

WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

MARK LAMOS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | MICHAEL BARKER, MANAGING DIRECTOR

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Patricia Blaufuss, Public Relations Manager

(203) 227-5137 x197 | (203) 571-1287 | pblaufuss@westportplayhouse.org

For Immediate Release: November 23, 2021

Westport Country Playhouse's Youth Council Presents "Winter Fun Fest" To Benefit Homes with Hope on Sat., Dec. 4

The Playhouse fest is scheduled in collaboration with a simultaneous seasonal event at Westport Museum for History and Culture to encourage the community to enjoy downtown Westport

Westport Country Playhouse's Youth Council will host a "Winter Fun Fest" on Saturday, December 4, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Playhouse courtyard and Lucille Lortel White Barn. "Winter Fun Fest" is the first community event conceived, organized, and run by the Playhouse Youth Council, a group of activated local high school students. Net proceeds will go to Homes with Hope, a Westport-based organization dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness in Fairfield County.

"Homes with Hope's kindness and dedication to building up our community inspire us," said Cessa Lewis, Playhouse Youth Council member. "For over 30 years, Homes with Hope has been serving individuals and families from around Fairfield County giving them a warm home and putting them back on their feet. We're so grateful for their services and the opportunity to help amplify and support their mission."

Planned for enjoyment by every generation, "Winter Fun Fest" features winter-themed activities, including games, story readings, scavenger hunt, bingo, crafts, snacks, and hot drinks. Music will be provided by Staples High School Orphenians and Chamber Orchestra. Food Truck Refinery will be on site with their specialties available for purchase. Photos with Santa Claus are \$5, and may be scheduled by reservation (limited availability). For photo reservations and event details, visit: <https://www.westportplayhouse.org/winterfunfest/>

The Playhouse box office will be open during the event for advance ticket sales to the Family Festivities presentation of "Rosie Revere, Engineer & Friends," a new musical produced by TheaterWorks USA, on Sunday, March 13, 1 and 4 p.m., at \$20 per ticket. Also, early-bird rates will be in effect to register for CampWCP, a social justice theater camp in July for middle school students.

A community food drive to benefit Homes with Hope and a toy drive for Toys for Tots will take place during "Winter Fun Fest." Any guest donating a non-perishable food item, new book, or toy to these charity drives at the event will be entered into a drawing for a pair of tickets to a show in the Playhouse's 2022 season.

Admission to "Winter Fun Fest" is \$5 for youth (age 4-18), \$10 for adults, and \$20 per household. A limited number of tickets may be purchased at the door, subject to availability. Snow date is Saturday, December 18.

- MORE -

WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

25 POWERS COURT WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT 06880

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE T (203) 227-5137 F 203.221.7482 | BOX OFFICE T (203) 227-4177 F (203) 454-3238

westportplayhouse.org

The Playhouse Youth Council, organizers of “Winter Fun Fest,” formed early this year. Members act as changemakers and ambassadors in supporting the artistic and community-building mission of the historic theater which is celebrating its 90th year.

Championing the Playhouse Youth Council’s efforts is Dr. Peter Marghella, member of the Playhouse Theater Council, an advocacy group of community leaders who mentor the high school group. “We have an obligation to assist those who come behind us to carry our work forward,” said Dr. Marghella. “This is particularly true in the arts. There are many young people out there whose interest in the arts represents our opportunity to help raise the next generation, those who will help to keep interest, support, and eventually philanthropy alive for Westport Country Playhouse well into the future.” Dr. Marghella is medical and public health preparedness and response authority.

Playhouse Youth Council members are: Sofia Michelle Carrillo, 16, New Haven, Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School; Henry Carson, 15, Westport, Staples High School; Nate Cohen, 15, Ridgefield, Ridgefield High School; Kat Corrigan, 17, Wilton, Wilton High School/Regional Center for the Arts; Kate Davitt, 16, Westport, Staples High School; Sophia DelGaudio, 16, Fairfield, Fairfield Ludlow High School; Shea Frimmer, 14, Weston, Weston High School; Joelle Singer Jensen, 16, Greenwich, Greenwich High School; Cessa Lewis, 15, Westport, St. Luke’s School; Charly Peter, 15, Stamford, Westhill High School; Sofia Schaffer, 16, Ridgefield, Hopkins School; Ethan Smith, 16, Bethel, Bethel High School; and Sophia Vellotti, 15, Westport, Staples High School.

Proof of vaccination is required for all attendees over age 18 and masks are required indoors for all over age 2. Most activities will be located indoors in the Playhouse’s Lucille Lortel White Barn where masks are required. Food and drinks will only be allowed outside. While outside, masks are encouraged though not required. Playhouse staff and volunteers will be masked and vaccinated. For updates on Covid-19 health and safety protocols at the Playhouse, visit: <https://www.westportplayhouse.org/visit/covid19safety/>

2021 Season Sponsor is the Eunice and David Bigelow Foundation. 2021 Season Media Sponsors are Moffly Media and WSHU Public Radio. 2021 Youth Council Sponsors are Athena and Daniel Adamson.

The Playhouse’s “Winter Fun Fest” is scheduled in collaboration with the Westport Museum for History and Culture’s “Jingle Bell Rock & Outdoor Winter Market.” The two seasonal events on Saturday, December 4, encourage the community to visit and shop in downtown Westport. For more information on the Westport Museum event at: <https://westporthistory.org/events/winter-market/>

For tickets to “Winter Fun Fest”, visit www.westportplayhouse.org, or call the box office Tues., through Fri., 12 to 6 p.m., at (203) 227-4177, or visit Westport Country Playhouse, 25 Powers Court, off Route 1, Westport. Stay connected to the Playhouse on Facebook (Westport Country Playhouse), follow on Twitter (@WCPlayhouse), and on YouTube (WestportPlayhouse).

ABOUT WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

Founded in 1931, Westport Country Playhouse is celebrating its 90th anniversary year. The mission of Westport Country Playhouse is to enrich, enlighten, and engage the community through the power of professionally produced theater of the highest caliber and the welcoming experience of the Playhouse campus. The not-for-profit Playhouse provides this experience in multiple ways by offering live theater experiences of the highest quality, under the artistic direction of Mark Lamos; educational and community engagement events to further explore the work on stage; the New Works Initiative, a program dedicated to the discovery, development, and production of new live theatrical works; special performances and programs for students and teachers with extensive curriculum support material; Script in Hand play readings to deepen relationships with audiences and artists; the renowned Woodward Internship Program during the summer months for aspiring theater professionals; Family Festivities presentations to delight young and old alike and to promote reading through live theater; and the beautiful and historic Playhouse campus open for enjoyment and community events year-round. Charity Navigator has recently awarded its top 4-star charity rating to the Playhouse in recognition of its strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

