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**New Arizona Theatre Company Artistic Director Matt August Begins Arizona Tenure***Distinguished Broadway Director, Educator Takes Helm of ATC’s Artistic Process*

**TUCSON, Ariz**. – [Arizona Theatre Company](https://atc.org/) is excited to announce that Matt August has officially begun his new role as the Kasser Family Artistic Director of the 55-year-old professional theatre company as of Jan. 1. An artistic leader, distinguished director and educator with more than 27 years of theatre experience, August has worked in diverse markets including Broadway, Off-Broadway, and LORT (League of Resident Theatres) and Regional Theatres as well as with national tours, international venues, festivals and higher education.

“We’re delighted that Matt has officially started at ATC and can see he is excited to continue our legacy and forge our next chapter,” said ATC Executive Director Geri Wright. “Matt brings a wealth of theatre experience, connections, creativity, and innovative and thoughtful work to ATC.”

A seasoned theatre professional who has directed more than 90 plays, productions and events in the last two decades including several national and international tours, August’s work includes a broad-spectrum, commercial aesthetic that encompasses plays, musicals, contemporary classics, holiday spectacles, new works, theatre for youth, opera and Shakespeare.

He directed the Broadway premiere of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical* in 2006 and again in 2007, breaking Broadway box office records. He subsequently directed the show’s national tours from 2010 to 2019 and again in 2021 and 2022, as well as its international UK Tour in 2019. *The Grinch* played three times at Madison Square Garden, twice at the Grand Ole Opry and at the Pantages Theatre in Los Angeles.

No stranger to ATC, August directed 2016/2017’s *King Charles III* and 2015/2016’s *Discord,* which he describes as two of his favorite projects and both of which received rave reviews.

“It’s a new era for Arizona Theatre Company, and I am thrilled to begin working with Executive Director Geri Wright as we steward ATC toward its unlimited potential,” said August. “As the Official State Theatre of Arizona, we will be producing work that will delight audiences and illuminate imaginations with work that dares to dream who we are, and what we can become together.”

August most recently and throughout the pandemic served as Assistant Professor of Directing at Utah’s largest university – Utah Valley University – an experience that further honed his skills as an artistic leader, mentor and director. He has mentored several upcoming directors through the Drama League Fellowship and the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation, guest taught/lectured at universities and colleges throughout the country and served on the Drama League Directing Fellowship selection committees and several SDC Board Nominating committees and Steering committees. He also sat on the Artistic Advisory Board for the Independent Shakespeare Company in Los Angeles.

August notes that early in his career he was honored to apprentice under Tony Award-winning director Jack O’Brien for four years, as well as many other iconic directors and Artistic Directors. He served as Staff Repertory Director for the Acting Company in New York, is a Drama League Fellow, received the Phil Killian Directing Fellowship from Oregon Shakespeare Festival and was a finalist for the TCG Alan Schneider Director Award. He is committed to continuing to mentor and nurture new and emerging artistic voices in his new role at ATC.

August holds an M.F.A. from California Institute of the Arts and a B.F.A. from the University of Colorado.

For more information about ATC’s current and upcoming season and other updates, please visit [atc.org](https://atc.org/).

**About Arizona Theatre Company**

Arizona Theatre Company’s (ATC) performances bring people together to experience essential stories, from reimagined classics to contemporary plays, original works, and innovative musicals fostering continued conversation beyond the theatre walls. Founded in 1966 and celebrating its 55th season, ATC is led by Kasser Family Artistic Director Matt August and Executive Director Geri Wright. ATC operates in two major cities and is the preeminent professional theatre in Arizona, recognized as the official State theatre.

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