



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT: Sheree Marcucci**

Work: (203) 346-2008

Mobile: (203)206-8286

Email: [marcucci@palacetheaterct.org](mailto:marcucci@palacetheaterct.org)

**NEW OPEN CAPTIONING SERVICE OFFERED AT PALACE THEATER  
SELECT PERFORMANCES OF BROADWAY SERIES**

WATERBURY – The Theatre Development Fund of the National Open Captioning Initiative (NOCI), has selected the Palace Theater as one of five theatres nationwide to receive funding for a two-year partnership to sponsor Open Captioned performances of its Broadway presentations during the 2017-18 and 2018-19 seasons.

Open captioning is a service that displays the text of a show simultaneously with the performance on a screen located near the edge of the stage, and doesn't require the use of any special equipment by the patron.

The Open Caption performances are being offered during select matinees of all five of the Webster Broadway Series, including THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA. The Palace is proud to offer this service for the first time, to enhance these magical performances for audience members who enjoy the use of closed captioning features at home or who simply don't want to miss a word of the production.

The mission of the program is to help theatres provide increased accessibility and expand their attendance by people who are deaf or hard of hearing over a two year period. The goal is that after the two years, the theatres will have developed a strategy to continue providing this much needed access for these audience members in their communities. To that end the Palace Theater is pleased and grateful to announce that

Carol Wintrode Maksimow and Hearing Aid *Specialists* of CT is the exclusive sponsor of this new initiative providing additional support to make this wonderful opportunity possible. Maksimow commented "Open Caption seating will give those of us who utilize the closed caption feature on our home TVs access to visual script. In the past, individuals who have had difficulty hearing soft spoken dialog may have avoided attending live theater performances. Open Caption seating allows an individual to easily verify a key word or phrase providing a new level of auditory confidence to enjoy these wonderful theatrical performances. This new seating feature allows us to optimize the experience and enjoy live performing arts life long."

Listing of shows/performances offering Open Captioning:

A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE & MURDER SATURDAY MATINEE OCTOBER 21, 2pm

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA SATURDAY MATINEE NOVEMBER 25, 2017 at 2pm

JERSEY BOYS SATURDAY MATINEE MARCH 24, 2018 at 2pm

RENT SUNDAY APRIL 15, 2018 at 1pm

MOTOWN THE MUSICAL SUNDAY MAY 13, 2018 at 1pm

Contact the Palace Box Office if you are interested in purchasing tickets and being seated to take advantage of this new service by phone at 203-346-2000 or in person at the Box Office, 100 East Main St.

Tickets can also be purchased online at [www.palacetheaterct.org](http://www.palacetheaterct.org).

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#### **ABOUT TDF**

Since TDF launched the [National Open Captioning Initiative](#) (NOCI) in 2004, it has provided open-captioning to 51 theatre companies. In addition to the Palace Theater n CT, the other theatres TDF will provide open captioning for are: [Cleveland Play House, Cleveland, Ohio](#); [Geffen Playhouse, Los Angeles, CA](#); [Goodspeed Musicals, East Haddam, CT](#); [Laguna Playhouse, Laguna Beach, CA](#); and [Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, Beverly Hills, CA](#).

TDF, a not-for-profit service organization for the performing arts, was created in the conviction that the live theatrical arts afford a unique expression of the human condition that must be sustained and nurtured. It is dedicated to developing diverse audiences for live

theatre and dance, and strengthening the performing arts community in New York City. Since

1968, TDF's programs have provided over 94 million people with access to performances at affordable prices and have returned over \$2.8 billion to thousands of productions.

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Best known for its TKTS Discount Booths, TDF's membership, outreach, access (including the Autism Theatre Initiative) and education programs — as well as its Costume Collection

— have introduced thousands of people to the theatre and helped make the unique experience of theatre available to everyone, including students and people with disabilities.

Recent TDF honors include a 2011 Mayor's Award for Arts and Culture, a 2012 Tony Honor

for Excellence for its Open Doors Arts Education Program, a 2012 New York Innovative Theatre Award for its support of the off-Off Broadway community and a 2013 Lucille Lortel

honor for "Outstanding Body of Work" in support of the Off Broadway community, a 2016

"Friend of Off-Broadway" honor from The Off Broadway Alliance, and New York City's 2016

TITLE II ADA Sapolin Public Service Award. With the Broadway League, TDF recently launched the website, Theatre Access NYC ([www.theatreaccess.nyc](http://www.theatreaccess.nyc)) which assists theatregoers with disabilities in finding accessible performances of Broadway shows. To learn more about TDF, go to: [www.tdf.org](http://www.tdf.org).

*Major funding for TDF's National Open Captioning Initiative is provided by The National Endowment for the Arts and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation*

### **About the Palace Theater**

The Palace's primary purpose is to revitalize the Greater Waterbury community through the presentation of the performing arts and educational initiatives in collaboration with area cultural and educational institutions. Its mission is to preserve and operate the historic Palace Theater as a performing arts center and community gathering place that provides a focal point of cultural activity and educational outreach for diverse audiences.

For more information, visit: [www.palacetheaterct.org](http://www.palacetheaterct.org).

The Palace Theater gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support by Crystal Rock, Webster Bank, MacDermid Performance Solutions, Bank of America, Powerstation

Events, City of Waterbury, CT DECD Office of Tourism, ION Bank, Hoffman Auto Group, The Next Street, Republican-American, and WATR Radio.