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Young Actors' Theatre (YAT) Announces new Executive Director and Artistic Director

Spring Valley, CA (July 19, 2017) – Young Actors' Theatre announces the appointment of a new Executive Director, Artistic Director, as well as the full slate of officer and board members for 2017-2018. YAT's Board of Directors have appointed Kristina Petrea as Executive Director, Joe Dionisio as Artistic Director, and Jean Isaac as President. The board also announced the appointment of Kerry Tarlov as Vice President, Audrey Gardner as Secretary, and Jamie Keller as Treasurer.

"Our new Executive Director and Artistic Director bring both experience and enthusiasm for the future of the company and we look forward to working with them as we continue to strengthen the YAT community, and grow both our student and actor participation and patronage," said new board Vice President, Kerry Tarlov.

Kristina Petrea, YAT's newest Executive Director, has been with the company for two years as the Operations Manager and has overseen all aspects of YAT. "The awkward boy who doesn't fit in at school. The shy girl who, alone in her room, belts out the most popular show tunes. These are the kids that I have truly enjoyed watching transform on stage, production after production," said the newly appointed Kristina Petrea. "Knowing they have a safe place to go to, knowing they can be just who they are, knowing they are accepted and that they are loved. Being brave, all while building the confidence they were previously lacking. With the help of the amazing board of directors, YAT staff and parents, we plan to keep the arts alive and thriving! YAT is for dreamers. Be a part of our dream."

Not having a named Artistic Director in the past, the YAT board of directors approved the position and a familiar face, Joe Dionisio, to fill it. Joe has been a board member for the last four years, as well as directing several shows including the current production of *Legally Blonde* and the fall production of *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and having performed in several YAT productions. "I'm honored that Young Actors' Theatre has named me to the newly created position of Artistic Director. Being part of this amazing organization the past 4 years has helped me grow as an artist, and I can't wait to work with our board of directors, families, and talented young performers to continue YAT's commitment to teaching kids of all ages the many facets of theater and performance. I can't wait to see what the future holds!"

"I am really excited for Kristina to be taking on the position of Executive Director," said incoming President Jean Isaac. "Her constant vigilance and attention to detail is what the company needs for a successful season and beyond. Joe provides a fresh, new vision that will make our shows appealing to audiences and the younger generation of actors alike. Having an Artistic Director will also add a consistent vision and presence within the company." Jean, having stepped down as Executive Director, succeeds long time YAT Board President Jamie Coleman. As founder of Young Actors' Theatre, Jean was the natural fit to take over the position and continue her leadership of the company. All Board appointments are effective immediately.

About Young Actors' Theatre

Founded in 2002 and headquartered in Spring Valley, California, Young Actors' Theatre is a non-profit organization providing life-changing theatrical experiences and training to youths of all ages in a positive and supportive environment. Led by Jean M. Isaac, Young Actors' Theatre offers year-round classes and productions for children ages 2nd grade through College, and its educational outreach initiatives bring drama workshops, residencies and teacher training to schools and community groups throughout San Diego. Young Actors' Theatre has received numerous honors including the Playbill® "Billy", San Diego Bravo award and a variety of National Youth Theatre Arts Awards. The company can be reached through its Web site at www.yatsandiego.org or via telephone at 619-670-1627.

Note to Editors: Free tickets are available to journalists seeking to attend this event for professional review purposes. Please contact our office at frontdesk@yatsandiego.org, 619-670-1267, with desired attendance date, press credential and email address.

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