique workforce brings to the Playhouse, it is impossible to produce our large summer musicals.

While we are deeply saddened to have to make all of these changes, the safety and well-being of our staff, artists and audiences must remain our primary goal. We prefer to think of this uncertain time as an “Intermission.” We will be back, the show will go on.

We are proud that due to the hard work, fiscal discipline and efficient use of resources over recent years, we have been able, for now, to put together this plan to successfully weather this storm, support our FRP family, and navigate the difficulties of this season in a way such that all is not lost.

Nonetheless, Flat Rock Playhouse needs you now more than ever. While this is a challenging time for everyone, we continue to be heartened by overwhelming responses of support, including generosity from patrons who are donating purchased tickets they can’t use, buying tickets or gift certificates for future productions, and making additional donations. If you would like to make a special gift to the Flat Rock Playhouse COVID-19 Crisis Fund to help see us through this crisis, click [HERE](#). We are grateful.

We plan to stay in touch with you over these coming weeks. And don’t miss videos from some of your favorite Playhouse stars on our social media channels: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Youtube](#). Also watch for them in Playhouse emails.
The Box Office is currently closed and will reopen in late April when the stay-at-home period ends. We will keep you informed as/when/if new information comes our way.

We are all in this together. Please stay safe, stay healthy, and stay the course. We will look forward to welcoming you back to the stage later this year!

With appreciation,

Lisa K. Bryant  Paige Posey
Producing Artistic Director  Managing Director

FAQ

● Why is the Playhouse changing the 2020 season?
The decision was a practical one made to help ensure the safety of our staff, artists, volunteers and beloved patrons. Given current projections about the length of this crisis, and the accompanying health and government mandates, there is simply no way to continue the season in its original form. Additionally, it is necessary to protect the financial health of the Playhouse.

● When will shows resume?
Currently, our plan is to re-open mid-July with Million Dollar Quartet. The remainder of the season will proceed as planned beginning with Jumping Jack Flash - The Music of the Rolling Stones on August 20th.

As the national, state and local response to the pandemic continues to evolve we will be prepared to make additional changes but for now, we look forward to welcoming you back this summer.

● How does this impact my Season Subscription?
Tickets for Million Dollar Quartet and the balance of the season will automatically transfer to the new dates. Seat choice, show day and show time will be unchanged.

Steel Magnolias, A Chorus Line, and West Side Story will be postponed until 2021. The Box Office will personally contact all patrons with tickets to these shows beginning in May.

● Do I need to change my tickets?
No. If you have tickets to a performance that has been rescheduled, they will automatically transfer over to the new dates. Your seat choice, show day and showtime will remain unchanged.

- **How do I change my tickets?**
  If the new performance dates create a scheduling conflict for you, we are happy to make exchanges. If you have questions, please call the Box Office at 828-693-0731 after we re-open on April 27th. Please understand calls may be heavy at times.

- **When will the box office re-open?**
  As we strive to remain in compliance with both our Henderson County and NC Governor’s stay-at-home order, our Box Office will be temporarily closed until April 27th at 10:00 AM. Playhouse staff continues to work remotely and is available to assist you. Please contact us by email at CovidCommunications@flatrockplayhouse.org. We apologize for this inconvenience but at this time, the safety and well-being of our staff, artists, and beloved patrons, must remain our primary goal. For further updates and communication follow us on FB, Twitter, and check our website often.

- **Is the Playhouse in financial trouble?**
  Fortunately, due to the hard work, fiscal discipline and efficient use of resources over recent years, for now we have been able to put together a plan to successfully weather this storm, support our FRP family, and navigate the difficulties of this season in a way such that all is not lost. Nonetheless, we’ve had to make some heartbreaking decisions in order to mitigate the lost revenue and negative economic impact the virus is inflicting.

  Now more than ever, we need and will rely on generous support to continue to bring the beauty and magic of live theatre to Western North Carolina. In dark times like these, the arts bring hope and inspiration to so many.

  If people would like to give a special gift to the Playhouse COVID-19 Crisis Fund they can go to the website at flatrockplayhouse.org. If people have tickets they can't use, we hope they will consider donating them back as a tax-deductible gift. They can also consider buying tickets or gift certificates for future productions. This support will make a big difference as we navigate through this unexpected crisis.

- **When will Studio 52 programs resume?**
  We look forward to scheduling Studio 52 classes just as soon as it is safe for students to gather once again.

- **What is the Playhouse doing while the stage is dark?**
  In the true Vagabond spirit, our staff and artists have rallied to support, encourage and aid our community and Playhouse family near and far. Among our most notable undertakings are:
○ Manufacturing safety masks for local hospitals. See the full story HERE.
○ Producing a Vagabond Video series of readings, performances, tutorials and uplifting entertainment to engage and inspire our audiences and supporters everywhere. You can find these videos on our social media channels: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Youtube. Also watch for them in Playhouse emails.

● How can I help the Playhouse during this time?
  ○ Make a gift to our special COVID19 Crisis Fund
  ○ Donate back your unused tickets as a tax-deductible gift
  ○ Buy additional tickets or gift certificates for future productions
  ○ Invite your friends to do all of the above.
  ○ STAY CALM...The Show Will Go On
  ○ Contact us at CovidCommunications@flatrockplayhouse.org for further information.