

THEATRE UNDER THE STARS
NEWS RELEASE

**THEATRE UNDER THE STARS SUSPENDS SPRING AND
SUMMER PROGRAMS DUE TO COVID-19**

**HOBBY CENTER MUSICAL THEATRE PRODUCTIONS, STUDENT
PROGRAMS AND FUND-RAISING EVENTS IMPACTED**

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HOUSTON — Theatre Under The Stars announces the postponement or cancellation of most programming through July, due to the COVID-19 crisis. As Houston's largest non-profit dedicated to musical theatre, this represents multiple events across several venues.

"It is with heavy hearts that we make this decision," said TUTS Artistic Director **Dan Knechtges**. "However, the health of our guests, artists, crew, and staff must be our top priority at this time. The curtain will rise again!"

The impact of the cancellations represent losses of \$1.975 million in revenue for the non-profit organization's theatrical productions at the Hobby Center and an additional \$2.6 million in lost philanthropic support – for a staggering total loss of \$4.6 million.

"Supporting local arts non-profits is extremely important during this difficult time," said TUTS Executive Director **Hillary Hart**. "In the last year alone, TUTS employed 1,033 artists, musicians, stagehands, costumers, community teachers, designers, and administrative staff members; and over 85% of these theatre professionals live right here in Houston."

Houstonians who wish to support the future of professional musical theatre are urged to visit tuts.com/annualfund to donate.

The impacted events include the cancellation of its upcoming productions at the Hobby Center of the new musical **Pure Country** (April 14-26) and **Disney's Newsies** (May 19-30). Also cancelled are two free productions at Miller Outdoor Theatre, the TUTS Public Works Houston production of **The Music Man** (July 14-19) and the TUTS Humphreys School production of **Madagascar JR** (June 10-13).

The **Tommy Tune Awards** (April 28), a celebration of high school musical theatre, also planned for the Hobby Center, is cancelled. However, an online event will take place on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

As previously announced, the TUTS Gala 2020 has been postponed to the fall. Additionally, the annual fundraiser, the TUTS **Leading Ladies Luncheon** (May 15) at the Hobby Center, has been cancelled.

Spring classes for the Humphreys School of Musical Theatre and The River are cancelled. Also cancelled are **The Year In Review** (May 6), an annual event at the Hobby Center featuring students of the Humphreys School of Musical Theatre, and the **Inclusive Arts Showcase** (May 13), a joint production from both schools, also at the Hobby Center.

At this time, summer camps for both the [Humphreys School](#) and [The River](#) will go on as planned.

For additional information related to events and performances impacted by this crisis, visit tuts.com/covid19.

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THEATRE UNDER THE STARS ("TUTS") - (Dan Knechtges, Artistic Director; Hillary J Hart, Executive Director) - Founded by Frank M. Young in 1968, Houston's non-profit home for musical theatre, is dedicated to enriching lives through innovative musical theatre, inclusive educational curriculums and dynamic community engagement. For more information, visit tuts.com.

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