



18 March 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Governor
Office of the Governor
State of South Carolina
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

***An invitation to support the Inaugural Anthony Aston Honors Gala
Honoring Mayor Joseph P. Riley and Emmett & Patricia Robinson***

Dear Gov. Haley,

I am delighted to announce that The Footlight Players' inaugural Anthony Aston Honors Gala will take place on **Tuesday, May 17, 2016** at the **Hibernian Hall** in **Charleston**. At this exciting event the Footlight Players will present awards to three distinguished people who have contributed significantly to the arts in Charleston: **Joseph P. Riley**, Mayor of Charleston from 1976 to 2016; and **Emmett and Patricia Robinson**, Charleston theatrical pioneers. Actress and Supermodel **Lauren Hutten** will be the MC.

Established in 1931, the Footlight Players is the oldest community theater group in Charleston. Over the ensuing decades it has produced hundreds of plays and musicals for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. In addition, the Players' theater, a converted cotton warehouse located in the French Quarter, is a venue for cultural and educational endeavors.

I hope that the State of South Carolina will join us for what promises to be a very special evening. Your involvement would support the Players' mission of producing theater while honoring the remarkable achievements of our honorees.

Further information is enclosed and if you have any questions, please contact John Shannon, Business Manager, at john@footlightplayers.net or 843-722-7521. Formal invitations will be mailed in early April and we would be delighted to acknowledge your support in the list of Patrons and Sponsors. Please confirm your commitment by March 21 to be listed on the invitation.

Thank you in advance for your support of the Aston Awards Gala.

Sincerely,

Jim Gooden
Chairman

20 Queen Street • Charleston, SC 29401-2809 • T: 843.722.7521 • F: 843.722.3777

E: info@footlightplayers.net • W: www.footlightplayers.net

The Anthony Aston Gala

HIBERNIAN HALL, 105 MEETING STREET, CHARLESTON

TUESDAY, MAY 17TH, 2016

In 2015, the Footlight Players' Board of Directors established the Anthony Aston Honor, naming it after the British actor, playwright and poet who, in November of 1702, arrived in Charles Towne after being shipwrecked on the Carolina coast near Port Royal. In 1703, Aston wrote and performed "The Country", which is arguably the first play ever produced in America. The Aston recognizes individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to the arts or the cultural life of Charleston.

GALA MASTER OF CEREMONIES



LAUREN HUTTON

The first Supermodel, Lauren has graced 10 covers of European Vogue magazines and 27 covers of American Vogue. In film, she has starred alongside Robert Redford, Richard Gere, Gerard Depardieu and Jim Carrey. As a role model for her generation, she has shown how to successfully age and navigate transitions, maintain a healthy lifestyle and engage in environmental and women's health issues.

THE 2016 INAUGURAL HONOREES



JOSEPH P. RILEY

Joe Riley was first elected mayor of Charleston in December 1975, and went on to serve an unprecedented ten terms. During Riley's forty-year tenure as mayor, the City of Charleston saw a substantial decrease in crime, a revitalization of the historic downtown business district, the creation and growth of Spoleto Festival USA, an expansion of the city's park system, and the development of nationally-acclaimed affordable housing. An important part of Riley's legacy will be his leadership prior to and during the aftermath of the Emanuel Nine shooting;

Mayor Riley spent his entire public service career building bridges among diverse sectors of the community, which many consider important groundwork that aided the city's response to the tragedy.

A recipient of numerous awards, Mayor Riley received the Outstanding Mayors Award from the National Urban Coalition and the Distinguished Citizen Award by the National Association of Realtors. He received many awards for urban and community design and was named the 1991 Municipal Leader of the Year by American City & County. He has received the Order of the Palmetto, was named South Carolinian of the Year, and was given the 1982 Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award by the S.C. Arts Commission for outstanding contributions to the arts. Along with Governor Nikki Haley, he was the joint recipient of the Riley Institute's 2015 Wilkins Award for Excellence in Civic Leadership. At the end of his final term as Mayor in January of 2016, he joined the faculty of The Citadel as the first occupant of an endowed Professorship of American Government & Public Policy created in his honor with the mission of documenting, and teaching, lessons of principled, bipartisan, and effective leadership in pursuit of excellence for the public good.



PATRICIA COLBERT ROBINSON AND EMMETT EDWARD ROBINSON

Pat and Emmett were synonymous with theatre in Charleston for almost 30 years.

Actor, stage designer, writer, artist, and director Emmett Edward Robinson was born in Ocala, Florida, in 1914 and moved to Charleston in 1931. He graduated from the College of Charleston in 1935 and received a Master's Degree in Fine Arts from Yale University in 1941 and went on to receive an honorary doctorate from the College of Charleston in 1973. Robinson became the managing director of the Footlight Players in 1935. In 1937, the then 22 year old produced, directed, and designed a production of *The Recruiting Officer* for the grand re-opening of the Dock Street Theatre. In addition to producing and directing hundreds of plays and musicals, he also designed and built the set for the 1970 production of *Porgy and Bess*. He also was responsible for several exhibits and other civic projects with the Charleston Museum, the Exchange Building and several churches and schools. For many years he enjoyed teaching at the College of Charleston and earlier at the Baptist College (CSU). He died on Christmas day in 1988.



