

No. R-198. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating the Oldcastle Theatre Company of Bennington on its 40th anniversary.

(S.C.R.19)

By Senator Sears and Hartwell,

By Representatives Botzow of Pownal, Browning of Arlington, Campion of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Komline of Dorset, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mook of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington and Wilson of Manchester,

Whereas, the Oldcastle Theatre Company (OTC) has been entertaining and enthralling lovers of live drama since 1972, and

Whereas, it began with five New York actors, including Bennington native Eric Peterson, its artistic director since the start, and

Whereas, the first season opened with John Barton's *The Hollow Crown*, and the second production was *Under Milkwood*, the famous play for voices, by the noted Welch poet, Dylan Thomas, and

Whereas, the OTC's early years were spent as a touring company, traveling in Vermont, New York, and New Jersey, although the historic Park McCullough House in North Bennington served as a frequent venue, and

Whereas, beginning in 1977, and continuing until 1994, the OTC was resident at Southern Vermont College; performed for two summers at Bennington College; participated in two winter residencies and joint productions with the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in nearby North Adams, Massachusetts; and performed on international stages, and

Whereas, since 1994, the OTC has been performing in its own permanent theatrical abode, the Bennington Center for the Arts, and

Whereas, the OTC has premiered at least one new play each season, and

Whereas, Tony, Emmy, and Academy Award winners, representing various aspects of the theatrical world, have been directly associated with OTC productions, and

Whereas, the OTC has established a special theatrical fondness for Vermont, touring the Green Mountain State with the statehood bicentennial play, *109 Hats to Bennington*; producing an original drama, *Ethan*, about Ethan Allen that was performed on Vermont Public Television and at the state house; presenting *The Yankee Tradition, An Evening of Old New England*; developing *Judevine*, a dramatic rendition of David Budvill's poetry which presents Vermont as a third world nation; and premiering the 2001 drama, *Civil Union*, and

Whereas, the OTC will commence its 40th anniversary season on June 10 at the Bennington Center for the Arts with a drama from American playwright, Tina Howe, which places 17th century Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn in contemporary Manhattan, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Oldcastle Theatre Company of Bennington on its 40th anniversary, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Eric Peterson at the Oldcastle Theatre Company.