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Helping Theatres Thrive
American Association of Community Theatre

April 12, 2019
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Memphis Resident to Receive National Theatre Award

Debbie Litch

Debbie Litch of Memphis, Tennessee is being honored with the **Distinguished Merit 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 Distinguished Merit Award is presented to individuals and organizations in recognition of contributions made to promote and develop the highest standards for community theatre. Visit aact.org/awards for information on all AACT National Awards, 2019 AACT Award winners, and previous honorees.

As Executive Director, Debbie has established Theatre Memphis as the model arts organization for the City of Memphis, the State of Tennessee, and the United States, through her three-fold commitment to community, artistic excellence, and financial responsibility. She accepted the leadership role of this treasured theater at the lowest ebb since its 1921 founding, when the very viability of the theater was under threat of bankruptcy with a debt of $570,000. Under the guidance of Debbie's passionate and careful management of community volunteers, resources, and dollars, Theatre Memphis is flourishing. Theatre Memphis is serving millions in its community by providing theater of the highest artistic excellence, utilizing the talents of over 800 volunteers who create the shows, sets, costumes, lighting, choreography, music, and direction, without regard to economic means, color, faith, age, and educational background. Theatre Memphis also serves the community through a year-round Outreach and Education Department that serves 30,000 students of the under-served through theater education, playwriting, and on-site productions. Under Debbie's arts leadership, the brightest days are ahead for Theatre Memphis, as they celebrate the 100th anniversary year of operation with a renewed facility and endowment fund, in the 2020-2021 season.

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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