Patricia Colbert Robinson was a well-known and beloved Charleston author, poet, playwright, and actress. Born in Pittsburgh in 1923, she graduated from Cornell University in 1944 and shortly after moved to Charleston. She then began writing plays that reflected the unique character of her adopted city. In 1950, she married Emmett and later they had two daughters, Jennet Robinson Alterman and Alix Robinson Tew. In the following years, she wrote both plays and musicals and on many occasions performed herself. She wrote or co-authored seven novels, three of which were with former Lt. Gov. Nancy Stevenson. Mrs. Robinson set many of her stories in Charleston and portrayed the city with a fine eye for detail and much love. She died in 1998.

Although not natives, Pat and Emmett loved the city as ardently as its longest residents and always exhibited a great passion for its architecture, history, and people.

THE FOOTLIGHT PLAYERS

The Footlight Players was founded in March 1931 by leaders of the Charleston Renaissance, including Alfred Hutty, DuBose Heyward, Selma Tharin Furtwangler Dotterer, and Eola Willis, among others. Shortly after the founding, the renowned Emmett Robinson was hired as the first director. Initially plays were performed at the Charleston Naval Base and the Academy of Music on King Street. In 1937 the Dock Street Theatre was reconstructed and the Footlight Players produced the first production, *The Recruiting Officer*, under the direction of Emmett Robinson with Alicia Rhett in the leading role. The Footlight Players was the resident company of the Dock Street Theatre until 1986.

In 1934, the Players acquired an old warehouse at 20 Queen Street, converted it into a theater opening in 1941 after the Charleston tornado of 1938. The Workshop at 20 Queen Street was used for rehearsals, costume and set design and Children's Theatre productions.

Since 1986, The Workshop has hosted all productions of the Footlight Players. The company remains the only theater organization in Charleston that owns and maintains its own facility. Today the Footlight Players produces six plays per season, ranging from musicals to comedies to dramas, and hosts numerous additional performances by guest companies including Piccolo Spoleto.

In the past eight decades, the Footlight Players company has produced hundreds of plays and nurtured many of Charleston's artistic personalities such as: Alicia Rhett, who played India Wilkes in *Gone with the Wind*; and actor Thomas Gibson of *Criminal Minds*.



The Anthony Aston Gala

HIBERNIAN HALL, 105 MEETING STREET, CHARLESTON

TUESDAY, MAY 17TH, 2016

☐ **PRESENTING SPONSOR - \$22,500**

(\$19,500 tax-deductible)

- Presenting opportunity credit, i.e., "XXX presents The Anthony Aston Gala"
- Speaking opportunity
- Podium recognition
- Three premium tables of 10 seats
- VIP Reception
- Double page centerspread ad in event journal*
- Premium placement in invitation as Presenting Sponsor*
- Premium placement of corporate logo on screens at event
- Listing in journal as Presenting Sponsor*
- Acknowledgment in pre- and post-press releases
- Corporate display & literature at event reception & on stage
- Corporate logo on Footlight Players homepage & event Facebook page for 12 months

☐ **GOLD SPONSOR - \$12,500**

(\$10,500 tax-deductible)

- VIP Reception
- Podium Recognition
- Two prime tables of 10 seats
- VIP Reception
- Full-page ad with prime placement in event journal*
- Prime placement in invitation as Gold Sponsor*
- Corporate logo on screens at event
- Listing in journal as Gold Sponsor*
- Corporate display & literature at event reception & on stage
- Corporate logo on Footlight Players homepage & event Facebook page for 12 months

☐ **SILVER SPONSOR - \$7,500**

(\$6,500 tax-deductible)

- Podium Recognition
- One prime table of 10 seats
- VIP Reception
- Full page ad in event journal*
- Listing in journal as Silver Sponsor*

☐ **PATRON SPONSOR - \$2,500**

Limited Availability (\$1,500 tax-deductible)

- One table of 10 seats
- VIP Reception
- Half-page ad in event journal*
- Listing in invitation as Patron Sponsor*
- Listing in journal as Patron Sponsor*

☐ **INDIVIDUAL PATRON - \$500**

(\$400 tax-deductible)

- VIP Reception
- Listing in program as Patron*
- Listing in journal as Patron*

☐ **INDIVIDUAL BENEFACTOR - \$275 x ____ SEATS**

- VIP Reception

☐ **INDIVIDUAL MEMBER - \$150 x ____ SEATS**

☐ **FULL-PAGE AD - \$1,000**

(Fully tax-deductible)

☐ **HALF-PAGE AD - \$700**

(Fully tax-deductible)

☐ **PURE DONATION**

I/we cannot attend but wish to make a fully tax-deductible contribution in the amount of _____

PLEASE NOTE:

* Inclusion for the invitation must be submitted by March 20.

* Inclusion for the journal must be submitted by May 7.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Listing (as it should appear in event materials)

NAME _____

COMPANY _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

PAYMENT METHODS & INSTRUCTION

My payment of \$_____ ☐ enclosed ☐ please invoice

Make checks payable to **The Footlight Players, Inc.**

Please send your company logo & ad to:

john@footlightplayers.net

If you wish to pay by credit card, please call 843-722-7521

Send this form and all payments to:

The Footlight Players, Inc.

20 Queen Street

Charleston, SC 29401-2809

Telephone: 843-722-7521 Fax: 843-722-3777

Email: info@footlightplayers.net

The Footlight Players is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.
EIN 57-0357961

