With the New Year almost upon us, it’s an apt time for reflection on the past here at Theater Latté Da, and for expressing gratitude for you – those who have been right there with us, supporting and powering our work.

Our 2017-18 fiscal year, ending July 31st, 2018, marked Theater Latté Da’s 20th Anniversary. Featuring a powerful reimagining of Man of La Mancha, the return of the beloved Minnesota classic A Christmas Carol Petersen, a thought-provoking staging of Stephen Sondheim’s Assassins, the moving World Premiere of Five Points, born from Theater Latté Da’s NEXT Festival, and Sally Wingert in a masterful performance in Underneath the Lintel, Season 20 was one of our most ambitious years to-date. We welcomed 34,000 people to our new home in the Ritz Theater over the course of the season, including over 4,000 who had never before experienced a Theater Latté Da production, and nearly 1,000 students who saw a show for free or at a deeply reduced price.

When I founded Theater Latté Da with Denise Prosek two decades ago, I don’t think either of us imagined we’d eventually be producing work for tens of thousands of patrons in the building we now own, the historic Ritz Theater. As outlined in the following pages, it is an extraordinary time to be at Theater Latté Da as we continue to grow and thrive.

Season 20, and every year before it, simply would not have been possible without you – our patrons, supporters, and donors.

Thank you.

Peter Rothstein
Co-Founder/Artistic Director
“Miguel de Cervantes wrote El Ingenioso Hidalgo Don Quixote de La Mancha in 1614. It has had a profound impact around the globe for more than 400 years. It has been translated into 140 languages and has inspired countless poets, painters, and playwrights. I wanted our production to reflect the reach of its impact over space and time.”

- Peter Rothstein

“When life itself seems lunatic, who knows where madness lies.”

- Miguel de Cervantes

“Beautifully realized, heartfelt.”

- Talkin’ Broadway
My mother Carole just loves A CHRISTMAS CAROLE PETERSEN. She says it has a message – Plus she likes her name up in lights. But, I do think she's right; our show does have a message. To me, the message is that no matter how challenging the holiday season may be for some of us (and it most certainly bugs me, let me count the ways) and no matter how lonely or alienated or depressed we might feel, it is not impossible to find a little joy amidst the noise and stress. Joy is available. Always. To all of us.

- Tod Petersen
“ASSASSINS has been criticized for its glorification of its subjects, but I believe Sondheim and Weidman’s goal was quite the opposite. I believe their goal was to shine a light on the humanity of these individuals and in so doing illuminate a path to understanding. Only through understanding, through empathy, can real change occur. And like a true Sondheim musical, that path is rarely an easy one.”

- Peter Rothstein

“Someone tell the story, someone sing the song. Every now and then the country goes a little wrong.”

- Balladeer

“This is smart theater.”

- Broadway World Minneapolis
“The backdrop of FIVE POINTS is the Civil War, a nation divided between North and South, rich and poor, Black and White, immigrants and descendants of immigrants. Now, more than 150 years later we find ourselves once again a nation divided, with issues of race, class, and immigration still at the heart of that division.”

- Peter Rothstein
UNDERNEATH THE LINTEL

May 30 - Jul 1, 2018

By Glen Berger
Original Music by Frank London
Directed by Peter Rothstein
Music Direction by Dan Chouinard
Starring Sally Wingert

“The play is about learning to live with the choices we make in a life, and how do we live with that, and turn it into a dance.”
- Glen Berger

“A thoroughly captivating ride through time, place, and ideas.”
-Cherry and Spoon

“We reached out to Glen Berger to see if he was interested in us reimagining his celebrated play as a play-with-music. And in order for it to have a home with Latté Da, the music would need to be performed live and would need to become vital to the storytelling. UNDERNEATH THE LINTEL is the story of a librarian who takes a courageous, irrational journey, stepping away from her small town and out of her comfort zone. Her adventure takes her to far reaches of the planet, but also to places of the heart and recesses of the soul. And now to places only music can take you.”
- Peter Rothstein

Scenic Design by Michael Hoover
While you may know Theater Latté Da for our reimagined takes on musical theater classics, like *Sweeney Todd*, *Gypsy*, and *Ragtime*, we also have worked since our inception to foster new talent and nurture the development of bold new musical theater.

