



2023

A YEAR OF FIRSTS

SEASON 53



2023 was a year of firsts. From our first-ever commission and world premiere, *Primary*, to our inaugural holiday season and new series like "Nights of Northern Lights" and "North Country New Works," this exciting programming attracted enthusiastic audiences for record-breaking box office success.

The successes of Season 58 are undeniable. *Jersey Boys* set a record as our highest-grossing show, only to be surpassed by *Mamma Mia!* two months later, which also became the first production to gross over \$100,000! And, of course, Shakespeare made a triumphant return to our Mainstage after 40 years with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. And the list goes on:

- **Over 12,500 patrons**
- **Sold-out student matinees**
- **29 New Hampshire Theatre Award nominations**
(more than any theatre in history)

Season 59 continues these firsts with our world premiere musical, *Gallery*, directed by Tony Award-winner, Richard Maltby Jr., and the global regional premiere of London's phenomenon *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*. None of which is possible without the efforts of our remarkable artists and technicians who remain dedicated to telling new

stories and creating new experiences for you. We believe in the unique connection of live theatre and being a part of your community.

Despite these successes, we closed 2023 with financial hardship, a deficit north of \$40,000. Frustrating to be sure, but an improvement from previous seasons. A combination of unexpected costs like emergency housing maintenance at The Spalding, a doubling of our insurance premium and a new transmission needed for one of our company vehicles quickly dried up any surplus. Skyrocketing costs of materials, labor, royalties, along with aggressive union negotiations leave us in a constant state of just getting by.

As a nonprofit, this is expected. Income should cover costs, but despite support from sponsors, local funders like the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund, and state and national agencies like New Hampshire State Council for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, among others, we lack a safety net, and every day is one of creative cash flow management. Last year, I shared that we had to increase our annual fund by about 30%. Thanks to your support, our annual fund grew by 87%. Thank you! This year, we must sustain the momentum and for the first time aim for

the goal of \$200,000 in our appeal.

We rely on you, our dedicated supporters, for help. Introduce a friend to the Theatre, spread the word, share our story! I hope you recognize the value we bring to the North Country each season and consider contributing to our annual appeal. Without you, none of this is possible including access to live quality theatre for children and their families through the joy of the Patchwork Players and Windsock Camp.

This company invests in our community to bring high-quality live theatre to the North Country because they believe in its importance. They prioritize accessibility to live theatre for all. Our artists choose Weathervane as their creative home. We ask for your support for Weathervane and to retain and support these remarkable individuals who make our Theatre so special.

With Gratitude,

Ethan Paulini
Producing Artistic Director

