

# The Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County and Flat Rock Playhouse Partner To Bring Virtual Christmas Show to Club Members and Families



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF HENDERSON COUNTY



Flat Rock, NC (December 7, 2020): This holiday, in partnership with Flat Rock Playhouse, the Boys & Girls Club will be offering a screening of ***A Flat Rock Christmas*** for all members in attendance and will also be sending virtual “tickets” to the performance home so that each family can enjoy the show in the comfort of their own living rooms.

“We are so excited to share this gift with Club members and their families, this Christmas especially,” said Executive Director **Julia Hockenberry**. “While the holidays

are a magical time, they also illuminate gaps and needs among many in our community. We are grateful to Flat Rock Playhouse to be able to brighten the season for our families through this unique and vibrant experience,” she continued.

***A Flat Rock Playhouse Christmas*** is the first show the Playhouse has been able to produce since March of this year. In May, the Playhouse announced the cancellation of the 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, FRP has been maintained by a team of thirteen to manage operations, produce virtual fundraisers, and offer online classes and workshops through Studio 52. ***A Flat Rock Playhouse Christmas*** was filmed on the Mainstage, around the Rock, and on location in Hendersonville with a cast of Vagabond favorites all adhering to local and national health and safety guidelines.

“It has been a year of challenges, but there is still so much to be grateful for,” says Flat Rock Playhouse Artistic Director, **Lisa K. Bryant**. “Our community has offered incredible support to us, and continuing the tradition of this favorite holiday show for the fourth year in a row is our way of saying thank you. It was also important to our entire staff and Board of Trustees to give back to this community, and we knew the Boys & Girls Club was the perfect organization with which to share this magical Christmas gift.”

The Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County is presently serving dual roles during the COVID pandemic. While mornings are designated exclusively for online schooling at the Club, afternoons provide youth with programs focusing on healthy lifestyles and positive personal decision making. Since the onset of the school year, 380 young people from more than 250 different households have taken advantage of this service. Because the Club is committed to making services available to those children who need it the most, an all-inclusive membership costs families no more than \$5 per child, per year.

To learn more about how you can support the Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County, visit [bgchendersonco.org/](http://bgchendersonco.org/).

Tickets are still available for **A Flat Rock Playhouse Christmas, A Virtual Production**. Visit [flatrockplayhouse.org](http://flatrockplayhouse.org) for more information.

***A Flat Rock Playhouse Christmas*** is presented by **Henderson County Tourism Development Authority**, Technology Sponsor **Morris Broadband**, Media Sponsor **WTZQ**, Hearing Loop Sponsor **Asheville Ear, Nose, and Throat**, and Audio Described Sponsor **Asheville Eye Associates**. Executive producers of **A Flat Rock Playhouse Christmas** are **Carolina Village, Boyd Chevrolet Cadillac Buick, Dr. Jason Bergman, Connie, and Jacey, Joe and Hilda Ippolito, Southern Alarm and Security, Knox Law, The Village of Laurel Park, The Leiman Mainstage & In**

**Memory of Cliff Stalter**, Deerfield, **Andy Oxy Co.**, **Scott and Pamela Marks**, and **Morrow Insurance**. Closed Captioning sponsored by **Scott & Amy Donaldson**.

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### **THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF HENDERSON COUNTY**

The Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County was founded in 1993 and has grown steadily to serve 1,300+ children annually, ages 6-18. Through year-round programs that help youth succeed in school and prepare for careers, live healthy lifestyles and make positive personal choices, the Club fulfills its mission: to inspire and enable young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible, caring citizens.

### **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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