



March 18, 2021

Dear Friends,

I'm writing to you today to provide an update as to what we have been working on, the challenges we are facing as we examine our reopening options and ultimately, what the summer and autumn may look like for Peninsula Players Theatre. Please know that each arts organization in Door County and around the country is facing their own unique challenges and all of us need your patience and understanding more than ever before.

To gain a comprehensive understanding of the various challenges we face, it is important to remind you that we operate very much as a summer camp. We house and feed up to 50 company members, many of whom share living quarters. In addition to our hotel and restaurant-like operations, we are also a performing arts facility. This means we are required to examine the reopening protocols of all such business entities, all whilst following mandatory guidelines from the unions with whom we work (Actors' Equity Association, United Scenic Artists, and the Society for Directors and Choreographers) as well as operating advice from the CDC, the Wisconsin Department of Health and Door County Public Health.

So, what does this mean to Peninsula Players Theatre as we examine our plans for a 2021 season? Well, it means we are busy working on a number of reopening projects and protocols which must be approved by Actors' Equity Association before we are given approval to move forward with any in-person productions. This includes the following projects:

- **Ventilation** - Our beautiful and unique theater was designed to provide comfort to our patrons while accommodating whatever Mother Nature threw at us during our production season of June through October. Large moveable side panels were key architectural elements to our theater's rebirth when it opened in 2006. These panels provide us the ability to open our audience pavilion to the great outdoors and welcome in fresh air, ambient nature sounds and views of our beautiful gardens. Because of this design feature and the seasonal use of the facility, no HVAC system was installed. We are currently working with Boldt Construction (the builders of our beautiful facility) and their ventilation experts to examine how we may be able to retrofit the theater and all of our congregate campus buildings to meet the required specifications for all of our safety.
- **COVID-19 Testing** – We have been working with Door County Medical Center to establish testing protocols to ensure a safe work environment for members of our company. Based on current standards we will need to test each company member 1 – 3 times per week based on the most up to date COVID-19 activity level in Door County.
- **Social Distanced Seating Charts** – We have mapped our audience pavilion and restructured our seating chart to ensure parties are socially distanced six feet apart. At this point in time, this map reduces our house size from 621 seats to 113 seats.

- **Smaller Productions** – Artistic Director Greg Vinkler and Associate Artistic Director Linda Fortunato have been busy looking at a variety of smaller productions which would require a minimal crew and no intermission. They have also been busy looking at plays which could work as virtual audio play readings should we be unable to gather together in person.
- **Masking Protocol** – All patrons will be required to be masked at all times while inside our theater or restrooms.

We all know that vaccines are being deployed, but even with these miracle drugs, safety must be the number one item on all our minds. We promised we would reopen when it was safe to do so and we are working to meet that promise. It is just going to require patience on all of our behalves.

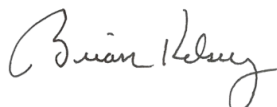
In addition to the work our team has undertaken as part of our path to reopening, we have been busy working on our weekly “deep dive” into the archives to present the history of the theater. If you have not been watching our history series, I strongly recommend you visit our website and follow the “Peninsula Players Presents” link to see the crazy roadblocks that this 86-year-old institution has been challenged with in the past. Each time, we overcame the challenge...one way or another...but most often with the help of friends and dedicated patrons.

Virtual programming will continue to be a part of how we remain connected to you all, wherever you may be, while we work through our reopening plans. To date we have produced five free audio play readings and have received wonderful feedback from many of you! Please mark your calendar for our next reading scheduled for Monday, April 5th at 7:00 p.m. CDT. To learn more, visit our website and select the link for “The Play’s the Thing.”

We are a unique organization...and have faced many challenges prior to this one. We ask you remain patient with us as we work through the many reopening requirements demanded of us. We know that whatever we may do in 2021 will not resemble anything we have done before. But our promise to you is that we will keep you informed as we come to conclusions on the summer and autumn before us. We ask for your understanding, in addition to your patience, for it is going to take all of us, coupled with infinite amounts of ingenuity and adaptability, to make this work. I believe in our team and I believe in every one of you. Together, that makes us all the stronger and more adaptable as we stand tall and walk towards an uncertain future.

Thank you in advance for sticking by our side and continuing to support this beautiful theatre-in-a-garden.

My very best,



Brian Kelsey
Managing Director