

PROCLAMATION TO OBSERVE AND COMMEMORATE THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE BARTER THEATRE, THE STATE THEATRE OF VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, Barter Theatre was founded in 1933 by visionary Washington County native Robert Porterfield, with the idea of theatre patrons bartering fresh produce and livestock for live theatre performances; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Virginia designated Barter as the State Theatre of Virginia in 1946. Barter Theatre was the first theatre ever to receive this designation; and

WHEREAS, the Barter Theatre stage has welcomed patrons hailing from many continents of the world to view its performances; and

WHEREAS, through its education programs, Barter annually provides children with quality professional theatre performances that are curriculum-relevant. Barter's education programs include Barter Theatre for Student Groups; Barter Theatre in Schools, Barter on Demand for the Classroom, and Barter Theatre and Emory & Henry, and the Young Playwrights Festival; and

WHEREAS, The Barter Players, a group of professional artists who perform world-class theatre for young people in hopes of awaking their imaginations. The Players perform in Abingdon from April through December, then from February through March, they tour, performing at schools all over the Eastern seaboard. Barter Players travel the nation every November and December with a holiday show.

WHEREAS, Barter's Appalachian Festival of Plays and Playwrights is an annual festival celebrating the richness of the Appalachian tradition by providing a showcase to tell the story of this region, both past and present, and the inspiration it gives the playwrights and writers who live in the area. This festival is a proven source for successful new Southern plays; and

WHEREAS, Barter's Black Stories Black Voices hopes to shine a light on the richness of the Black experience in the Appalachian region with plays, readings, and community engagement opportunities and the annual SHINE: Illuminating Black Stories event; and

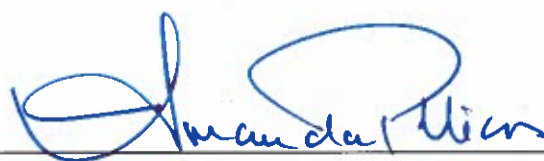
WHEREAS, Barter's College Playwrights Festival is a short play festival designed to give Appalachian undergraduate college students a professional experience. Selected student playwrights will have the opportunity to develop their play with professional Barter artists and attend workshops and meet professional playwrights; and

WHEREAS, Barter's Young Playwrights Festival is an annual event that cultivates and celebrates the talent of high school students to encourage the development of student's writing skills and creativity in hopes of discovering talented playwrights in the region; and

WHEREAS, Barter Theatre is one of the few surviving residents theatres and is the longest-running Equity Theatre in the country; and

WHEREAS, the year 2023 is Barter Theatre's 90th anniversary season, with twelve (12) equity shows and five (5) shows with the Barter Players planned for the year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Amanda Pillion and the Council for the Town of Abingdon join with Barter Theatre in observance and celebration of its 90th anniversary and further urge all Town citizens to participate in the celebration by attending a production during the 2023 season.



Mayor Amanda Pillion