

Director's Notes



Local Theatre Arts

Recently we had a conversation with Carrie Haines, Artistic Director of the Truckee Community Theater and her thoughts about our theatre project, The Stages at Northstar. Following are her answers to our questions.

What is your background in the performing arts?

I have been studying theatre arts since age 6. I completed a comprehensive 4-year dramatic arts program in high school and won acting competitions in my senior year. I studied dramatic arts at the University of Southern California, where I earned my BFA in theatre and a BA in communications. I began directing in my junior year in college and postgraduate, directed more than 30 productions in the San Francisco Bay Area between 1996-2005. I won a Circle Critics nomination for Best Director for the musical, "The Most Happy Fella" at Novato Theatre Company.

I relocated to Truckee in 2005 and started directing the Drama Club at Truckee High school in 2016 after a long hiatus. In 2017, I directed "Young Frankenstein" for Truckee Community Theater. I was then asked to join their board of directors. I rebooted the teen musical program and started the TCT School of Performing Arts. In 2019, I was appointed the Artistic Director for the organization after founder, Courtney Simson retired.

What makes you passionate about theater?

I have witnessed firsthand what theatre does to lift the spirit and build community. I was a shy 5 year old, and drama class at age 6 built my confidence. It has done the same for my own child. Theatre gives voice to many talents. Whether you are the

actor interpreting a role, the director communicating and translating a message, a playwright creating an illusion, the set designer who makes that illusion come to life, the costume designer that makes that illusion feel as real as possible...all of these entities are artists. Theatre gives voice to dancers, singers, actors, fine artists, computer and graphic artists, writers, and technical artists. It's not just one thing. It's everything.

When you think about access to a venue like The Stages at Northstar, what excites you most?

Truckee Community Theater is what you might call a nomadic theatre company. We have no home of our own. As TCT works toward leasing its own studio space in Truckee for education and rehearsals, we are excited for the opportunity to perform on a "real stage". To have the opportunity to perform in a real setting whether it be a black box or larger venue, is thrilling to all of us at TCT.

In your opinion, what would a venue of The Stages caliber mean to the youth of our area? To the community?

Our School of Performing Arts is up and running and we have students as young as 3 years. It will mean the most to our high school students who wish to pursue performing arts careers in college and beyond. To have access to a real theater space with all the technical capabilities will have a huge impact on them. Those who are planning to study theatre will have the experience of rehearsing in studio space or black box space and performing on big stages. That is a rarity with little funding to schools for theatre arts.



Where the arts reflect the majesty of nature.