

SWIFT CREEK MILL THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Swift Creek Mill Theatre Releases First of Streaming Play Series

Chesterfield, VA, October 14 – Swift Creek Mill Theatre has released its inaugural Young People’s Playhouse production. “Chicken Little on the Farm” is now available for streaming. Schools can access the play for \$300 for one week; \$15 for families for 48 hours.

“We are excited to kick off this streaming series,” said Managing Director Steven Koehler. “This project took months of planning and a willingness by our artists and staff to search for new ways to bring the theatre to our audiences in the midst of challenges faced by the entire industry.”

Young People’s Playhouse productions feature professional artists and are filmed by two-time Emmy-award-winning filmmaker [Martin Montgomery](#). Each play includes interactive “bonus tracks” like singalongs, crafts, and hands-on learning activities kids can do at home.

“There is no replacement for live theatre,” said Koehler, “but the streaming capabilities do allow us to add fun features for children to do at home. In ‘Chicken Little,’ for example, we teach kids how to make puppet crafts using common household items and how to plant an acorn.”

“This opportunity to film one of our great Young People’s Playhouse productions was both daunting and exhilarating,” said Artistic Director Tom Width. “I love that ‘Chicken Little on the Farm can now be seen’ up close and personal by the audience, and the bonus tracks are just icing on the cake. The students, teachers and parents are in for a treat!”

Filming will begin next on “A Drifty Holiday,” based on the popular Drifty the Snowman character who has been entertaining audiences for 30 years. The play is expected to be completed and available for streaming in early November.

“Our ability to keep working and producing plays is largely due to the outpouring of support we have received since day one of our closure and, particularly, following the flood,” said Koehler, referring to the massive flooding of the Mill in August. “It’s really a testament to our community and their willingness to pitch in and help one another during difficult times. We are incredibly grateful for the donations, volunteer work, and encouraging messages from everyone. It has certainly galvanized us to keep doing what we’re doing.” Cleanup and recovery from the flood is ongoing and expected to be completed in 2021.

For more information, visit swiftcreekmill.com.

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(Images follow)



Production photo of "Chicken Little on the Farm" by Robyn O'Neill Photography.
L: Ali Thibodeau (Scarecrow/Mrs. Horse); R: Matt Shofner (Chicken Little)

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(Same as above image, minus logo/text)
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Production photo of "Chicken Little on the Farm" by Robyn O'Neill Photography.
L: Matt Shofner (Chicken Little); R: Tom Width (Farmer Tom)

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(Same as above, no logo/text)