

December 1, 2020

Dear TLT Members and Patrons,

On November 30, 2020, The Little Theatre Board of Directors held our monthly meeting. At this meeting, a discussion ensued about what we do as a theatre and why we do it. We volunteer in this organization because we love theatre and we love our community. Our mission statement is: *We encourage education and the development of artistic talent; we offer creative opportunities for all artists by presenting quality theatrical productions; and we promote community participation, interest, and support for the performing arts.* We realized that at this time, we need to live up to our mission by taking a step back and fully committing to our community's participation by providing a safe environment for everyone, both on and off the stage. Because of this commitment, the TLT Board of Directors decided to **cancel the remainder of our 2020-2021 season**, which includes the shows *Evita* and *Little Women*.

For 50 years, TLT has provided theatre for all ages to enjoy. We have never experienced such a devastating blow as the one that the COVID-19 pandemic has given to us. We have experienced mishaps, needed to change actors at the last minute or had to completely change a show, but we have always worked under the assumption that THE SHOW MUST GO ON. But, we understand that because of this pandemic, we have to conduct the business of theatre differently. The show, in fact, needs to take a break. We must turn off the lights, put away the costumes, and close the curtain so that we can allow our community to fight against this pandemic properly.

We want everyone to understand that being a non-profit organization has benefits, one being that we, in fact, are not "doing theatre" to make a profit. We have been blessed for 50 years by generous donations and support from our community, and we are able to pay our monthly bills because of that support. However, at this time, it is more important for us to invest in our community than in a show that could potentially have harmful results to our actors, production staff, and audience members. We have made the collective decision that although we will miss the process of producing and performing a show, we would miss you, our community, our family, even more should something happen.

We also want you to know that this, by no means, is the end of TLT. We are already planning our return to the stage for the 2021-2022 season. We hope to bring you some of the shows we had planned for the current season, but are also exploring our options and want to bring you back to the theatre with excitement and joy that we can all share together. But for now, we want to wish you the best during this holiday season. We hope you stay safe and take all the precautions necessary to remain healthy so you can join us when we light up the stage once again.

In order to remain transparent in our business operations we are asking for you to please respond on how you would like TLT to handle the remaining amount of your

current season membership. Below are the options and instructions to inform us of your decision.

Refund or Donation Options for members with a 2020-2021 membership

Option 1: You can consider the remaining value of the purchased season membership as a donation to TLT for our monthly costs while the theatre is closed.

Option 2: You can request a refund of the remaining value of the purchased season membership, which will be returned to you promptly.

Please let us know which option you prefer by reaching out to us in one of the following ways: emailing us at thelittletheatrejc@gmail.com, or by calling our ticket line at 573-681-9400. Please respond as soon as possible so we can fulfill your request.

Thank you for having faith in us, supporting our decisions, and continuing to support the arts in Jefferson City.

Sincerely,

The Little Theatre of Jefferson City
Board of Directors:

Maggie Eggen (President); Jennie Wells (Vice President); Maria Bish (Treasurer);
Karin Schatte (Secretary); Gabrielle Wittenberger (Artistic Director)
Jeff Ball; Rebecca Seabaugh, Jamie Waier, Jerico Whitaker