

A LETTER FROM LENNY BANOVEZ

Dear Hope Rep community,

I trust this letter finds all of you in good spirits and filled with excitement for Season 51! I am writing with equal amounts of excitement and pride today to tell you all about the new direction of HSRT, now Hope Repertory Theatre.

As many of you know we named Marcus D. Johnson Co-Artistic Director and Staci Timmer as Interim Managing Director at our extremely successful 50th Anniversary Gala this past season. It was also announced then that these were the beginning stages of a succession plan that we had put in place to ensure the smooth transition of leadership when the time came that I would move on. I have always been open about “The Rep” not being my last job and that, while not openly searching for a new position elsewhere, I would not turn away from the idea of leaving if an opportunity presented itself. That opportunity, opportunities really, have indeed presented themselves, and I have moved back east to take on some existing, and also new and exciting projects that will allow me to begin the next phase of my career.

Having said that, I have not left the Hope Rep family completely, only stepped away from the Artistic Director position. I am stepping into the new role of Producing Director. This job will focus primarily on maintaining strong relationships with all our amazing donors, support the onsite leadership team, as well as continuing to build on our fabulous relationship with Hope College. All of this with the goal of continuing the momentum of our two most successful financial seasons in the theatre’s 50 year history.

The Hope and Holland communities have become very near and dear to my heart. While this new position may not have me involved in the day-to-day operations of the theatre or around as much as before, I can assure you my passion to see this company succeed and grow has not diminished. I step into my new position with the company financially stronger than ever, and with one of the most talented and capable leadership teams I have worked with in place. I have no doubt that we will continue to present the quality of work (both onstage and off) that we have all enjoyed for so long.

I cannot thank everyone at Hope College enough for their tremendous support and confidence in me over my 5 years with the company. Many many thanks to John and Mary for their guidance and love and to the amazing Holland community who made me feel at home. Thank you as well to Marcus and Staci who have already taken the reigns with vision and passion, and who will now lead us into a future that is bright and promising.

All my best to everyone, and I hope our paths cross on my visit this summer. And since it is the largest portion of my new position, make sure you donate today to this fabulous company!

Till soon my dear friends,
Lenny Banovez