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*Below is a message from our wonderful colleague, Denise Crawn. We have been collaborating for almost two decades to present our acting camp every summer. We are very proud of it, and consider Denise and her amazing staff to be part of our State Theatre family. It was important to Denise that you hear the reasoning that led to our decision about this year's session. - Shelley Brown, President & CEO, State Theatre*

Dear State Theatre Summer Acting Camp Family:

Each year, we welcome the return of Summer Acting Camp at the State Theatre with long awaited enthusiasm and excitement by all involved. For some, our program is the start of a brand new journey. Yet, for many of us (return students, parents, and staff), it is akin to a joyfully anticipated reunion or homecoming.

While Acting Camp at the State Theatre is most certainly an educational experience, it is also a time of great fun! Year after year we look forward to the singing voices echoing through the halls as they leave music class, the sparkling imaginations and creative interactions that come alive during drama class, and those incredible 'dancing feet' learning to move in sync during dance class. And of course, we love the rewarding and entertaining culmination of our memorable recital performance on the prestigious State Theatre stage. Over the course of two short weeks each summer, it is a sheer joy to witness the exponential growth in our students equally in their skills as young thespians and as a close-knit community (a true theater family) supporting and encouraging one another other. It is truly a magical experience indeed!

This year marks 19 years since Prestige Productions brought forth our inaugural Summer Acting Camp here at the State Theatre. As one of the earliest creators of a theatrical summer camp of this stature in our area, we are well-seasoned, and widely respected for our treasured program. We believe there are two key ingredients that makes us special: the level of creative interplay within our respective classes and our unique blend of interactive group activity. These two elements provide experiential learning and evoke a deeply rooted camaraderie. For us, the alchemical magic we create and experience during Acting Camp is grounded here. To put it simply: we are who we are because we openly and safely interact and engage with one another in combined group activity and classes, and large performance numbers.

This past year has been a year like no other for us all. We have all held onto hope that it would feel safe and right to return to summer acting camp in July. And while things are indeed beginning to look up, the virus is still active and present. With the ongoing presence of the virus, our utmost concern is the safety and well being of our students, family, and

staff. We have carefully studied the official CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Protection) guidelines for youth summer camps and programs, and we have considered all aspects in regards to potential changes and adaptations needed within our current curriculum and structure. After much consideration, we feel the changes needed to ensure a safe environment would adversely affect the functioning, integrity, and ethos of our beloved camp. In other words, the foundation of the work we do, and the magical end result of the acting camp we love, would be negatively altered. With all this on our hearts and minds we have made the difficult decision to cancel our 2021 Summer Acting Camp.

While we are sad not to see you this summer, it is because we care so deeply about you (our Acting Camp Family) and the magic we create that we have chosen to extend our unexpected 'intermission' for one more summer. It is our sincere hope that you will consider rolling over this year's registration to next year and join us from July 11-22, 2022 as we plan to celebrate our 20th Anniversary of the State Theatre Summer Acting Camp. **For those unable to return, we will of course return your registration payments. Please contact Ruthann Gargone, [rgargone@statetheatre.org](mailto:rgargone@statetheatre.org), if you are holding on to registration for 2022 or you need to request a refund.**

For now, we at Prestige Productions and the all at the State Theatre hold dearly the joyful memories of our students singing, acting, and dancing and look forward in the hope and expectation of welcoming each of you 'back home' next summer.

-Denise Crown, Prestige Productions