



# This year is *Different*

Dear American Stage Supporter,

Each year around this time, I ask you to consider making an investment in American Stage's artists, programs and in our mission of delivering the life-affirming power of live theatre and quality arts education to thousands throughout our community. **This year**, so much has changed. While our commitment to our mission remains steadfast and strong, with no stage to light, and no audience to greet, we have been confronted with a crisis that hits at the very core of our work.

The hard truth is, the impact of the unending shutdown of live theatre, and its mounting collateral damage, has been profound. A recent poll of professional theatres across the country found that "almost a third of the 60 companies surveyed will be forced to consider closure some time in 2021 if restrictions on gatherings persist" (Theatre Communications Group). I am confident that American Stage will survive this pandemic and will continue to innovate to create programming that helps to keep our community connected, providing impactful arts experiences to audiences, schools and students. But I also know that the path ahead will continue to present us with very real challenges.

## Why Give Now?

*"The country needs to be healed — it's not going to be healed from the top, politically. How are we going to heal? Art is the healing force."* -Robert Redford, National Arts Policy Roundtable 2012

While Robert Redford made this powerful statement almost a decade ago, it is truer today than ever before. The arts have always played an essential role in promoting well-being by inspiring hope, provoking thought, inviting discourse and offering catharsis. **This year**, American Stage will play a vital role as we embark on our recovery as a community. As we dedicate ourselves to reimagined programs and prepare for an eventual, safe return to onsite programs, we will provide the uniquely cathartic and life-affirming experience of live theatre to bring us all together in health and reconnection. As St. Pete's and Tampa Bay's longest-running professional theatre, American Stage has been committed to this work for 43 years and we will continue to be here to help bring our community together, and to celebrate 50 years and beyond.

**This year**, please consider investing in American Stage. Together we can reimagine, and we can recover. Because when we come together and share stories representing our diverse perspectives and experiences, we expand our world, our differences cease to divide us and we become united through the shared experience of what it is to be human.

Thank you for believing in the power of live theatre to help to heal our community. And from all of us at American Stage, may you have a joyous and peaceful holiday season.



With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Gularte'.

Stephanie Gularte  
CEO/Producing Artistic Director

## Your Support Matters More Than Ever Before

Please consider a tax-deductible year-end gift to American Stage this year as an investment in the recovery and reimagining of the cultural landscape of our community.

Whether \$10, \$100 or \$10,000, your gift will make a profound impact.

Simply complete the form on the back and mail your donation back to us using the supplied reply envelope with no postage needed.

Mail to **American Stage Company Inc., PO Box 1560, St. Petersburg, FL 33731**

You can also make a donation online at **AMERICANSTAGE.ORG/DONATE**

or by phone 727.823.1600 x 207

Text **REIMAGINE4ALL** to **44-321**

to donate and support sustainable professional theatre throughout the season.



# What Do You Miss?



**“Being ‘in the room’ with my fellow artists – the visceral energy of creative collaboration.”**

- Janis Stevens, Actor

**“Connecting with audience members after a show, hearing about how our play has affected them, or what it has meant to them.”**

- Jeffrey Kim, Actor

**“Working, for pay, on a role, for a live audience.”**

- Richard Watson, Actor

**“Being in the same space with people I admire, people who challenge me, and people who have the same mission to bring amazing theatre and conversations to our community.”**

- Skye Lindberg, AS Apprentice Alumna

**“The energy of the space, with live actors, designers, crew, and director. The feel of live creation.”**

- Steve Mitchell, Set Designer

**“Gathering with a group of artists to create live theatre that excites audiences and that can promote conversations about important ideas.”**

- Phillip Franck, Lighting Designer

**“Having a collective emotional experience together with the artists and the audience.”**

- Adrienne Hick, Actor

**“Human connection with artists that I took for granted as a want, and not a need.”**

- Shain Stroff, Choreographer

**“Ultimately, the collectiveness of theatre in general: when we laugh together, when we gasp together, when we cry together.”**

- Rachel Lynett, Playwright

**“Simply the people; everyone from all walks of life coming together and collaborating with the single focus of serving a story.”**

- Rasell Holt, Actor

**American Stage is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; Federal ID #59-1777189**

## YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Your gift today helps in the recovery and reimagining of the cultural landscape of our community.

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Name

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**Yes! I want to help American Stage recover and reimagine with a monthly recurring donation.  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ /month**

Please accept my one time gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_

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