



BEHIND THE SCENES

Calliope Productions, Inc., 150 Main Street, Boylston, MA 01505

www.calliopeproductions.org

July 2021

Calliope is Back On Stage!

Calliope Productions is excited to announce its long-awaited reopening with a slate of four productions for the second half of this year.

Our Summer Youth Theatre Workshop program will kick off our season in July with twenty-five teens performing in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast, Junior*, and twenty-two pre-teens performing in Roald Dahl's *Willy Wonka, Junior*.

These productions will be followed by an October production of Nora and Delia Ephron's award-winning introspective comedy *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*, and a December production of Monty Python's rollicking musical comedy *Spamalot*.

We are already in the process of selecting shows for 2022 (which will mark the 40th anniversary of Calliope's founding), and we will announce our 2022 Performance Season in the fall.

Important Changes for Our Opening Shows in 2021

The extended shutdown of live theaters imposed by Gov. Baker in March, 2020, provided Calliope with the opportunity to analyze its fiscal situation, refine its organizational structure, and strategize improvements to its performance facility and operational procedures.

The Audience Survey we distributed this past March was especially important in identifying and clarifying our audience members' needs and concerns about returning to live theatre performances.

Guided by the results of this survey, and in compliance with recommendations by the CDC, the Mass. Department of Public Health, the Harvard School of Public Health, and the American Association of Community Theaters, Calliope has implemented the following changes and improvements for this year:

- Calliope's facilities are being thoroughly cleaned and sanitized with an electrostatic sprayer before every rehearsal and performance.
- Air purifiers with HEPA filters have been put in the restrooms, and MERV13 filters have been installed in the building's air circulation systems.
- Hand sanitizers have been placed throughout the building - including backstage and in dressing rooms.
- The wearing of face masks is mandatory for all performers, staff, and audience members who has not been fully vaccinated.
- Our July and October productions will have no intermissions, and patrons will not be allowed to congregate in the Lobby before or after performances.
- Audience seating will be in reserved seats, with tickets purchased through TicketStage.com in order to eliminate physical handling of money/credit cards and to facilitate contact tracing. Tickets for large groups, patrons in wheelchairs, individuals with other accessibility issues, and Calliope *TheatrePass* holders must be arranged by phoning Calliope's Box Office at 508 869 6887. (See information in the next column.)
- Seating in the theatre has been reconfigured to allow for better ventilation, and the seating capacity has been reduced from 155 to 125 people.
- Calliope has refurbished and upgraded its ventilation and air circulation systems to meet CDC recommendations of four air exchanges per hour for live theater facilities.

Our hope is that these changes and improvements will be welcomed and appreciated by our audiences.

Calliope's 2021 Season

Teen Production



July 13, 14, 15, 16 at 7:00 pm; July 17 at 2:00 pm

All Tickets: \$10

Pre-Teen Production



All Tickets: \$10

July 27 & 28 at 7:00 pm;

July 29 & 30 at 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm



Love, Loss, and What I Wore

A Comedy
By Nora Ephron
and Delia Ephron

October 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17

Thu - Sat at 7:30 pm; Sundays at 2:00 pm

Tickets: \$20 regular; \$17 Stu/Srs

MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT

December 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12

Thu - Sat at 7:30 pm; Sundays at 2:00 pm

Tickets: \$25 regular; \$20 Stu/Srs

For tickets, visit TicketStage.com/T/Calliope

Calliope's New Ticketing Policies & Procedures

- 1) All standard tickets for Calliope's shows will be for reserved seats selected and purchased in advance through TicketStage, at TicketStage.com/T/CALLIOPE
- 2) All tickets for wheelchair patrons and other individuals requiring special seating must be made by calling Calliope's Box Office at 508 869 6887 no later than one week before the desired performance date.
- 3) All ticket requests for Calliope *TheatrePass* holders, groups of more than 12 people, and anyone who cannot access or navigate the TicketStage website must be arranged by calling Calliope's Box Office at 508 869 6887.
- 4) In accordance with Calliope's post-pandemic policies, for our July and October productions only *TicketStage* will automatically allocate an empty "buffer seat" between your reserved seat(s) and the first seat of the party sitting next to your party in the same row.
- 5) If there are other individuals with whom you want to sit, coordinate with them before selecting your seats.
- 6) An email will be sent to you confirming your ticket purchase. Bring a printout of that email, or be able to display it on your phone, when you come to the performance.



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Calliope Productions
P.O. Box 581
Boylston, MA 01505

Calliope Productions' Continuing Fundraising Efforts

All of us at Calliope Productions are grateful for the donations made by our friends and patrons over the past eighteen months to alleviate the financial crisis caused by the COVID-19 shutdown.

Such generosity, along with grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Commission, the Shields Foundation, and the Local Cultural Councils of Boylston and West Boylston, have allowed Calliope to survive its pandemic shutdown, as well to fund enough improvements to ensure that our facility is safe for performers and audiences.

The negative effects of Calliope's 87% decrease in earned revenue over the past year and a half, however, have not been entirely mitigated.

If you are able to make an additional donation to Calliope this year, please consider doing this by visiting Calliope's Donations page found on our website at www.calliopeproductions.org

Audition Notice For *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*

Calliope will hold auditions for its October production of ***Love, Loss, and What I Wore*** on the evenings of July 23 and 24.

This 2010 Drama Desk Award-winning play focuses on the power of women's clothing, as a cast of five women, through a collection of multiple monologues, recalls their funny, wistful, and endearing memories - viewed through the prism of their closets.

Calliope's production of ***Love, Loss, and What I Wore*** will be co-directed by Karen Josbacher and Dave Ludt. Rehearsals will begin on September 8.

Each auditioner must be able verbally to create a variety of distinct characters. The casting will be ethnically and culturally diverse, reflecting the characters' various ages and life experiences.

Those interested in auditioning for this production should visit www.calliopeproductions.org for more information and to sign up for an audition time slot.