

Thank you for your interest in learning more about ACT – A Contemporary Theatre’s fiscal health and goals. We are pleased to make available our audited financial statements for fiscal year 2022, the 12-month period ending June 30, 2022. The pandemic closure presented an opportunity for the theatre to change its fiscal year from a calendar year to July 1 – June 30, matching our operating and production schedule. This letter accompanies the completed audited financial statements prepared by the accounting firm Clark Nuber, P.S.

The financial statement for ACT includes results for three separate, related entities: ACT Theatre (produces and presents theatre); Eagles Theatre Centre (as the owner of the historic landmark building which both houses and is wholly owned by the theatre); ACT Foundation (receives and invests endowment contributions for the benefit of ACT Theatre). Because the three organizations share some common trustees/board members and common management, the accompanying audited financial statements consolidate all three entities.

Artistic Milestones

ACT’s 57th season held 109 performances serving 23,917 audience members. The 21-22 season was a testament to ACT’s commitment to our history in Seattle, New Works, and diverse stories.

ACT returned to live performances in December 2021 with its 45th presentation of *A Christmas Carol*. The first in-person subscription season following the COVID shutdown in 2020 was launched in January 2022 with a three-play season to welcome audiences back home.

ACT’s 46th World Premiere, *Hotter Than Egypt*, is the captivating tale of an American couple’s own personal revolutions. This personal and political new play by ACT Core Company member Yussef El Guindi, subsequently enjoyed successful runs at Marin Theatre in California, Denver Center Theatre, and is now under consideration with other theatres nationwide. The season continued with a “ghost” story, *The Thin Place* by Lucas Hnath, which explores the nature of what is real. Lynn Nottage’s Pulitzer-Prize winning play, *Sweat*, a powerful story about blue collar workers struggling to survive in a fraying economy finally made its debut on stage having been cancelled just days before its originally slated opening in ACT’s 2020 (pandemic cancelled) Season.

Leadership Transition

After a nationwide search, ACT welcomed Anita Shah as the new Managing Director in January 2022. Anita came to ACT from New York City, where she worked in both the for-profit and non-profit realms including many Broadway productions, and organizations like Lincoln Center, Blue Man Productions, ABC News/Good Morning America, and Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet. She is a highly experienced, successful, and well-regarded leader in the theatre community and brings her experience in team building, organizational planning, and venue management to ACT.

Pandemic Impact

The pandemic provided organizational opportunities and presents ongoing challenges.

The nineteen-month pause in in-person performance enabled ACT to evaluate all its practices, customs, and assumptions and provided a unique opportunity to make changes in all aspects of

its operations. Federal relief funding allowed ACT to have cash reserves available to support operations as patrons make a slow return to live performance.

Along with other organizations in our sector, ACT faces continuing uncertainty about the rate of audience return to live performance and the durability of a traditional subscription model. Audience numbers at the end of 2022 are only 50% of pre-pandemic numbers. Inflationary pressures and the imperative to compensate staff adequately have significant financial impacts on budgetary capacity. ACT experienced challenges in recruiting and hiring.

EDIAB Work

ACT is committed to the goals of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Belonging (EDIAB). Work undertaken during the pandemic ensured that when we reopened and reintroduced ourselves to the community it was in a manner aligned with our renewed beliefs and commitments. ACT is a theatre that is making an authentic effort to improve its culture and this work requires vigilance and care. We have undertaken this journey in the spirit of transparency and continuous growth. All our work now filters through this lens; and our budgeting process reflects our commitment to this work.

Our Historic Home

ACT's historic building (Eagles Theatre Centre) continued to be a focus of our strategic planning, as we continued to steward and preserve our historic home that is both on the National Register of Historic places and a recognized Seattle Landmark. ACT further serves as a founding and integral member of Seattle's Downtown Historic Theatre District. We continue to modernize our building while honoring the rich history of our treasured building's past. We are exploring new sources of civic support for capital building needs.

ACT's Future

ACT has renewed its commitment to fiscal responsibility and a long-term vision for operating accordingly. There has been a significant culture shift towards operational and programmatic choices that reflect our financial capacity to maintain a debt-free operating model. The current climate around unpredictable audience behavior means a slower growth model as we make deliberate and thoughtful choices on how we rebuild and grow, pushing to achieve more of our ambitions while living our values and commitment to New Works.

ACT remains steadfast in its commitment to New Works and supporting local playwrights, performers, designers, technicians, and other artists. From commissioning new plays to readings, workshops, and world premieres, ACT understands and supports the journey of the playwright. Our workshop series has quickly become a fertile research and development wing of ACT, bringing Seattle's voice beyond our stage into the national conversation. During 2022, we had commissions with three playwrights: Andrew Lee Creech, Reginald André Jackson, and Keiko Green. Jackson's play *History of Theatre: About, By, For, and Near* will be produced in January 2023 and serve as ACT's 47th World Premiere.

Sincerely,

Anita Shah
Managing Director