



Curt Columbus, The Arthur P. Solomon and Sally E. Lapidés Artistic Director - Jennifer Canole, Interim Executive Director
201 Washington Street • Providence • Rhode Island 02903 • www.trinityrep.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 17, 2021

CONTACT: Laura Weick, Communications Associate • (401) 453-9226 • lweick@trinityrep.com

TRINITY REP EXPANDS ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS

Assistive listening devices upgraded, open captioning expanded, Access Team introduced

PROVIDENCE, RI: Trinity Repertory Company reaffirms its commitment to inclusivity with new and expanded initiatives for patrons with disabilities. The company's improved Assistive Listening System, increased number of open-captioned performances, and the creation of an Access Team will help make the theater more welcoming for all patrons, regardless of ability.

"With all of these changes, we are looking forward to becoming a more equitable and inclusive place to visit," Director of Education and Accessibility **Jordan Butterfield** said. "This aligns very much with Trinity Rep's core values, and we spent a lot of time during our pause on live performances focusing on being more accessible."

Key improvements include those for patrons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Trinity Rep nearly tripled the number of open-captioned performances for each of the company's five productions this season compared to previous years. Open-captioning is a live text that displays a transcript of a show's dialogue and sound effects for all to read simultaneously with the performance. The dates for open caption performances are: *A Christmas Carol* on December 1 – 5 at 7:30 pm and November 7, December 4, and December 5 at 12:00 pm.; *Tiny Beautiful Things* on February 9 – 12 at 7:30 pm and January 16, February 9, February 12, and February 13 at 2:00 pm; *August Wilson's Gem of the Ocean* on March 23 – 26 at 7:30 pm and February 27, March 23, March 26, and March 27 at 2:00 pm; *Sueño* on May 4 – 7 at 7:30 pm and April 10, May 4, May 7, and May 8 at 2:00 pm; and *Fairview* on June 15 – 18 at 7:30 pm and May 22, June 15, 18, and 19 at 2:00 pm. American Sign Language interpretation is available upon request.

Furthermore, Trinity Rep will offer patrons a brand-new Assistive Listening System that has both Wi-Fi and radio frequency (RF) options. Audience members can download the Listen Everywhere app to get clear audio at Trinity Rep using their own mobile device with their Bluetooth-connected or wired headphones. Alternatively,



radio system devices with standard headphones are available for loan to patrons and do not require a smart device or Wi-Fi connection. Both of these options are available at no charge. The new ALD system was funded in part by Ocean State Charities Trust and the Vigneron Memorial Fund.

Trinity Rep will be adding an Access Team of volunteer ushers, led by House Services Manager **Suzanne Tidwell**, who will be on-call for patrons before, during, and after performances. This trained team will help patrons and their companions who need additional support, which may include but is not limited to: assisting patrons who use wheelchairs, walkers, and assistive listening devices; escorting guests to concessions or restrooms during a show; staying with a patron when their companion is away; easing guests with sensory processing disorders into the theater; or checking in with them during intermission to make sure their needs are met. Trinity Rep is currently training volunteer ushers to work on the Access Team, and expects it to roll out in the spring.

Trinity Rep also continues to accommodate those sensitive to lights and sounds, such as people with autism, PTSD, or sensory processing disorders. The Sensory-Friendly series of performances are identical to other performances but feature a lantern in the theater that will light up to warn audiences when a loud sound or flashing lights are about to come. This year's Sensory-Friendly performances are as follows: *Tiny Beautiful Things* on February 2 at 7:30 pm; August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean* on March 16 at 7:30 pm; *Sueño* on April 27 at 7:30 pm; and *Fairview* on June 8 at 7:30 pm.

Trinity Rep's Lederer Theater Center is wheelchair and limited-mobility accessible, with elevator services and exclusive accessible seating areas. For more information regarding Trinity Rep and accessibility, please visit www.trinityrep.com/accessibility.

TRINITY REPERTORY COMPANY

Rhode Island's Tony Award-winning theater, Trinity Rep has created unparalleled professional theater for and with its community since its founding in 1963. Trinity Rep strives to facilitate human connection and has been a driving force behind the creativity that fuels and defines the region for more than 50 years.

Trinity Rep is committed to reinventing the public square and inspiring dialogue by creating emotionally-stimulating live productions that range from classical to contemporary and innovative education programs for all ages and abilities. Its annual production of *A Christmas Carol* has brought families together for more than four decades and made memories for over a million audience members. The 2021-22 Season will launch in November with the holiday classic and continue with four subscription series productions which will run January



through June, 2022: *Tiny Beautiful Things*, August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*, *Sueño*, and *Fairview*. **For more information on our 2021-22 Season, visit Trinity Rep's website at www.TrinityRep.com.**