Flat Rock Playhouse gets grant for family series

SPECIAL TO THE CITIZEN-TIMES

FLAT ROCK - Flat Rock Playhouse has been awarded a grant of $15,000 by the Perry N. Rudnick Endowment Fund of the Community Foundation of Henderson County, Dane Whitlock, senior director of marketing and development at the playhouse, announced Tuesday.

According to Whitlock, the restricted grant will be used to invest in sound equipment for the newly revamped Flat Rock Playhouse Studio 52 Family Series and Education Initiative.

"Studio 52 has expanded the 2017 Family Series programming from two fully produced productions to five," Whitlock said. "This will increase the opportunities for live theater participation for over 150 students and will provide affordable, family programming to over 12,000 patrons."

In previous seasons, Studio 52 productions have been able to use the same body microphones that are also utilized for Mainstage productions. But with the increased Family Series lineup, this shared scenario will no longer be possible, Whitlock said.

The grant from the Community Foundation of Henderson County will provide the additional resources the playhouse needs to invest in a separate set of sound equipment for the 2017 Studio 52 production schedule, "thereby increasing the quality of the productions and the patron experience," according to the playhouse.

Flat Rock Playhouse, the State Theatre of North Carolina, was founded in 1952 and serves over 90,000 patrons annually. Learn more at flatrockplayhouse.org.

Community Foundation of Henderson County supports charitable programs in the greater Henderson County area. It was founded in 1982 and administers over 500 funds with assets of over $85 million. Learn more at cfhcforever.org.



COURTESY OF FLAT ROCK PLAYHOUSE

"James and the Giant Peach" was a 2016 Studio 52 Production at the Flat Rock Playhouse. A $15,000 grant will be used for sound equipment.