Venice Residents to Receive National Theatre Award

Murray and Lori Chase of Venice, Florida are being honored with the Mort Clark International Achievement Award by the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT). The award will be presented at an awards ceremony during the AACTFest 2019 National Theatre Festival in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, June 18–22, 2019.

The AACT Art Cole Award honors a lifetime of leadership in community theatre by members of AACT who have provided leadership at the national level, in addition to local and/or regional levels. Visit aact.org/awards for information on all AACT National Awards, 2019 AACT Award winners, and previous honorees.

Murray and Lori have been leading the charge for international theatre festivals in the United States under the AACT banner for the past twelve years. In 2010, the AACT international festival, aactWorldFest, found a home in Venice, Florida, under the steady hand and strong leadership of both Murray and Lori. In addition to their work at aactWorldFest, they travel to theatre festivals around the world, meeting new theatre artists, making new theatre friends, and inviting them to Venice to perform for American audiences. With their vision and dedication, aactWorldFest has become a desired international theatre festival for theatre troupes. This award recognizes the past work they have accomplished promoting international theatre to AACT American audiences and acknowledges the future, as aactWorldFest will return to Venice in 2020 and 2022. Thank you to Murray and Lori for all of your time, hard work, and dedication to the important cause of international friendship and cooperation – theatre can truly bring our whole world together.

AACT provides networking, resources, and support for America’s theatres. AACT represents the interests of more than 7,000 theatres across the United States and its territories, as well as theatre companies with the U.S. Military Services overseas.  

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