



# BEHIND THE SCENES

Calliope Productions, Inc., 150 Main Street, Boylston, MA 01505

[www.calliopeproductions.org](http://www.calliopeproductions.org)

December 2020

## Planning Ahead for 2021... And Beyond

The expression "Necessity is the mother of invention" is particularly applicable today - especially for performing arts groups during the current pandemic.

Over the past several months, many community theatres around the country have turned to streaming performances online, holding socially-distanced outdoor productions, and conducting virtual workshops in attempts to fulfill their artistic missions and satisfy their fiscal needs - with varying degrees of success.

The essence of theatre, however, is rooted in the meaningful live interactions between performers and audiences that take place in shared communal spaces. And the future of theatre hinges on the ability of theatres to provide such experiences in a safe environment.

Calliope Productions is re-directing the focus of its managing board of directors to achieve this outcome in ways that are fiscally viable, socially responsible and artistically rewarding.

Our immediate goal is to appoint a member of the board to serve as Calliope's Covid-19 Compliance Officer in charge of implementing health and safety protocols in our facility.

Other priorities include stream-lining our operational systems, identifying and utilizing new resources, refining the scope, scale, and focus of our productions, es-



establishing a long-term growth plan, and - of course - developing ways to jump-start the 2021 performance season when conditions are safe for us to reopen.

We are enthusiastic about Calliope's prospects for the future in the "new normal" that lies ahead, and we look forward to having our audiences rejoin us in the excitement of live theater again!

## Calliope's End-of-the-Year Fundraising Appeal

Calliope's target for its 2020 End-of-the-Year Fundraising Appeal is our COVID-19 Emergency Fund, so that we can provide a safe environment for our performers, students, and audiences, as well as present a full slate of theatre productions, when it is safe for us to reopen in 2021.

We would appreciate any contribution you can make to support Calliope. Please fill out and mail the form below, or donate online at [calliopeproductions.org](http://calliopeproductions.org).

We are grateful for those friends and patrons who have already donated to our COVID-19 Emergency Fund, and we wish everyone a safe and healthy upcoming Holiday Season!

## CARES Act Provides Tax Benefits For All Donors

The Coronavirus Aid Relief & Economic Security (CARES) Act passed earlier this year allows taxpayers who do not itemize deductions on their federal tax returns for 2020 to make tax-deductible donations to non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organizations.

Under this provision, those who file individual tax returns may deduct up to \$300 (and those who file joint tax returns may deduct up to \$600) from their total gross income on their 2020 Federal tax returns, even though they take the standard tax deduction.

Further information about this benefit in the CARES Act can be found online at [cafamerica.org/cares-act-impacts-giving](http://cafamerica.org/cares-act-impacts-giving).

# Calliope Productions Youth Theatre Goes Virtual

Megan Burke has been working (virtually) with students in Calliope's Youth Theatre program on a production of **Goose-Napped**, a hilarious mystery comedy.

The plot centers around the kidnapping of Mother Goose and the solving of the case by Detective Jo August. The crime suspects are all characters from Mother Goose stories, and each one has a motive for wanting Mother Goose to disappear. The play has a plot twist at the end that is sure to delight audiences of all ages.

**Goose-Napped** will be performed by Calliope's pre-teen students a few members of Calliope's Teen Troupe on Saturday, December 5, at 4:00 pm. You can view it free online by going to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/calliope-youth-workshop-presents-goose-napped-a-virtual-play-tickets-129621955759>.

In January, Megan will begin a virtual workshop for teens aged 13 - 18 working on a production of **Dr. Evil and the Pigeons with Lasers**, a comedy about the wicked - but bumbling - Dr. Evil, as he seeks world domination by unleashing his army of laser-armed pigeons, only to have his plans thwarted by unexpected events.

Calliope Youth Theatre Presents

## GOOSE-NAPPED!

A Virtual Mystery Comedy  
By Flip Kobler & Cindy Marcus

Sat., December 5, at 4:00 pm

**Dr. Evil and the Pigeons with Lasers** will rehearse on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm, beginning January 7, with the performance of the production scheduled for Saturday, February 6, at 7:00 pm.

Enrollment in this workshop is \$20. Space is limited, and interested students are urged to register as soon as possible by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/teen-virtual-workshop-dr-evil-and-the-pigeons-with-lasers-tickets-126639695739>.

### Calliope Productions COVID-19 Emergency Fund Donor Form

Calliope Productions, Inc.  
P.O. Box 581  
Boylston, MA 01505

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please Fill In Spaces and Check Appropriate Boxes:

I would like to donate to Calliope's COVID-19 Emergency Fund. Amount of Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my Check.

Charge the Above Amount to the following Credit Card: (Please Circle) AMEX / Discover / MasterCard / VISA

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please do NOT list my name as a Donor in any programs or brochures.

*Calliope Productions is a non-profit corporation registered as a Public Charity in Massachusetts. Donations to Calliope are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law and qualify for Employers' Matching Gifts Program. Please contact your employer for details.*