



Dear SSST Parents and Students – We know many of you have been waiting for an official decision regarding our summer program and while some news has developed, much remains in limbo, but here is what we know as of today, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Massachusetts is currently in Phase 1 of reopening the state and will make an announcement about Phase 2 next Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Until then, we cannot definitively determine what we will do about our summer program. Even at that time, Eastern Nazarene College will still need to assess the risk to their own employees and students living on campus in letting outside groups on campus. In the meantime, we are looking at other potential space options in the local, Quincy area. Music Theatre International has announced that they are launching a new streaming platform for shows that need to be streamed, but they have not yet chosen the all shows they will allow to be streamed. So, we do not yet know if we can follow through on the productions we sought to offer this summer. While we will know more, we may not know much more June 8<sup>th</sup>.

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What we feel comfortable saying now: based on parents' feedback about an all-day virtual experience and student feedback from those who helped with our first foray into a virtual performance (thanks "Newsies" cast!), we do not feel an all-virtual experience or performance is in the best interest of the students or South Shore School of Theatre. We believe that even if we can be back in person – which we are all desperately hoping for – *our summer program times, spaces, and productions will most likely have to be modified*. With any modification will come a commensurate modification in program costs. We will always seek to provide the best in theatre education and production quality, so regardless of any modifications, we promise to still live up to what South Shore School of Theatre has come to mean over the last ten years. This does mean that in the event that no option proves viable for a live, in-person experience, we will need to cancel our summer programming. No one wants this, believe me!

Our end goal is to triumph in offering theatre programming over the summer for anyone still looking for this opportunity. We hope to bring you good news next week about a much-needed, fun-filled summer program for your students!

Tara Brooke Watkins  
Executive Director