

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE ESTABLISHES THE SHERI L. JAMIESON NEW WORK DEVELOPMENT FUND

LEAD GIFT FROM LONGTIME PLAYHOUSE SUPPORTER LAUNCHES VITAL ENDOWMENT FUND TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WORK

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse announces the creation of the **Sheri L. Jamieson New Work Development Fund for La Jolla Playhouse**. This essential endowment fund will help safeguard the resources to support the Playhouse’s longtime commitment to new work development in perpetuity, and secure its place as a vibrant and supportive home for artists to create the new and the next in American theatre.

The catalyst for the New Work Development Fund is a founding gift from Playhouse Trustee and longtime donor **Sheri L. Jamieson**, along with a matching gift from major Playhouse benefactors **Joan and Irwin Jacobs**.

“Throughout its history, La Jolla Playhouse has been deeply committed to the development of new plays and musicals, launching works that have had international impact and touched lives around the world,” remarked **Christopher Ashley**, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse. “Sheri’s vision in recognizing that impact and its effect on generations to come is truly inspiring, and this endowment fund in her name will ensure a permanent commitment to our new play development efforts by providing ongoing resources to create innovative, essential and transformative theatrical experiences.”

“I am honored to be able to play a role in establishing a fund for La Jolla Playhouse that I believe secures our mission now and for future generations. It will be the cement that binds our programs and our commitment to doing the new and the next which will invite creatives to create and audiences to experience and connect for generations,” said Jamieson. “I believe that the day has come where it is, and will continue to be, essential to enter the La Jolla Playhouse village in order to get a glimpse of what is about to happen next in American theatre.”

The Sheri L. Jamieson New Work Development Fund for La Jolla Playhouse will help inspire other generous philanthropists. Donors of \$500,000 or more to this endowment fund will be invited to join the **New Work Development Circle**, which will serve as an advisory group to ensure the funds are continually used for the support of new work. The Circle will also meet regularly with Ashley to celebrate the new work that has been developed by the Playhouse each season. For more information on supporting the New Work Development Fund or joining the New Work Development Circle, please contact Julia Foster, La Jolla Playhouse Director of Philanthropy, at (858) 228-3080 or jfoster@ljp.org.

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Since its inception, La Jolla Playhouse has maintained a steadfast commitment to developing new work and supporting artists as part of its mission to provide unfettered creative opportunities for the leading playwrights, directors, actors and designers of today and tomorrow. To that end, the Playhouse has established several signature initiatives, including the **Page To Stage Play Development Program**, the **DNA New Work Series**, the **Without Walls (WOW)** series of immersive and site-based work, the **Performance Outreach Program (POP) Tour** which annually commissions and presents a brand new work for young audiences, as well as an extensive **commissioning program**, ongoing **readings and workshops**, and **artist and theatre residencies**.

Sheri L. Jamieson is an alumna of UC San Diego and a longtime supporter of the UCSD institution, including the Moores Cancer Center, Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center, the University Art Gallery and the Jacobs Medical Center. She also served as a founding member of the J. Paul Getty Villa Council and the Philodora Society at the Metropolitan Museum in New York City. She has served on the Board of Trustees at the La Jolla Playhouse for 14 years.

La Jolla Playhouse is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, the Playhouse is currently led by Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Managing Director Debby Buchholz. Playhouse artists and audiences have taken part in the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 101 world premieres, commissioning 52 new works, and sending 32 productions to Broadway – including the currently-running hit musical *Come From Away* – garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. For more information, visit LaJollaPlayhouse.org.

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