

# BOARDWALK THEATRE



# DEAR FRIEND,

In 2019-2020, Boardwalk Theatre Company is embarking on two hugely ambitious projects.

**First is the world-premiere production of the award-winning new musical *Rosa Parks*.**

The musical was originally commissioned by TheatreworksUSA as a touring show for young audiences. In 2009, it won the Richard Rodgers Award for new musical theatre, administered by the American Academy of Arts & Letters. The panel of judges that year included Stephen Sondheim and Lin-Manuel Miranda.

In the years that followed, the show ran the development gamut, with presentations in various forms at Queens Theatre in the Park, Theatre-Works Silicon Valley, Playwrights Horizons and Two River Theater in Red Bank, NJ. It was also a participant in the 2010 NAMT Conference.

The final developmental readings of *Rosa* will take place in NYC in November with a full production slated for Asbury Park, NJ in 2020.

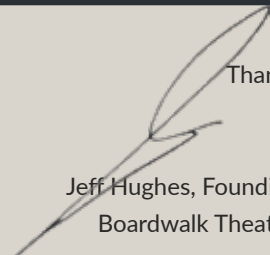
**Second, and perhaps more importantly, is our partnership with the Asbury Park School District.**

Over the course of the coming school year, BTC's writers, directors and actors will be working with educators to teach theatre writing and performance to middle school students who have had almost no exposure to the art form. The year will culminate with a performance of original short plays, written and performed by the students, for the Asbury community.

Bringing theatre to **EVERYONE** is a central mission of Boardwalk Theatre and I can think of no better way to launch our company than with these two diverse, important projects. But like any theatre, we need your support. As a 501(c)(3) public charity, your gift to BTC is fully tax deductible.

I hope you'll consider playing a pivotal role in not only bringing new theatre work to the stage but also bringing the stage to an entirely new audience.

Thanks so much,

  
Jeff Hughes, Founding Producer  
Boardwalk Theatre Company

**B**  
THEATRE

BOARDWALK THEATRE COMPANY'S  
**DEBUT PRODUCTION** WILL BE THE  
WORLD PREMIERE OF **ROSA PARKS**,  
A NEW AMERICAN MUSICAL.



**I**N DECEMBER 1955, ROSA PARKS, A MONTGOMERY SEAMSTRESS AND SECRETARY OF THE LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE NAACP, WAS ASKED BY A CITY BUS DRIVER TO RELINQUISH HER SEAT FOR WHITE PASSENGERS. WHEN THE DRIVER, JAMES F. BLAKE, THREATENED HER WITH POLICE ACTION SHE MET THOSE WORDS WITH A RESOLUTE **"YOU MAY DO THAT"** AND ALTERED THE COURSE OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

But Rosa Parks is not the story of one woman's refusal to move to the back of bus on December 1st or its subsequent historical impact. It is the story of Mrs. Parks' journey to that fateful day. What changed for Rosa between her historic ride and a similar ride one year earlier? (On that ride she was thrust from the bus for improperly boarding and forced to walk the long mile home in a driving rainstorm.)

How did her relationship with E.D. Nixon and the Montgomery NAACP shape her politically? How did her husband Raymond's work with The Scottsboro Boys affect their lives? How did the arrest of a young girl named Claudette Colvin alter her view on the ability of a single individual to instigate change?

Rosa Parks does not seek to answer the question of "what" happened on December 1, 1955. It seeks to understand how it happened.

# MISSION

ABOUT BOARDWALK THEATRE COMPANY

## EVERYBODY LOVES THE BOARDWALK.

Go to Seaside Heights or Coney Island or Santa Monica Pier and you'll inevitably find kids trying to knock rubber frogs onto plastic lily pads and adults spinning expensive wheels to win inexpensive prizes.

The boardwalk is fun. It's cotton candy and hitting golf balls under windmills and making out on the Tilt-a-Whirl. And that's we want theatre to be. Fun.

Theatre isn't vegetables. It isn't something you eat because it's good for you, even though you don't particularly like the taste. People piled into the Globe to see Shakespeare's work because they didn't want to be anywhere else!

Our theatre will be like those boardwalks. Whether you're 6 or 96, when you leave, you'll think to yourself, "I can't wait to go back there."



BOARDWALK THEATRE COMPANY  
801 BANGS AVENUE, #1283  
ASBURY PARK, NJ 07712

FOUNDED IN 2018

BOARDWALK THEATRE COMPANY, INC.  
IS A 501(C)(3) PUBLIC CHARITY

*For more information regarding BTC's finances, please contact Executive Director Patrick Caraher at [Patrick@boardwalktheatre.com](mailto:Patrick@boardwalktheatre.com).*