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PacRep Announces Million Dollar Gift

Company Founder Announces final push for

Phase II Golden Bough Renovation

CARMEL, CA (September 20, 2022), Pacific Repertory Theatre is honored to announce the receipt a major gift, in the amount of \$1,000,000 from Dr. Darnell M. Whitt II. Dr. Whitt is a well-known Monterey County philanthropist and PacRep supporter. In 2011, he provided a \$250,000 gift to purchase and install the state-of-the-art double-revolving stages that have become a well-known feature of PacRep productions at the historic Golden Bough Playhouse.

Dr. Whitt's gift will support two key areas of PacRep programming - \$500,000 is designated for the Phase II renovation and ADA upgrade of the Golden Bough Playhouse, with the remaining \$500K to support the development of a 10-acre parcel on Corral de Tierra Road, purchased by PacRep earlier this year as a site for set, costumes, properties storage, and future artist housing.

To acknowledge this extraordinary gift, PacRep will rename its School of Dramatic Arts (SoDA) as the Peppy Garner & Darnell Whitt School of Dramatic Arts. PacRep's year-round educational program has been active since 2000 and was awarded the lease of the Indoor Forest Theatre in 2010. Since that time, hundreds of classes and workshops have been presented to thousands of area students, with classes ranging from "Playwriting for 8-year-olds" and "Fairy Tale Spoofs" to its signature program, the "SoDA Saturday Academy".

According to Stephen Moorer, PacRep Founder and long-time Executive Director, "We are amazed, humbled and so very grateful for Darnell's wonderful generosity. In the theatre we talk a lot about 'timing' and Darnell couldn't have picked a better time! We've been reeling over the price increases to the renovation brought on by the pandemic, so this gift is the perfect kick-off to our final push to finish the Phase II Golden Bough capital campaign. And at the same time, he has solved a growing storage and production problem that had almost reached a crisis point for the organization. Well done, Dr. Whitt!"

Dr. Whitt's gift is the second major naming gift received by PacRep for the Golden Bough Phase II renovation, the first being a \$2.4M lead gift from local philanthropist Roberta Bialek Elliott in 2018.

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