

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Barnett, Blount,
Caughman, Chassaniol, DeBar, Fillingane,
Frazier, Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd),
Jolly, Kirby

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 547

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NEW STAGE THEATRE,
2 MISSISSIPPI'S ONLY RESIDENT PROFESSIONAL THEATRE, ON THE OCCASION
3 OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

4 WHEREAS, New Stage Theatre was founded in 1965 by Jacksonians
5 Jane Petty, Ford Petty, James K. Child, Kay Fort Child, Pattie
6 Carr Black, Carl Black, Beth Jones, Howard Jones and Frank Hains
7 with the mission of producing important classic and contemporary
8 works, selected for their artistic merit, which would give the
9 people of Jackson and Mississippi access to theatre of the highest
10 quality; and

11 WHEREAS, those nine founders also set out to have a theatre
12 that was open to all who wished to perform on stage or attend
13 shows by purchase of a single ticket; and

14 WHEREAS, the founders also had the keen foresight to hire as
15 the theatre's first Director, the gifted Ivan Rider, who gave New
16 Stage productions their professional look and tone from the very
17 first show; and



18 WHEREAS, New Stage opened its inaugural season in January
19 1966, with Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" in a
20 converted church on the corner of Gallatin and Hooker Streets in
21 the Capital City; and

22 WHEREAS, New Stage in the last half century has become one of
23 the nation's select professional, regional theatres which attracts
24 an audience of more than 35,000 every year, has educational
25 programs which expose more than 24,000 young Mississippians to
26 live theatre annually and sponsors a new American playwriting
27 competition, named for the theatre's longtime Board Member Eudora
28 Welty, which attracts playwrights from across the country; and

29 WHEREAS, New Stage Theatre is Mississippi's only resident
30 professional theatre and operates in association with Actors'
31 Equity Association, the national union for professional actors and
32 stage managers. Programs are funded by grants and by corporate
33 and individual contributors as well as by season and individual
34 ticket sales; the mainstage season includes six shows and two
35 children's shows; in the Hewes Room, an active Late Night at New
36 Stage is presented in addition to youth and adult acting classes.
37 During the 1997-1998 season, over 40,000 Mississippians attended
38 in-house productions at New Stage Theatre on the main stage and in
39 the Hewes Room; and

40 WHEREAS, the theatre will mark its 50th Anniversary this
41 month with its second production of "Who's Afraid of Virginia
42 Woolf?"; and



43 WHEREAS, New Stage Theatre continues to set the standard for
44 high quality professional theatre entertainment in Mississippi.
45 With a dynamic and forward-looking vision to carry the theatre
46 into the 21st Century, New Stage will continue to be one of
47 Mississippi's most outstanding and nationally recognized cultural
48 resources:

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
50 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
51 we do hereby recognize New Stage Theatre in Jackson, Mississippi,
52 for the half century of exceptional professional theatre it has
53 given the people of this state and commends it especially for
54 helping young Mississippians understand and appreciate how the
55 arts can enhance and illuminate the human experience.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
57 the New Stage Theatre Board of Directors at appropriate
58 ceremonies, forwarded to the Mississippi Arts Commission, and made
59 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

