



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **ATC'S PARTNERSHIP WITH CHAPEL HAVEN WEST EMPOWERS ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL AND SOCIAL DISABILITIES TO LIVE INDEPENDENT LIVES**

TUCSON, Ariz. (Oct. 18, 2018): Three students from Chapel Haven West, a nonprofit organization that empowers adults with developmental and social disabilities to live independent, happy lives, will spend the 2018-2019 season learning hands-on skills, being introduced to theatre's creative process and being mentored by Arizona Theatre Company staff and administration as part of an ongoing partnership.

"Each student from Chapel Haven West who has had the honor of working with the Arizona Theatre Company team has grown beyond our highest expectations," said Chapel Haven West Executive Director Ken Hosto. "They have eagerly developed the ability to live independently through enriching opportunities for competitive employment while developing their appreciation for the arts, their community and the joy of meaningful service to others. Our Chapel Haven West adults are infinitely better equipped to face their upcoming challenges because of the opportunities provided through Arizona Theatre Company."

Chapel Haven West matches adults 18 years and older with mild developmental disabilities or who are on the autism spectrum with organizations like Arizona Theatre Company for year-long internships.

Chapel Haven West students Anderson Smith, Hunter Nall and Matt Margolis will work alongside ATC staff in lighting, sound, painting, carpentry, costumes and education as well as

with ATC administrative departments. They also will sit in on rehearsals and attend productions to “be exposed to the entire creative process of each show,” said ATC Director of Learning & Education Israel Jiménez.

“This hands-on interaction allows the students to put the skills and knowledge they are learning in classes into practice,” Jiménez said. “We are excited to see where their journey with Arizona Theatre Company takes them.”

This season’s internship partnership is supported in part by the Rosemary Kennedy Initiatives for Young People with Disabilities through the Kennedy Center. The Rosemary Kennedy Initiative supports organizations providing transition opportunities including internships, apprenticeships and pre-professional training in the arts, arts education and arts management for youth between ages 15 and 22.

The students are currently involved in preparations for Arizona Theatre Company’s next production, ***Erma Bombeck: At Wit’s End***, by Margaret Engel and Allison Engel, directed by Casey Stangl (Tucson: Oct. 20-Nov. 10). ***Erma Bombeck: At Wit’s End*** will be followed by ***The Music Man***, Music and Lyrics by Meredith Willson, Book by Meredith Willson and Franklin Lacey, directed by David Ivers (Tucson: Dec. 1-30). ***Two Trains Running***, by August Wilson, directed by Lou Bellamy (Tucson: Jan. 19-Feb. 9); ***American Mariachi***, by José Cruz González (Tucson: March 9-30) and ***Things I Know to be True***, by Andrew Bovell, directed by Mark Clements (Tucson: April 20-May 11).

For more information about Arizona Theatre Company productions and educational opportunities or to purchase tickets, visit [www.arizonatheatre.org](http://www.arizonatheatre.org).

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**About Arizona Theatre Company:**

Arizona Theatre Company (ATC) is the preeminent fully professional theatre in the state of Arizona committed to inspiring, engaging, and entertaining - one moment, one production, and one audience at a time. Boasting the largest seasonal subscriber base in the performing arts in Arizona, ATC is the only resident company in the U.S. that is fully based in two cities providing its wide array of programming and community outreach across the region. Now in its 52<sup>nd</sup> season, more than 130,000 people a year attend our performances at the historic Temple of Music and Art in Tucson, and the elegant Herberger Theater Center in downtown Phoenix. Each season of home-grown productions reflects the rich variety of world drama—from classics to contemporary plays, from musicals to new works—along with a wide array of community outreach programs, educational opportunities, access initiatives and new play programs. Designated The State Theatre of Arizona, ATC is led by Artistic Director David Ivers, Managing Director Billy Russo and a dedicated Board of Trustees.