

Flat Rock Playhouse 2020 Season Update

It is with deep regret that Flat Rock Playhouse must cancel the balance of our 2020 season. We originally had hoped to reopen in mid-July, but this is no longer feasible. We now will shift our entire 2020 Mainstage series to 2021. This decision has been unanimously endorsed by our Board of Trustees.

We are heartbroken to have to make this decision, but it is the right thing to do in order to preserve the long-term health of the Playhouse. It has been incredibly complicated and challenging to carve out a clear path forward these last weeks. Information has been changing so fast and much remains unclear. For example, we still face substantial uncertainties about when government-mandated limitations on large gatherings will be eased, and under what conditions. This critical information is indispensable to any operational decision-making, particularly in a profession that depends on large-group attendance.

In addition, we were informed just days ago that the Actors' Equity Association (AEA), the union that represents actors, stage managers and other essential artists, will not announce guidelines for when their members can return to work until mid- to late-summer. In order to reopen in mid-July as we originally envisioned, the cast and crew would need to be on the Rock in June. Under current union guidelines, this will not be possible or even allowed.

Importantly, we are also hearing from some patrons that it will be a while before you feel comfortable going back to many of the things you enjoyed before the COVID-19 crisis, including theatres. We get it. And we want to assure you that your safety and well-being will remain our primary concern when it comes time to reopen.

All of these factors are impacting many other performance organizations as well. Literally hundreds of them, from Brevard Music Center to the Peace Center locally, and regional professional theatres around the country, are announcing cancelations and postponing their seasons to 2021. Sadly, we are not alone by any means.

So, we'll still be Puttin' on the Hits – *Million Dollar Quartet, Steel Magnolias, A Chorus Line, West Side Story, Helen on Wheels, Catch me if You Can, Autumn at the Opry, A Flat Rock Playhouse Christmas* – but a year later.

In the meantime, we absolutely want to stay connected with you. Watch for our weekly [“Rock Out Newsletter.”](#) Check out our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) social media channels for fun videos and challenges, as well as the FRP website (flatrockplayhouse.org). You can bet we'll be finding ways that our Flat Rock Playhouse campus can help serve the community in the time ahead. And of course, we'll look for opportunities to come together for special events as soon as it's safe to do so.

We know we share the burden of difficult decision-making with the community at large, and, in this very moment, particularly so for our Playhouse family. As we do everything we can to reduce expenses and conserve cash while we are closed, we have had to make the unbelievably difficult decision to

significantly reduce our cherished, loyal, and dedicated staff. After launching the 2020 season with the strongest financial position the Playhouse has enjoyed in over a decade, the shocking impact of this epidemic on our beloved Vagabonds has left us emotionally reeling.

Now more than ever, we appreciate and need your support. Over 80% of our revenue comes from ticket sales, and with no shows we will be entirely dependent on our donors' generous support. Here's how people can help:

- If you're a ticketholder, **donate back your 2020 tickets.** This will help us get through the rest of the year. It's easy to do. When the Box Office calls you about your tickets, tell them you'd like to donate them back to FRP. You'll then get an acknowledgment for this tax-deductible contribution.
- Consider a donation. Every dollar will help us weather this storm since we will have no ticket revenue. **If you'd like to make a gift, click [HERE](#).** If you would like to communicate with the Box Office regarding refunds click [HERE](#).
- Spread the word that Flat Rock Playhouse about ways to **stay connected to Flat Rock Playhouse.** We will still be here help the community and to look for opportunities to bring people together as soon as it is safe to do so.

Above all, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for sticking with us. We have been overwhelmed by the many loving expressions of patience and understanding people have shared. It means everything. We are all in this together, and we can hardly wait to see all of you again on the Rock.

Lisa K. Bryant
Producing Artistic Director

Paige Posey
Managing Director