

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Long Wharf Theatre, LongWharf.org, (203) 787-4282

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THRIVE: Teens Having Resilience in a Virtual Environment

#CTteensTHRIVE

New Haven, CT – July 9, 2020 - In response to COVID-19 and the substantial number of high school students experiencing a loss of summer programs and employment opportunities, the **Shubert Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, and Westport Country Playhouse**, under the advisement of local teens, have co-created a free virtual program that encourages accountability and inspires young people to continue learning during this difficult time. **THRIVE** (Teens Having Resilience in a Virtual Environment), is an online program that will run from July 20 through August 8, ending with a creative virtual showcase hosted by the beloved actress and singer, [Kelli O'Hara](#).

The program will engage high school students in daily check-ins and workshops with local artists and organizations that explore everything from wellness to the arts via social media. **THRIVE** will foster curiosity, healthy habits, and meaningful connections between participants and facilitators that will lead to future engagements and opportunities. Local artists, activists, service providers, and organizations will lead interactive workshops and discussions that have been requested by young people in our communities. Participants will earn gift cards based on participation in discussions and workshops. High school students in New Haven and Fairfield County will be eligible to participate and can apply [here](#) by **Monday, July 13**. In addition to participants, this program will be supported by three **Youth@Work** students who will help promote the program, assist facilitators during workshops, and create a record of this historic moment.

For more information, visit: <https://www.westportplayhouse.org/thrive>

About these collaborators:

CAPA / Shubert Theatre-New Haven brings the world to our legendary stage, enriches lives, and creates community through our mission to: **Preserve** the legacy of the historic Shubert Theatre in New Haven as an icon of the American theatre by operating and evolving our theatre as a world class performing arts center. **Present** international, national, and local programming of the highest quality, featuring renowned artists from all cultures and embracing all genres of the performing arts and the diversity of our local culture and community. **Educate, inspire, and**

build new and diverse audiences by offering education and outreach programs which integrate the arts into our community and by providing affordable access to live performances at our theatre. **Strengthen** our arts communities through advocacy, partnership, collaboration, and mutual support. **Invigorate** the local economy through the programming we present, the audiences we attract, and our support of the businesses in our community.

Long Wharf Theatre's mission is to create exceptional theatre that delights and provokes audiences and artists alike into better understanding themselves, one another, and our world. The work is driven by our guiding values of **artistic innovation, kaleidoscopic partnerships, and radical inclusion.**

The mission of **Westport Country Playhouse** is to enrich, enlighten, and engage our community through the power of professionally produced *theater worth talking about* and the welcoming experience of our Playhouse campus.

Youth@Work engages in-school youth, ages 14-21, who are New Haven residents and/or attend a New Haven Public School. The program is aimed at providing young people with workplace exposure, mentoring and school and community-based enrichment activities. Early work experiences serve as the foundation for future success in the workplace.

Kelli O'Hara is an American actress and singer, most known for her work on the Broadway and opera stages.

A seven-time Tony Award nominee, O'Hara won the 2015 Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her performance as Anna Leonowens in the Lincoln Center Theater's revival of *The King and I*. She also received Tony nominations for her performances in *The Light in the Piazza* (2005), *The Pajama Game* (2006), *South Pacific* (2008), *Nice Work If You Can Get It* (2012), *The Bridges of Madison County* (2014), and *Kiss Me, Kate* (2019). O'Hara also received a 2019 Olivier Award nomination for her performance as Anna Leonowens in the West End revival of *The King and I*.

O'Hara made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera in a 2014 production of Franz Lehár's *The Merry Widow*. In 2018, she played the role of Despina in the Met Opera's production of Mozart's *Cosi fan tutte*. She has also played roles in television series, such as *Masters of Sex* and *13 Reasons Why*, receiving a Primetime Emmy Award nomination for her starring role in the 2017 web drama series *The Accidental Wolf*.