



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 27, 2018**

### **STONEWALL FOUNDATION COMMITS \$200K MATCHING GRANT TO SUPPORT ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY'S NEW ARTISTIC VISION, STORIED LEGACY**

Arizona Theatre Company (David Ivers, Artistic Director; Billy Russo, Managing Director) has received a commitment for a two-year, \$200,000 matching grant from The Stonewall Foundation to spur a campaign of support for ATC's new artistic vision, the continuation of its storied legacy and to provide ongoing financial stability for this cornerstone arts organization.

"Arizona Theatre Company's new leadership has shown us that the new artistic vision and commitment to ambition and fiscal responsibility has inspired and energized its audiences," said Stonewall Foundation President and CEO Rick Small. "Our hope is to engage communities and individuals across Arizona in ensuring a bright, successful future for Arizona Theatre Company to build upon its legacy with confidence, curiosity and excellence."

Incorporated in 1977, The Stonewall Foundation has been providing annual support to non-profit organizations in Tucson, donating more than \$20 million to 21 organizations including Arizona Theatre Company.

ATC Managing Director Billy Russo said that 50 percent of the matching grant must be contributed by new donors to ATC or donors who have not made a gift in the past 18 months or current donors who increase their contribution over the last fiscal year. He said the ATC Board of Trustees has committed the first 50 percent.

Russo and Ivers are completing their first full season with the company, which announced its 2018-19 season lineup in March.

Russo said the gift will help ATC recapitalize the organization “and ease the stress that has been caused by budget-shortfall cash-flow challenges of past years.” He added that the 2017-18 season has generated “solid revenue and renewed confidence from the community.”

“We are deeply grateful not only for this generous grant but for the confidence in our exciting artistic vision and the consistent support Arizona Theatre Company has received from The Stonewall Foundation over the years,” said ATC Artistic Director David Ivers.

To make a gift of support for this matching grant to Arizona Theatre Company, please contact ATC Director of Development Julia Waterfall-Kanter, at [jwkanter@aztc.org](mailto:jwkanter@aztc.org) or call 520-884-8210, Ext. 7301.

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**Contact:**

Steve Carr, The Kur Carr Group, Inc., (602) 317-3040

**About Arizona Theatre Company:**

Arizona Theatre Company (ATC) is the preeminent fully professional theatre in the state of Arizona committed to inspiring, engaging, and entertaining - one moment, one production, and one audience at a time. Boasting the largest seasonal subscriber base in the performing arts in Arizona, ATC is the only resident company in the U.S. that is fully based in two cities providing its wide array of programming and community outreach across the region. Now in its 51<sup>st</sup> season, more than 130,000 people a year attend our performances at the historic Temple of Music and Art in Tucson, and the elegant Herberger Theater Center in downtown Phoenix. Each season of home-grown productions reflects the rich variety of world drama—from classics to contemporary plays, from musicals to new works—along with a wide array of community outreach programs, educational opportunities, access initiatives and new play programs. Designated The State Theatre of Arizona, ATC is led by Artistic Director David Ivers, Managing Director Billy Russo and a dedicated Board of Trustees.

**About The Stonewall Foundation**

As a Community Support Organization we annually provide funding to 21 arts, health and education non-profit organizations in Tucson. Incorporated in 1977, since the inception of the foundation we have donated over \$20,000,000 to organizations including The Arizona Sonora-Desert Museum, The Arizona Theater Company, The Tucson Symphony, The Tucson Museum of Art, Casa de los Ninos, Arizona Public Media, The Tucson Botanical Gardens, Tucson Medical Center Foundation, Carondelet Foundation and Planned Parenthood of Southern Arizona, Imago Dei Middle School, NAMISA, Desert Survivors, The Tucson Girls Chorus, Literacy Connects, Pueblo Gardens, Reveille Men's Chorus, Habitat For Humanity - Rainbow Build, SAAF-Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th, Iskashitaa Refugee Network.