



Dear Friend of the Mountain Playhouse,

Early each summer, a company of professional actors, directors, designers and technicians arrive in the Laurel Highlands from across the country to create a season of Broadway-quality theater. 2018 will mark the 79<sup>th</sup> time that the sawdust will fly while the racks fill with costumes, the perfect prop is sought for the set and the piano is tuned. Audiences will attend more than 100 performances of 6 shows that will make them laugh, cry and sometimes cry with laughter.

Yet, there is so much more happening at the theater than what you see onstage. Sets, costumes and props are designed and built or sourced. As many as 32 people are on the payroll. Company members are provided housing in the area from early June to mid-October. The rights to perform a show title must be obtained and paid for. The shows are advertised throughout the region. The staff answers phones and sells tickets year-round. Finally, an old and incredibly unique building must be maintained.

Each season, 20-25,000 patrons from across the region and out-of-state pass through the double red doors. More than 4,000 students from elementary schools attend performances in May. Many of these children are experiencing live professional theater for the very first time. The theater conducts a national Comedy Playwriting Contest and commissions new work for our audiences to enjoy, including the delightful 2017 musical *At First Sight*.

Ticket sales cover less than 60% of the cost of presenting a season at the theater. It is your generosity that allows the Mountain Playhouse to create the quality productions that you know and love and expect to see on the stage. Support of the theater also strengthens an organization that generates economic activity in Somerset County. Making a donation to the 2018 Annual Campaign at any level ensures that the stage is lit next season and that we are one year closer to the 80<sup>th</sup> season.

I invite you to create theater with us by making a tax-deductible donation today. Thank you for keeping the arts alive in the Laurel Highlands.

Sincerely,



Joseph Domencic  
Annual Campaign and Programming Committee Chair  
Assistant Professor of Theatre, Seton Hill University  
Member of Actors Equity Association and The Dramatists Guild