

March 18, 2020

A NOTE FROM MANAGING/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ALLEN SHANKLES

RE: The Corona Virus

Dear ALT Patrons, Volunteers and Friends,

Wow! Two letters in just three days. I wish that I was writing these letters for something exciting, but sadly I have a couple of important issues to address.

There have been some important developments in the past 24-36 hours and we have made some critical decisions regarding ALT and its programs.

As I expressed in an email Monday, the safety and well-being of our many patrons, volunteers and staff is our number one priority. In accordance with CDC guidelines regarding “social distancing” we have decided to postpone our final three productions of the season. These include the ALT Academy production of “Anne of Green Gables,” the ALT Adventure Space production of “The Humans” and the Mainstage production of “Matilda.” Further, we have decided to move our production of “Matilda” to September. It will be the opening production of our 2020-21 Mainstage Season. Exact dates for the run of “Matilda” have not been set yet, but they will be posted soon.

We have not set new dates for “Anne of Green Gables” and “The Humans” yet, but we believe that by moving “Matilda” we will create the flexibility to reschedule “Anne of Green Gables” and “The Humans.” Our goal is to produce both of these shows in April and/or May once the crisis has abated. Of course, we are hoping that this plan works, but we expect that we may need to reevaluate our plan in the next two weeks. Please know that we have every intention of producing these shows before the end of the season. However, it has proven to be impossible to predict the future and when this crisis will subside. It seems that things are changing almost every hour or two.

The ALT Academy is in spring break right now. We plan to follow the direction of AISD regarding the continuation of our classes after Spring Break. If AISD cancels classes, the ALT Academy will cancel classes.

We know that as a result of the Corona Virus, many, many of our friends and neighbors throughout our community are experiencing hardship in many forms. I am proud to say that ALT is financially strong. As long as this crisis does not last more than a few months, we will keep every member of our staff employed and fully compensated. This is a blessing to all of us on the staff. It should be noted that 75% of ALT’s income is from ticket sales. Obviously, that is going to cut into our revenue stream until we can begin producing shows again and selling tickets.

We are trying to project what our lost revenue may ultimately total, but there are many factors that can affect that total. As we move forward, we trust that our patrons and friends will be mindful of this. Your donation of unused tickets back to ALT would be a tremendous help to ALT and could be a tax deductible contribution for you. We are not asking for cash donations at this time. There are many people and organizations that

need your help more than we do right now. However, if you want to donate your tickets back to ALT, that would be awesome.

We understand that we are just one of many businesses that have been shaken by this historic event. We know that ALT may seem insignificant in the big scheme of things, but we know that isn't true. Our organization is a bright light in our community that offers hope, comfort, distraction and damn good FUN and entertainment to every citizen in our area!

You can count on us to do our part in the recovery of our community. You can count on us to follow and obey the guidelines set forth by the CDC and our state and local governments. And once things return to normal, you can count on us to open our doors to you with open arms ready to entertain you with some of the finest theatre productions you will ever enjoy. YOU CAN COUNT ON ALT!

We are going to take this very inconvenient event day by day and we pray that our city, our state, our country and our world will find a way out of this mess and restart our lives with new conviction and hope. Perhaps there is a chance for something meaningful to come from this crisis. Perhaps we can look at our lives and our fellow humans with a new perspective. Perhaps we can conclude that we have treated our planet with disrespect and learn how to correct that. If not, we will most certainly relive this again in the future.

I am hopeful.

God bless us all.....

Sincerely,

**Allen Shankles
Managing/Artistic Director
Amarillo Little Theatre**