



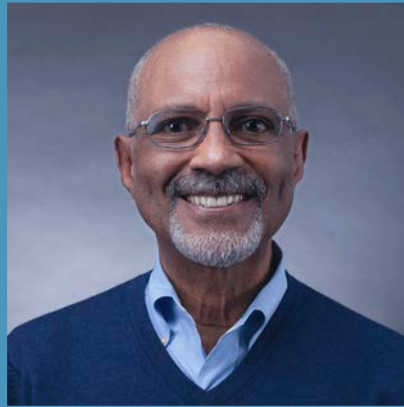
THE
PROVINCETOWN
THEATER



2021

ANNUAL REPORT

A WORD FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



Dear Friends,

Whether you know us as an artist, audience member, PTown resident, donor, or any combination of the above, this message is for you. Without your support during these difficult past two years, there is no doubt in my mind that the Provincetown Theater Foundation would not be here. There are no words to accurately convey our gratitude to you, so I'll simply say thank you.

Now it's time to look to the year ahead. We owe it to you, and to ourselves, to feel excitement about a word that has not gotten a lot of stage time these past few years: Potential. And there is so much potential in our organization right now. We've welcomed new board members, invested in our staff and institution, and we expect that you'll notice some changes in the months ahead. The first one being this Annual Report, which we plan to offer yearly so that you can celebrate our accomplishments along with us.

Our second exciting announcement is that the leadership of PTF will be convening in the fall to create a strategic plan to guarantee the future stability and sustainability of our institution. And as a supporter, we plan to make sure that you have an opportunity to add your voice to that process!

Finally, we are officially on the lookout for an all-star Managing Director to step in and lead our board and staff as we perform the many daily administrative tasks that help keep our small (but mighty!) theater going so that you have a seamless, transformative experience each and every time you walk into our space.

We hope you'll join us sharing our feelings of excitement and potential of the Provincetown Theater Foundation for the year ahead.

Curtain's up!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Wilson'.

David Wilson
President, Board of Directors

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YOUR SUPPORT BY THE NUMBERS!

TICKETS SOLD:	3,162
SEASON TICKET SUBSCRIBERS:	164
TOTAL DONORS:	316
SPONSORS & ADVERTISERS:	22

STAFF

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"The establishment of this award and the hospitable weekend I spent on Cape Cod to receive it are proof that Provincetown hasn't forgotten its illustrious past. In fact, it's building on it, in new and remarkable ways."

-Doug Wright, 2021 PAPA Award Recipient

A PLACE OF RESPITE

Attendees of Provincetown Theater's 2021 season were greeted by a surprise when they arrived for the opening night of Bekah Brunsetter's *The Cake* - a parking lot transformed into a secret garden, courtesy of designer and Provincetown resident Ellen Rosseau.

In her own words: "When David Drake and I first started talking about it, we were in the middle of the lockdown and I knew I didn't want it to feel like we were sitting in a parking lot. I really wanted it to be a place where we could feel like we could safely come back into community with each other. All of us had been by ourselves in one form or another, so I wanted it to feel like it was a place of respite. The community could come to this place and they could take a breath again, literally, and not be afraid to be together and be entertained in the process."

And the "playhouse in the parking lot", as we affectionately call it, wasn't just important for our audience members. For many of our actors, this was their first stepping away from zoom performances to return to the stage with each other.

"Because of the fear that people had been experiencing for so long, and because as theater makers we had been estranged from the thing that we do, the way we make community, it felt important that it be something that not only gave to the audience but that gave to us as theater makers, and that it was an environment that we felt comfortable making theater in. That we could be socially distant and still bring all of our gifts to bear, and that we could play with each other."

Ellen's design prowess is well regarded across Cape Cod. She has designed shows at Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater, Peregrine Ensemble, and as part of the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival. But in recent years, Rosseau found a creative home as part of our growing community at Provincetown Theater, putting her creativity to work on our stage in shows such as *Sweeney Todd*, *August: Osage County*, and *You Can't Take It With You*.

"When designing, we like to think about how to surprise the audience. This felt like a surprise because most people who come to the theater know it as just a parking lot. A lot of thought went into how it was designed to take care of the audience, the actors, and the neighbors. We wanted everyone to feel taken care of. When I think of everything last season, this was the thing that was the most satisfying. It helped make our season successful, which I'm so grateful for."

THE PAPA AWARDS: HONORING A LEGACY

Maybe you've heard about the Provincetown American Playwright Awards. What you might not know is that the award, established in 2017, is meant to embrace a rich legacy of playwriting in Provincetown.

When we established the PAPAs we wanted to give the contemporary playwrights the opportunity to dip their toes in the water where their forebears created the American theater. What was born in Provincetown at the hands of writers like Eugene O'Neill would ultimately set the tone for a new kind of playwriting that would define our nation.

Five time Tony winner Terrance McNally, Pulitzer Prize recipients Paula Vogel and Doug Wright, and Charles Busch have all been honored as part of this growing legacy. In 2021 we added the Trailblazer Award, honoring emerging voices, for which Michael Jackson was our first recipient. Thanks to Ken Fulk, that special evening was held in the historic home of Mary Heaton Vorse, an instrumental figure for the Provincetown Players. In 1915 she gave this upstart group of actors, poets, and playwrights their lease for the Lewis Wharf, the location where they would perform that first season, which has come to be known as "the most important innovative moment in American theater."

Who will be honored in 2022? Join us to find out; see you at the PAPA's!



RETURN TO THE THEATER

Photo by David Chick

Our world has changed over the past two years. We've grieved. We've had to pause, and learn to pivot. And I believe we've grown. All of which informs our exciting re-entrance into the arena of storytelling here at the Provincetown Theater. After a year online, and a summer outside, I'm eager to bring us back into our playhouse at 238 Bradford Street — and on the 20th anniversary of its founding!

With that in mind, we're keeping our promise to continue presenting well-established, impeccably crafted American plays for our community. This season I'm excited to announce that we'll be producing the re-premiere of Mae West's banned comedic melodrama **The Drag** as well as the Cape Cod premieres of Stephen Karam's Tony-winning Best Play of 2016, **The Humans**, Robert Chesley's 1986 boundary-breaking gay classic, **Jerker**, and Nia Vardalos's play adaptation of Cheryl Strayed's bestseller, **Tiny Beautiful Things**.

But I am super excited that we'll also be producing a brand-new play on our stage, nurtured under the auspices of the Stephen Mindich Literary Project as part of our new play development series, "Winter Play Dates." Sarah Schulman's rollickingly smart, gender-defying comedy **The Lady Hamlet**, a play with big heart, deep curiosity, and serious laughs. And I'm honored to bring it into the spotlight to re-invigorate the rich legacy of Provincetown as the birthplace of American Theater.

See you at the show...



David Drake,
Artistic Director

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Thank you to the generous sponsors and donors who showed their support in 2021. Below are names of those who gave \$100 or more last year; we owe a debt of gratitude to every single person who contributed to making our season a success!

Peter Petas & Ted Jones
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Bernard Liu & James Gary
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