WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

NEWS RELEASE

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Westport Country Playhouse Names Brian Letendre Director of Development

Westport Country Playhouse announces that Brian Letendre has joined the historic theatre as director of development. In this role, Letendre oversees all aspects of the Playhouse's fundraising efforts and serves as the primary liaison to its donors, including individuals, foundations, government agencies, and corporations.

"Because more than half of the Playhouse's annual revenue comes from donor contributions, building and sustaining strong relationships with our supporters is essential to our long-term success. Brian's appointment as director of development is an exciting step forward in that effort," said Beth Huisking, Playhouse managing director. "As a Broadway performer and experienced relationship builder, he brings both a deep appreciation for the performing arts and a talent for connecting people with shared goals. The board and I look forward to working with Brian to deepen our relationships with our generous supporters and inspire new audiences and donors to invest in the future of the Playhouse."

Letendre brings a diverse professional background to the role, combining experience in business, education, and the performing arts. Before transitioning to fundraising, he built a career in New York City real estate, closing more than $40 million in sales before becoming director of productivity at BOND New York. He also teaches at Pace University and is completing an MBA in Business Analytics at Pace's Lubin School of Business.

With a background in theatre and dance, Letendre began studying dance at age 13, attending Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts and School of American Ballet. By his senior year, he had won a YoungArts Award and earned admission to The Juilliard School as one of just 24 dancers selected worldwide. He went directly into a 13-year Broadway career, originating the role of Baby Boy in "Urban Cowboy," playing James in Twyla Tharp's "Movin' Out," and appearing as Neleus in the original Broadway company of Disney's "Mary Poppins." His screen credits include "Across the Universe" and HBO's "The Other Two."

Letendre and his husband, actor Stephen Mark Lukas, reside in Westport, Connecticut. Lukas played Lancelot in the Playhouse's 2016 production of "Camelot."

"Westport has a theater with almost a hundred years of history right down the street, and I want everyone in this community to feel that when they walk in," said Letendre. "My job is to make sure the Playhouse has everything it needs to keep doing great work and to bring more people into that story as we head toward our 100th birthday in 2031."

For Playhouse information, visit www.westportplayhouse.org or call the box office at (203) 227-4177, toll-free at 1-888-927-7529, or visit Westport Country Playhouse, 25 Powers Court, off Route 1,

Westport. Stay connected to the Playhouse on Facebook (Westport Country Playhouse), Instagram (wcplayhouse), and on YouTube (WestportPlayhouse).

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