

Fall 2020

Like many of you, my first exposure to CCTC/HJT was with family, all spellbound as a beloved story—in our case, *“Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse”*—came alive.

My son Charlie was inspired to take one class then another, mustered the courage to audition, then joined an intergenerational cast directed by artists with diverse talents. Mentored by many, he kept going back for more, and soon was setting an example. Respect for others, a willingness to follow, and the confidence to lead continue to serve him well, personally and professionally.

**Because of donors like you, Charlie found a welcoming, safe, and accessible place to learn and grow.** This story has repeated itself thousands of times since HJT’s founding in 1951. Yet since March 2020, our stage has been empty, our seats vacant, our business disrupted. Facing a global pandemic, did “the little theater that could” go dark? Of course not!

CCTC/HJT improvised, immediately shifting to online programming. To help our struggling community, we have offered programs for free and at reduced rates. Gradually and carefully, we have resumed some in-person classes, and we continue to plan for the safe return of live theater.

**This would not have been possible without the generosity of you, our members and supporters.**

Unfortunately, the pandemic-driven disappearance of ticket sales, significant reduction in class revenues, and halt to school outreach programs are creating existential challenges. The ability of CCTC/HJT to fulfill our educational mission and seed theaters across the Cape and beyond with performers, technical artists, and audience members is at risk.

Charlie Powicki and  
Rose Cronin-Jackman as  
Wilbur and Fern in HJT’s 2007  
production of *Charlotte’s Web*



**Will “the most important theater on Cape Cod” go dark? No, because of donors like you!**

CCTC/HJT will celebrate its 70th birthday in 2021, and we have great plans for the year ahead. We are committed not only to serving our community but also to honoring the incomparable Nina Schuessler, our leader for the past 25 years. Our plans include the following:

- A new outdoor stage and seating area will allow for the safe resumption of live theater at our West Harwich campus.
- An educational fund created in Nina’s honor will help sustain her vision of “theater for all.”

First, we must survive the winter. While this will not be easy, the pandemic has highlighted the importance of the performing arts in keeping us connected and providing inspiration.

**We need your help to continue providing family entertainment and safe places for children to learn and grow, both in the months ahead and over the long term.** Thank you for considering a year-end donation to CCTC/HJT.

With gratitude and best wishes,



Chris Powicki  
President, Board of Directors

*P.S. Please give as generously as possible this holiday season!*

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*Your support will help CCTC-HJT survive challenging times while preparing for Spring 2021, when our new outdoor stage will allow a safe resumption of live theater.*

*Please give online now at [capecodtheatrecompany.com](http://capecodtheatrecompany.com).*



*Leanne McLaughlin as Lilly in “Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse”*

