

June 28, 2020

Dear UpStage Family and Frozen Friends,

This has been an unprecedented 26th season for sure. It seems like it has been such a long time since we have seen you. We miss you. We hope if you have not yet participated in our Zoom Meetings that you try it out. We appreciate all who did join in for those events. We are looking forward to more in the future such as an Open Mic Night and Builders Club events.

UpStage Players always puts the safety of our children and families first. It is with that in mind that we have come to the decision, after discussions with the Cleveland Public Library, our Board Members, and Staff, that we regretfully will not be able to resume the production of *Frozen Jr.* this year. This was not a decision that was made lightly or without many discussions, as well as tears. We appreciate all the time that you have put into this show. Many hours were devoted to this production by the children, parents, and staff but when it came down to making this decision, we had to do what was best for the safety of everyone in our UpStage family. While we all want to follow the line, "the show must go on", it must go on with safety for all at the front. The hope and momentum that drove the season is the same spark and fervor to resume when the time is right.

We are looking forward to planning our next season and picking up where we left off. We hope everyone decides to return to UpStage and participate next year. We are looking into making adjustments to our schedule as well as other modifications to accommodate for the second wave of Covid-19. Safety is our ultimate goal when making these decisions. With that said, we will be sending out a survey and we hope you take a few minutes to give your input. We need your ideas to help us move forward. We will be sending the survey through email and posting it on our Facebook. Please keep an eye out for this on a later date.

We have scheduled a curbside pickup date on **Friday, July 10, from 9am-11am**. You will pull up to the library, and your child's box will be placed in your vehicle. You do not need to get out of your car. No one is permitted to enter the library during this time. The volunteer staff will be wearing masks and gloves. You will have to sign to certify that you picked up the boxes. If you are picking up multiple boxes, please text your first and last name and the first and last names of the children you are picking up to Mrs. Walsh-Hilf at 216.978.2395, by July 8, so we can get everything organized. We also will have an information packet for each of the children. Crew members will also have an envelope of information to pick up as well. Due to restrictions at the library, **this is the only scheduled pickup time available**. Please make every effort to pick up on this date or find a friend to pick up your child's items. If you have any questions regarding this procedure, please text Mrs. Walsh-Hilf at the number above. We will be happy to work it out.

In regards to tickets: if you or your friends would like to donate your ticket money to UpStage Players, you do not have to do anything with Showtix. If you would like to receive a refund for your tickets, you will have to go through the website Showtix4u.com directly. The last day to apply for a refund is **August 15th**. We are not able to process refunds after this date. If you have not contacted Showtix for a refund by **August 15th**, we will consider it a donation towards the costs we incurred for the 26th season. Please share this information with your family and friends who purchased tickets so they are able to make a decision.

UpStage Players is a non-profit organization registered as a 501(c)3. We thrive on donations, ticket sales and concessions during the run of the show. We will not have those final pieces to conclude this year.

Please consider, if you are able, donating your ticket sales and or making a separate donation to UpStage via PayPal. There will be a link on our website and Facebook page to this account. We are also accepting checks made out to UpStage Players. In order to sustain our organization we would need to collect a minimum of \$8,000 in donations. Any amount will help us continue and return next year. Please spread the word!

We know and understand that this is a very sad letter to receive. We are sad as well, but know that it is temporary. Soon we will be back at rehearsal, and then our performances and this experience will make us all stronger. Please stay positive and know we are here for you. Please come to our Zoom meetings! We need to stay strong together during this time.

Finally, our unexpected Opening and Closing Night Rehearsal/Performance was amazing. The actors, crew, and staff pulled together a show with only three nights of tech training in a few hours notice. It was filled with so many emotions familiar to the nervousness, uncertainty, and excitement of Opening Night, combined with the tears, energy of one last time, and sadness of Closing Night. We did not really get to say great job, goodbye, and see you next year. Please share your videos and photos from our final dress rehearsal with Kris. We will put them all together so we can give this production a proper goodbye. Please send any photos and videos to upstagefrozenyearbook@gmail.com. If you have any problems sending through Gmail please let us know through that email and we will figure out a way for you to get them to us.

We are hopeful for the return of theatre to our community. This artform is so important to understanding this complicated process of life. Theatre breaks down the complexities of life into moments and beats that are understandable and discernible. The entertainment piece allows us to forget that we really are learning and evaluating some really heavy topics. Cutting this season short is representative of what is going on right now. We didn't get to finish our time with the story of sisters, community, family, courage, and strength. When we left we did not fathom the length of time – the days of isolation – the camaraderie that was lost. Take the time to grieve, and then find hope in your script, singing the songs and watching Frozen, and then other shows online. Theatre is one positive way to help us to make sense, find our hope, grit, and strength in working together to overcome, and make us stronger in the end.

Stay safe and see you soon, at the curbside pickup, on a Zoom Meeting, Builder's Club event, or auditions.

Love,

Mrs. Walsh

Kris Walsh

Mrs. Walsh-Hilf

Mary Walsh-Hilf

