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Local comes home for *Jersey Boys*

WORCESTER, Mass. (March 16, 2018) When the actual curtain goes up on *Jersey Boys*, the person calling all the technical cues behind the scenes is no stranger to The Hanover Theatre stage. Zachary Tucker started his career as a high school intern on the theatre's annual production of *A Christmas Carol*. Now he is returning to the theatre as stage manager for the national tour of the Broadway blockbuster, *Jersey Boys*.

Tucker attended Grafton High School as a teenager and got his first stage manager position as a freshman in the after-school theatre program. At the time, the program was run by The Hanover Theatre's own director of education, Meghan Montaner.

"From the first show we worked on together, I knew Zach was a special student, more dedicated and capable than any stage managers who had come before him," Montaner said. "He was always incredibly passionate, organized and inquisitive."

The following year, Montaner offered Tucker the opportunity to work on The Hanover Theatre's inaugural production of *A Christmas Carol* as an assistant to the sound engineer. Tucker returned for the next two years to fill the role of production assistant and later worked as stage manager on their youth summer program productions before graduating from high school in 2011 and moving on to Emerson College.

"Working backstage as a production assistant on *A Christmas Carol* showed me that a career in the arts is a challenging but fulfilling possibility, and directly inspired me to pursue theatre professionally," Tucker said. "During that production, I met a number of valuable mentors, made memories and learned lessons that I still look back on."

Stage managers play a key role in any theatre production. The stage manager works with the director and heads of all other departments during the rehearsal period and becomes the person in charge of the production during the actual performance. In addition to scheduling and running all of the rehearsals with the actors, the stage manager serves as an assistant to the designers, technical director, costume shop supervisor, director of theatre, conductor and all other staff positions. Once the show opens, it's the stage manager's job to make sure that every aspect of the production runs smoothly. This includes calling all of the lighting and other technical cues during every performance. The position of stage manager requires a good understanding of

both the technical and artistic elements of a performance to ensure it is delivered just as the director envisioned.

Since Tucker's time as a student at The Hanover Theatre, the tradition of offering production assistant opportunities and internships to talented local students continues today. Just last year, the theatre opened its Conservatory for the Performing Arts where students take courses in not only performance art, but also technical theatre like stage management and lighting and sound design.

"Students like Zach inspired us to create these technical theatre offerings," Montaner said. "You just don't find access to technical theatre education until you reach college, but for a student like Zach, I think his experiences here in high school helped to give him that upper hand when he moved on to college. Being able to keep in touch and welcome him back home to our stage with yet another national tour makes me incredibly proud."

Professionally, Zach's stage managing credits also include the national tours of Pippin and Dirty Dancing. Regionally, he has worked with Huntington Theatre Company, American Repertory Theater and North Shore Music Theater.

About The Hanover Theatre

The Hanover Theatre continues to draw over 197,000 patrons annually with world-class performances and headlining acts including Broadway hits ("Les Misérables," "Kinky Boots"), comedians (Dave Chappelle, Jay Leno, Jerry Seinfeld), musical acts (Neil Young, Aretha Franklin, John Legend, Tony Bennett) and everything in between ("A Christmas Carol," Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Alton Brown, Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson). POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the Top Theatres in the World. After nine seasons, the award-winning, historic theatre continues to establish its place as a world-class performing arts venue, acting as a catalyst for the economic development of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre's recently acquired 551 Main Street houses new function space, offices, a soon-to-open restaurant on the ground floor and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory for the Performing Arts on the lower level. Learn more and see a full list of upcoming shows at TheHanoverTheatre.org.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts, a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, owns and operates The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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