



Schoolhouse Arts Center

16 Richville Rd

Standish, Maine 04084

March 12, 2020

# COVID-19 ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Schoolhouse Community,

In show business we live by one motto: *the show must go on!* We at Schoolhouse Arts Center do our best to live up to that mantra just as theaters have done since the early 19th Century. This mantra was developed within the theatrical community to show perseverance and unity amongst performers and thespians in difficult and challenging times.

However, in this time of heightened awareness of COVID-19 also known as the “Coronavirus” we understand that we have a responsibility to our community to ensure the safety of our performers, production team members and of course, to our audiences.

The Board of Directors has been engaged in thoughtful discussion and, like many people around the country, have been monitoring news outlets for updates on this virus. We have been in communication with the Maine Center of Disease Control and are following recommendations from them as to best prevent the spread of this virus.

Unfortunately, after further discussion, The Board of Directors and I have decided that the safety of our community must come first and that these precautions, although they will be implemented throughout our season, are not enough to combat the “social distancing” which has been encouraged by State and Government Officials as the most effective way to combat COVID-19 at this time. Therefore, we are making the following adjustments to our upcoming events:

1. Truly Talented Kids originally slated to open Friday March 13- Sunday March 15, 2020 will be postponed to a later date which will soon be determined. All tickets for the original show dates will be honored at the postponed performances.
2. *Disney's Frozen Jr.* will be postponed until May 29, 2020 and run through May 31, 2020.
3. Finally, our Spring Production of *Servant of Two Masters* has been CANCELLED.

These decisions were not made lightly, they were the product of in depth conversation with all members of the Board of Directors and carefully looked at from all angles. We understand that cancellations impact our audiences, but also impact the people who have volunteered their time to rehearse these shows. That is the true sacrifice that Community Theatre actors make - work a day job or attend school with enough time to run home quickly before heading out to rehearsal, trying to find time in the day to finish homework or do chores around the house are part of the sacrifices that are common in this business. We are so thankful and appreciative of those that love theatre and were willing to share their talent with us. But for their safety, and the safety of our beloved community members, it has been determined that this is the best course of action for everyone including the organization its performers and volunteers.

We will resume our season this summer with *Disney's Tarzan* as our big summer musical. And in an continued effort to implement preventative measures during performances throughout the year, we are implementing the following:

1. Hand Sanitizing Stations will be available to our guests during performances
2. Our pre-show preparation now consists of cleaning all seats within the theatre between performances with alcohol based cleaning supplies
3. Our Concessions for each show will still be available, however, they will be kept in containers and served by a volunteer with gloves and the use of tongs.
4. Volunteers for our shows will be trained in new cleaning policies to ensure that all surfaces that are to be touched by our guests will be cleaned and sanitized regularly during performances and in-between productions. These surfaces include: light switches, handrails, doorknobs, faucets, soap dispensers, etc.

If anyone has any further questions please do not hesitate to email us. We will continue to follow guidance from the Maine CDC and will continue to monitor this virus closely.

Thank you for your support throughout the 31 years of our existence. We are extremely excited about the opportunities that are coming throughout the year and we hope that you will join us on our continued adventure and mission to provide performing arts experiences and opportunities to the Greater Sebago Lake Region.

Stay healthy folks and we will see you soon.

All the Best,  
Zachariah Stearn & The Board of Directors  
Artistic Director

