



The Plan Moving Forwards

The good news is that the Delta surge is definitely diminishing. The less-good news is that our local case numbers are still exceeding anything we saw back in the previous surge. If we were still going by the State Tier system, we would still be deep in Purple, and County Public Health's official recommendation is still to avoid gathering. Given all of these unfortunate facts, we've agreed to stay closed to live performances until we continue to see further progress. It breaks our hearts, but I feel like we've come too far to drop the ball now.

So Phase 1 is where we find ourselves now - still closed at the moment, but hard at work (I can hear the sounds of our Technical Director Brian downstairs, banging away at our newly re-organized scene shop.) As a collective team, we've developed specific benchmarks for what we can best guess is a responsible re-opening:

Phase 1


- **Keep Working Behind the Scenes**
 - Clean/renovate all work spaces
 - Auditorium/lobby improvements
 - Develop new infrastructure
- **Our Re-opening Requirements**
 - Official recommendation from Public Health
 - At *least* Red Tier, according to prior State guidance
 - Vaccines available for ages 5-12
 - County vaccination rate > 60%
 - Unstressed hospital/ICU capacity



My personal, fervent hope is that these benchmarks for exiting Phase 1 are reached in a matter of weeks, rather than months. But the course of the rest of this surge will decide that - we aren't going to be on a proscribed timeline. Once benchmarks are met, then we re-open for Phase 2!

Phase 2

- **Produce as much content as possible!**
 - Small, 1-3 person shows
 - Reader's Theater
 - Movies
 - Music
 - Classes
 - Poetry/spoken word
 - Dance/burlesque/drag shows
 - Video production/live-streaming
- **Requirements for moving to Phase 3**
 - Maintain stable Phase 2 conditions for at least 3 months



We're chomping at the bit to be back, and a lot of the infrastructure improvements we're currently making during Phase 1 will make it much easier for us to add all sorts of new events and activities! Which is extra important, considering how many of you have been continuing to support us throughout this pandemic. We want to pay you back with as much new content as we can muster. And I want to have an active conversation with all of you, and get as much feedback as possible on what you would like to see more of - to start that process, there'll be a link to a survey at the end of this email.

There's one thing missing from the list of possible content in Phase 2, and those are the big shows we used to do - the ones with large casts, long rehearsal times, and popular scripts (with big royalty fees). The reason for this is the reality is we're not out of the woods yet. We thought the worst was behind us back in summer, clearly we were mistaken. Next time it could be a holiday surge, or a new variant. We're still on very unstable ground. And as we learned back in August, every time we have to pull the plug on a larger production, it's a severe hit. We lose revenue, royalty deposits, contractual obligations, and staff time that could have been spent elsewhere. So Phase 2 is going to be defined by numerous, small, flexible events and activities. Once we've enjoyed a reasonable stretch of stable time, then we proceed to Phase 3.

Phase 3

- **Forwards to a New 'Normal'**
 - **Begin production on 'mainstage' shows with longer rehearsal times and larger casts.**
 - **Continue to expand upon all of the new activities from Phase 2.**



Here's where things start to feel stable enough to get back to the big shows with the two-month rehearsal times! And along with those, we'll still include and build upon all of the new things started during Phase 2. It's still an incredibly difficult, challenging time, but looking towards this future fills me with hope.

And it's also a time where we also want to have as active a conversation with the community as possible. There's a survey you can find [HERE](#) - if you have a minute, filling it out is great. And if you have a cool idea for an event, a class, or some other kind of activity that might be a good fit for NCRT, please let me know at northcoastrepertory@gmail.com! It's a once-in-a-lifetime chance to try new things.

Wishing everyone the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Calder Johson', with a long, sweeping underline.

Calder Johson
Artistic Director