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Variety Theatre postpones *The Music Man* to 2021

St. Louis (August 31) Because the COVID-19 pandemic has created conditions which make staging live theater unfeasible for the near future, Variety Theatre has postponed its autumn production of *The Music Man* at the Touhill Performing Arts Center by one year, to October 15-24, 2021.

“The safety and health of our cast, crew and audience are paramount, so this decision was not complicated,” said Jan Albus, who as CEO of Variety the Children’s Charity is the executive producer of Variety Theatre’s annual musical. “At the same time, we are dismayed that our Variety Kids will miss this experience this year.” Ten performances had been scheduled, over the weekends of Oct. 16-18 and Oct. 23-25.

Variety Theatre’s annual Broadway musical production is an important fund-raiser for the charity, which envisions a world where abilities are redefined and opportunities are reimaged for the Variety Kids and their families. Variety empowers children with physical and developmental disabilities by giving access to critical medical equipment and therapies, along with innovative Camp and Performing Arts programs. These provide opportunities for recreation, socialization, and artistic expression, and gives the Variety Kids the skills, self-esteem, independence and socialization they will need to engage their world as fully as possible.

Variety Theatre is unique in the country, in the way it uses a performing arts platform to provide Variety Kids an opportunity to perform each year in a professional Broadway musical theatre classic in an inclusive children’s ensemble. Established in 2009, Variety Theatre productions include a live professional orchestra, and some of St. Louis’ finest designers, directors and actors, including Tony-nominated director Lara Teeter. In 2018 Variety Theatre won the St. Louis Theatre Circle award for its body of work.

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