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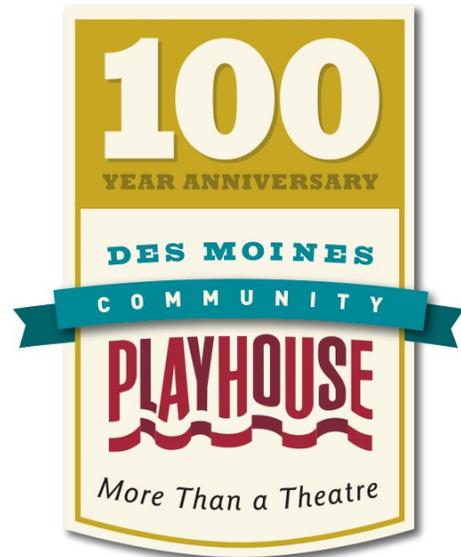
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## Des Moines Community Playhouse to Receive National Theatre Award

**Des Moines Community Playhouse** of Des Moines, Iowa is being honored with the **Diamond Crown Organizational 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 Diamond Crown Organizational Award recognizes longevity and vitality of AACT member theatres that have expanded programming and/or facilities in the past ten years and have the administrative leadership to remain vital to their communities for the next ten years. Recipients must have been in continuous operation for seventy-five years. Visit [aact.org/awards](http://aact.org/awards) for information on all AACT National Awards, 2019 AACT Award winners, and previous honorees.



Des Moines Community Playhouse serves people of all ages and abilities with seven mainstage and four children's shows per season, year-round education classes, volunteer opportunities, community-focused events, and local partnerships. Annually, volunteers fill approximately 1,750 positions, giving more than 75,000 hours in support of Playhouse programs. Celebrating 100 years of continuous operation, the Playhouse has produced over 1,100 productions. Over the last 10 years, Playhouse leadership has concentrated on completing strategic planning, major facility renovation, and a transition of leadership.

The Playhouse is a charter member of AACT, hosted AACT's International Festival in 1990, and served as the first national office for AACT. In 2008, Playhouse embarked on a strategic plan. A ten-year capital fundraising campaign was implemented that resulted in a community investment of \$9 million. Virtually all of the theatre's 1934-era section was renovated and a new multi-purpose lobby was built. Auditorium seats were replaced. Production improvements included new light and sound booths, a grid with two catwalks, a replaced and leveled stage floor, new lighting instruments, and new sound and light control

systems. Another challenge for the Playhouse was a change in leadership. The retirement of senior leader John Viars led to David R. Kilpatrick's hiring as Executive Director.

The Des Moines Community Playhouse lives up to its motto: "More than a theatre," in the many ways it touches lives in its community, state, and the nation through the American Association of Community Theatre.

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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