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[www.libertytheater.org](http://www.libertytheater.org)

*"If children are not introduced to music at an early age, I believe something fundamental is actually being taken from them." -- Luciano Pavarotti*

November, 2020

**Dear Theater Patron,**

Although 2019 was a highly successful period for the Liberty Theater, it goes without saying that 2020 has been one of the most difficult periods our country, and the theater, have faced. Like many small theaters, the Liberty Theater has been shut down since March. We do not yet know when the full life of the theater will return. We have been generously supported by many private donors and our foundation partners (Blue Mountain Community Foundation, Innovia Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, ArtWalla, Arts Washington, and Humanities Washington) over the past 6-12 months. We are grateful for their support!

Despite being shut down, there is much good news to share together: new opportunities and new challenges that have produced growth in us. Perhaps the best news yet is that Arts and Culture are alive and well, and needed more than ever! Although deemed "non-essential" at times for purposes of managing COVID-19, we know that Arts and Culture are among the most essential things keeping us alive and hopeful for the future. Arts and Culture help define who we are as human beings sharing community. They help interpret the times. Although now "virtual" in some respects, they help us experience beauty and inspiration.

We have incorporated COVID guidelines into our Safe Start Plan and we intend to have a "soft" opening for showing a free film as soon as the current state mandated closure is lifted, and COVID cases in Columbia County and the surrounding area have subsided to more comfortable levels.

COVID-19 will not diminish our spirit or our love of the arts. The Liberty Theater will survive, and arts opportunities for our families and young people will always be needed - especially when arts programs in our public schools are no longer funded. For 20 years we have brought quality entertainment and excellent programming to the Touchet River Valley and beyond. We need your support more than ever. We know this may be a bad time financially for many of you, and we don't want to burden you or offend you with our request. But, if your own situation would allow you to donate, we would appreciate it.

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Scene from the 2019 Liberty Theater Production of Mary Poppins.

Have you been inspired and experienced joy through our live theater productions? Our cinema features? Our community forums?

Have your children benefited from our Summer Cultural Enrichment Programs?

WOULD YOU HELP US THROUGH THIS TIME? We WILL be reopening as soon as we are able.

Even after reopening, socially distanced seating will substantially limit our audience size and our ability to do live productions, and thereby, reduce our expected income for many months. Our Annual Appeal is, indeed, an urgent appeal this year. Thank you in advance, for your generosity, sacrifice, and investment in the healing and recovery of our families and communities!

Please return your donation in the envelope provided, or through our Liberty Theater website at: <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?donation=tvac>

**Or, through December 31**, the Blue Mountain Community Foundation (BMcF) is accepting donations on behalf of TVAC, and the All In WA Initiative is **matching (doubling) those donations**. Write a check to BMCF, **with a note on the check that it is intended for TVAC Gift Guide**, and send it to PO Box 603, Walla Walla, WA 99362, or visit <https://bmcf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list/grant> to donate through the BMCF Charitable Gift Guide weblink under the Touchet Valley Arts Council.

#### **Touchet Valley Arts Council Board of Directors**

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