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**THEATREWORKS FLORIDA & THEATRECARES "ARTS ACCESS PASS"**

***Do you remember your very first theatre experience?***

**DAVENPORT, FL (June 7, 2018)** – My name is Scott A. Cook and I am the Artistic Producer of TheatreWorks Florida, a 501(c)(3) professional theatre company based in Davenport, FL. I remember my very first theatre experience very clearly. It changed my entire life. However, many families, friends and neighbors won't ever be able to even answer that question because of their inability to pay for a ticket at the box office. They simply can't afford it.

I was raised in the country on a mountain on a farm in a log cabin. Theatre was not a luxury my family could afford. When I was 8 years old, by a strange twist of fate I can't quite recall, I somehow ended up seeing *A Chorus Line* on Broadway – standing room only. My very first live theatre show. I was absolutely mesmerized at what I experienced on that stage and knew right then I would make musical theatre my life, not really knowing at that young age the fantastical journey that was about to unfold.

My career led me through a young adults musical touring company called *Rhythm- Lite Touring Productions* (Utica, NY), onto the Walt Disney World Company as an AEA singer/dancer/actor (Orlando, FL), into the world of directing & choreographing musical theatre around the USA and now, Artistic Producer of the award-winning theatre company, TheatreWorks Florida (Davenport, FL).

Theatre not only transformed my career choice – it transformed me as a person. It continually teaches me more life lessons than I could possibly dream of. The power of storytelling on stage and the effect it can have on one's heart, mind and soul has no price... and I simply would not be the man I am today if it were not for the magic I discovered at such a young age.

In 2014, TheatreWorks Florida created its highly successful community outreach program, TheatreCares, as a response to our very first National Endowment for the Arts grant. TheatreCares' mission was simple yet powerful: promote accessibility and lifelong learning in the realm of the performing arts by providing full-scale theatrical experiences for audiences who are physically, emotionally, financially, socially or geographically challenged and may otherwise not have the opportunity to embrace and engage in the art of a live performance. Little did we know then that the experiences we were about to create would truly change the lives of people we didn't even know.

From a woman in a nursing home that had not spoken in 6 years who suddenly came alive singing and clapping to *Winter Wonderettes* (2014), to the auditorium full of 8 to 10-year-old underserved students who were actually seeing a live musical for the *very first time* with our tour of *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* (2015), TheatreCares became more than a community outreach program – it stood for everything I had grown up with that had shaped my entire life.

Now in 2018, **TheatreCares Arts Access Pass** program firmly commits to making ALL of our theatre programming accessible to everyone. Anyone who wants to embrace the arts should never be denied that opportunity just because they don't have enough dollars in their pocket. TheatreCares Arts Access Pass is TheatreWorks Florida's response to that exact need. For more information on TheatreCares Arts Access Pass: [TheatreWorksFL.org](http://TheatreWorksFL.org)

The purpose of the TheatreCares Arts Access Pass program is to make the arts accessible to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. TheatreCares strives to eliminate the financial barrier that prevents families and individuals from experiencing our theatre's vibrant and diverse live stage productions. Inclusion in the arts

builds communities, inspires creativity, and increases understanding of different stories and viewpoints. In addition, exposure to the arts, early and often, builds future audiences, strengthening the economy and culture of our cities.

We humbly ask you to support TheatreWorks Florida in helping the less fortunate in our community become enriched, empowered and transformed through the art of live theatre. Your donation today will make sure no one is left behind tomorrow. All donations are directly applied to the purchase of event tickets for the underserved in our community. A sincere thank you for supporting the “art of changing lives” in Central FL.

Donate to TheatreCares Arts Access Pass here: [https://fundrazr.com/c1Fazd?ref=ab\\_66WF4f](https://fundrazr.com/c1Fazd?ref=ab_66WF4f)

### **ABOUT THEATREWORKS FLORIDA**

TheatreWorks Florida is a 501(c)(3) professional Central Florida-based theatre company. Formed in 2007, TheatreWorks offers some of the finest theatrical musicals available today as well as produces new, original works from area artists and artists from around the country. For more information, visit [Theatreworksfl.org](http://Theatreworksfl.org).

### **AT A GLANCE**

## ***THEATRECARES ARTS ACCESS PASS***

**Produced by:** TheatreWorks Florida

**Presented by:** TheatreCares

**Applications available:** June 1, 2018

**Venue:** TWF Florida Theatre • 8 W. Palmetto St., Davenport, FL 33837

**Program snapshot:** The purpose of the TheatreCares Arts Access Pass program is to make the arts accessible to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. The pass allows participants to reserve up to 2 free tickets per TheatreWorks Florida event. Applications available now.

**Upcoming TWF events:** 2018-19 Season; *Nunsense* - Sept 7-16, 2018 • *The Great American Trailer Park Christmas Musical* - Dec 7-16, 2018 • *Nunsense 2: The Second Coming* - Mar 8-17, 2019 • *Vet Voices* presentation - July 2019

**Learn more about TheatreCares:** <http://www.theatreworksfl.org/theatrecares.html>

**Donate to TheatreCares Arts Access Pass:** [https://fundrazr.com/c1Fazd?ref=ab\\_66WF4f](https://fundrazr.com/c1Fazd?ref=ab_66WF4f)

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## **TheatreWorks Florida**

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### **Media Inquiries / Further Information:**

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