

Contact: Paula Paggi, PR/Media Relations Manager
(972) 342-4991 | paula.paggi@dallastheatercenter.org

Dallas Theater Center Puts Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the Spotlight

DALLAS (May 26, 2020) - 2017 Regional Theatre Tony Award® Recipient Dallas Theater Center announces plans to advocate for comprehensive practices within the organization to ensure all are welcomed. On February 11, 2020, Dallas Theater Center's Board of Trustees unanimously approved their strongest statement for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

ALL ARE WELCOME! At Dallas Theater Center, we want to be the best place to work and see theater, and to be a positive and transformational force in Dallas and beyond. We stand-up for equity, diversity, and inclusion across our company and community. As a leading national theater, we recognize that building an equitable, diverse, and inclusive environment is central to our relevance and sustainability in the community we serve and love.

EQUITY means recognizing that not everyone starts at the same place, addressing inequities in access and opportunity, and allowing for full and fair participation. DIVERSITY means acknowledging and respecting human qualities that are different from our own and outside the groups we are a part of or with which we are associated. These qualities include but are not limited to: ethnicity, race, color, country of origin, sex, gender, gender identity or expression, age, sexual or relationship orientation, family structure, religion, beliefs, political affiliations, experiences and ability differences. INCLUSION means honoring and accepting the gifts, backgrounds, experiences, and wisdom that every individual brings with them, so that every stakeholder feels valued by Dallas Theater Center. Our stakeholders are staff, artists, board members, donors, audiences, and community members.

We will strive to create a culture of inclusion where individuals can thrive, succeed, are able to participate in, and contribute to the progress and success of Dallas Theater Center, while growing both professionally and personally.

We recognize and value individual differences, and we acknowledge structural and systemic racism and other access barriers that prevent full and fair participation of people outside the dominant culture and power dynamics. We acknowledge the complexities of becoming a fully inclusive and anti-racist organization, and we accept the challenge to build an organization where full and fair participation is the norm.

We commit to providing fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement and to creating space for culturally diverse voices to be heard and power to be shared. Together, we are even better.

Equity, diversity, and inclusion have been a Dallas Theater Center priority for several years. Each season, at least half of their productions are written, directed, designed and acted by people of color and by women. This commitment to EDI values has only helped strengthen the theater's standing in the community and across the country.

"Theater is a uniquely collaborative artform," said Kevin Moriarty, Enloe/Rose Artistic Director, Dallas Theater Center. "We can only make great art when we have a wide, diverse range of artists contributing to the creative process. We seek to create plays and musicals that will bring our city together, reflect the diverse life experiences of our community in the stories we tell on the stage, and create a space that welcomes everyone to create and experience art together."

Staff and board volunteers said the most important thing is that all staff, artists, board members, donors, audiences, and community members feel welcomed and safe at Dallas Theater Center. EDI committees continue to meet throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and will meet until equity, diversity and inclusion becomes fully operationalized at Dallas Theater Center.

"Our EDI statement places a stake in the ground for our organization. We have quite a bit of work ahead of us, and we accept the challenge to do better and be better for our staff, artists, and community," said Dionne Davis, co-chair of Staff Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and Manager of Foundation and Government Relations, Dallas Theater Center.

ABOUT DALLAS THEATER CENTER:

One of the leading regional theaters in the country and the 2017 Regional Theatre Tony Award® Recipient, Dallas Theater Center (DTC) performs to an audience of more than 100,000 North Texas residents annually. Founded in 1959, DTC is now a resident company of the AT&T Performing Arts Center and presents its Mainstage season at the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre, designed by REX/OMA, Joshua Prince-Ramus and Rem Koolhaas and at its original home, the Kalita Humphreys Theater, the only freestanding theater designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright. DTC is one of only two theaters in Texas that is a member of the League of Resident Theatres, the largest and most prestigious non-profit professional theater association in the country. Under the leadership of Enloe/Rose Artistic Director Kevin Moriarty and Managing Director Jeffrey Woodward, DTC produces a six-play subscription series of classics, musicals, and new plays and an annual production of *A Christmas Carol*; extensive education programs, including the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award-winning Project Discovery, and partnerships with Southern Methodist University's Meadows School of the Arts and Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts; and many community collaborations. In 2017, in collaboration with SMU Meadows, DTC launched Public Works Dallas, a groundbreaking community engagement and participatory theater project designed to deliberately blur the line between professional artists and community members, culminating in an annual production featuring more than 200 Dallas citizens performing a Shakespeare play. Throughout its history, DTC has produced many new works, including *The Texas Trilogy* by Preston Jones in 1978; Robert Penn Warren's *All the King's Men*, adapted by Adrian Hall, in 1986; and recent premieres of *Miller, Mississippi* by Boo Killebrew; *Hood: The Robin Hood Musical Adventure* by Douglas Carter Beane and Lewis Flinn; *Bella: An American Tall Tale* by Kirsten Childs; *penny candy* by Jonathan Noron; *Clarkston* by Samuel D. Hunter and *Moonshine: That Hee Haw Musical* by Robert Horn, Brandy Clark and Shane McAnally.

Dallas Theater Center gratefully acknowledges the support of our season sponsors: Texas Instruments, American Airlines, Lexus, Dallas Tourism Public Improvement District, Office of Cultural Affairs, TACA, Texas Commission of the Arts, The Shubert Foundation, and NBC 5.

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