

2022 was a very special year for all of us theater-lovers, as we returned to in-person performances and rejoiced in that *connection* we've been craving for more than two years! OH MY! – to glance over at a stranger and burst into laughter, to realize how much sharing feeds joy.


For me personally, it was a little fearful, as I gathered myself (improbably) to reprise and retire what is certainly the achievement of my life, my solo play, *Ann*. This once in a lifetime role – to evoke the *persona* of Ann Richards, one of the fiercest female characters in modern history – is indeed its own reward. I've worn this costume for over 12 years, lived with this persona for 15 years. So how I said 'goodbye' mattered to me. And how grateful I am to Pasadena Playhouse and to all you. *You* made this a memorable and richly satisfying farewell to *Ann*.

One thing I've learned from playing Ann for so long is you'd best be a straight shooter. So let me take aim at the essential truth: *virtually all* nonprofit theaters cannot exist, cannot run, cannot thrive, cannot even open their doors without dedicated patrons, generous donors, and passionate volunteers. You are the lifeblood of theaters where new plays are discovered, where great artists happily give away their wares, where audiences can feel whatever may be in the air - anger, relief, discovery -- hope. Hope is surely one of the main reasons why we all go to the theater.

This is what the Playhouse does so well. They move the American theater needle forward by insisting on producing works that are relevant, responsive to the community, and thought provoking. And they are supporting the artists and voices that create and deliver those stories.

Will you consider giving a gift today to ensure we are able to carry on the legacy of bringing artistic excellence, and daring narratives of other inspiring characters to life? Please help the Playhouse thrive. I will be right there with you, remembering what Ann said: "The here and now is all we have, and if we play it right it's all we'll need."

See you at the theater,



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*“Ann Richards has
walked through fire.
And the fire lost!”*

— From *ANN*,
written & performed
by HOLLAND TAYLOR