With the support of you – our patrons and donors – TLD presented our sixth annual *NEXT Festival* in the summer of 2018, featuring four dynamic new works from Angelica Cheri and Ross Baum, Max Wojtanowicz, Michael Gruber and Nikki Swoboda, Ryan Underbakke and Matt Spring, as well as Harrison David Rivers, Michelle Kinney, and Jacqueline Ulan, the writer and musicians for this season’s World Premiere production *To Let Go and Fall*. The *NEXT Festival* is a key component of *NEXT 20/20*, our ambitious new works initiative launched in 2015 with the goal of cultivating 20 new musicals by the year 2020.

The *NEXT Festival* is a vital investment in the creative journeys of artists in the Twin Cities and beyond – it’s where artists meet their collaborators, exchange ideas, and hear their words spoken aloud and set to music, maybe for the first time ever.

With the *NEXT Festival*, Theater Latté Da forged new connections between audience and artist by bringing people into the ground floor of the creative process – pulling back the curtain of the generative process of creating new work and allowing writers to receive real-time feedback. Thanks to your ongoing patronage and support, Theater Latté Da is the home of new, bold, and adventurous musical theater in the Twin Cities. We are so grateful for your investment in our work and our vision.

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**Elissa Adams**
Associate Artistic Director
In 2016, Theater Latté Da became the proud owner of the Ritz Theater, which has a long and storied history in northeast Minneapolis. We carefully plan for the well-being of the building and seek out opportunities to share the space with our neighbors. Throughout Season 20 we hosted monthly meetings of the 13th Avenue Business Association and used our playbills and website to promote area restaurants and small businesses to our patrons. In Season 20, we twice opened our doors to the Northeast Arts District for public forums about matters of importance to working artists. Hundreds of people enjoyed free tours of the building during the 2018 Art-a-Whirl. Our local Minneapolis public high school, Thomas Edison, performed its fall choir and band concert on the mainstage to a full house of friends and family. And our $13 for 13 program – through which residents in the 55413-zip code may see any Latté Da show for $13.00 – has introduced hundreds of our neighbors to the thrill of live musical theater.

Every ticket purchase includes a $2.00 restoration fee, and those funds are critical for the keeping and care of the building. So to all of our patrons, thank you for your investment in Theater Latté Da’s home. Our board, staff, artists (and neighbors!) are grateful.

Michelle Woster
Managing Director

“The Ritz Theater has been a historical house of artistic entertainment over the decades on 13th Ave. Theater Latté Da has done an amazing job of continuing that legacy; introducing our neighborhood & countless visitors to some of the best performances in the Twin Cities. We are very proud neighbors!”

Kathryn Hayes, Co-Owner, The Anchor Fish & Chips

“Latté Da is a shining light in our neighborhood and community across the Twin Cities. I love who they are and what they give us.”

Kelly Sharp, Owner, The Barber Sharp

Michelle Woster
AUDIENCE STATISTICS

**MAN OF LA MANCHA**
6,547 patrons

**ALL IS CALM NATIONAL TOUR**
8,918 patrons

**A CHRISTMAS CAROLE PETERSEN**
4,271 patrons

**ASSASSINS**
8,076 patrons

**FIVE POINTS**
7,342 patrons

**UNDERNEATH THE LINTEL**
6,417 patrons

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IN SEASON 20 WE HAD 1,580 SEASON TICKET HOLDERS, AN INCREASE OF 43% OVER THE PREVIOUS SEASON.

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873
THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO SAW A SHOW FOR REDUCED PRICE OR FREE

94%
OF AUDIENCES WOULD RECOMMEND THEATER LATTÉ DA TO THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

4,121
NEW PATRONS SERVED

873
THE NUMBER OF CITIES IN 2017 WHERE ALL IS CALM WAS PRESENTED, INCLUDING 10 STATES AND THE AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE.
As chair of the Board of Theater Latté Da, I am thrilled to report a strong financial position for last year’s 2017-18 season – Season 20. In the past two decades, Latté Da has grown from producing two shows a season for audiences of hundreds to six productions a season for audiences of thousands. I am so grateful for our patrons and donors – your generosity and support are vital to ensuring Latté Da’s continued health and growth. On behalf of the entire board, thank you.

Nancy Jones
Board Chair
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