



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Release Date: 06/01/2020

## Harlequin announces plans for reopening in late 2020

**Olympia, WA** June 1, 2020 – The health and safety of our audience, staff, and artists are of the utmost importance to us. At Harlequin, we have spent the recent months watching the changing regulations while in frequent conversations with other arts organizations. We have drawn and redrawn our plans for the remainder of 2020, working toward a scenario in which the theatre could open safely without incurring an irresponsible financial burden.

Per Governor Inslee's orders, entertainment venues are Phase 4 establishments: last to open. Even when permitted to do so, we will need to enforce social distancing guidelines that will reduce our house sizes to well under 50% capacity. In addition, before opening our doors to patrons, we will of course need to begin rehearsals, meaning the theatre would need to begin full operations 6 weeks before welcoming patrons.

Having weighed all these contingencies, we have come to the difficult conclusion that the earliest we can responsibly reopen will be for our Holiday show, *A Christmas Carol*, this November, effectively canceling the remainder of our 2020 season. This includes *For Peter Pan On Her 70th Birthday*, *A Bright Room Called Day*, *Into the Woods*, *Snow in Midsummer*, *This Flat Earth*, and *Fun Home*.

Please refer to the following links on our website detailing a variety of options for single-ticket holders and subscribers. At this time our administrative and box offices are closed until further notice, but there is a small team working remotely to contact ticket holders to discuss options.

In order to ensure the health and safety of our patrons and artists, we will also be implementing changes that will affect programming and seating for the 2021 season, to be announced later this year.

These are uncharted waters, but we hope that together, as a community, we will overcome the challenges of this time. The simple act of gathering together in a theatre space – what we call Real. Live. Theatre. – cannot be equaled, but please stay tuned for artistic offerings and events in the meantime. Currently, we are planning:

- July: Virtual *Miscast!*
- September: Virtual/Live *2021 Season Announcement*

- November-December: A Christmas Carol (live onstage *or* streamed live to your living room)

We thank the community for their continued support during this unprecedented time. With that support, we will continue to invigorate and empower, we will continue to be a safe and exciting gathering place, and we will continue Real. Live. Theatre.

More information:

- [Harlequin's COVID-19 update](#)
- [Information for 2020 Ticketholders](#)
- [Three easy ways you can help](#)

*Harlequin Productions is a professional not-for-profit theater company in Olympia, WA. We seek to invigorate, educate, and empower our community and all people to feel more, think more, play more, and judge less through the mirror of real live theatre.*

**PR:** Helen Harvester, Marketing and Communications Director  
helen@harlequinproductions.org