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Holidays At Drumthwacket Feature Creative Partnership Of New Jersey Theatre Alliance And The Garden Club Of New Jersey

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Artistry Of Theatre And Gardening Communities Showcase Drumthwacket On Stage This Holiday Season



Trenton, NJ – The holiday season at Drumthwacket, the Governor's Official Residence in Princeton, has arrived with a unique partnership between the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, the Garden Club of New Jersey and the Drumthwacket Foundation, First Lady Mary Pat Christie announced today.

"One of my favorite traditions as First Lady is to welcome visitors to Drumthwacket during the holiday season," said Mrs. Christie. "This year's theme, *'Drumthwacket on Stage,'* showcases the tremendous talents of our vibrant theatre community and the breathtaking creativity of New Jersey's garden clubs. The Governor and I are delighted that thousands of adults and children will tour the historic residence to experience Drumthwacket dressed for the holidays."

Garden State theatres support the economic development of New Jersey, contribute to their communities with outreach and arts education opportunities, and offer theatric works that inspire, challenge and entertain close to one million theatre goers annually. In addition, the Garden Club of New Jersey has donated countless hours decorating Drumthwacket in its holiday finery, with many members working since the

summer to create the beautiful arrangements, garlands and ornamental accompaniments to compliment this year's theatrical theme.

"We are grateful to the First Lady and the Drumthwacket Foundation for the opportunity to be part of this holiday tradition. New Jersey's professional theatres bring such enrichment to the state, and it's wonderful that so many people will have the opportunity to visit the residence to see some of the 'backstage' artistry of these theatres at *Drumthwacket on Stage,*" said John McEwen, Executive Director, New Jersey Theatre Alliance.

The Drumthwacket Foundation Holiday Open Houses, which are open to the public, are scheduled for Wednesday December 4; Sunday December 8 and Wednesday, December 11. **Reservations are required and can be made at <http://www.polclients.com/drumthwacket/housetour.cfm>.** School field trips and groups of more than fifteen people should contact 609-683-0057, extension #5.

"Drumthwacket on Stage" includes the following display presentations located throughout the first floor of the Governor's Official residence.

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FOYER: Decorated by the Dogwood Garden Club of Princeton, the setting is based on a scene from *Mame*. Styled by a modern day Mame, the display is both chic and eccentric, and truly represents *Mame's* motto, "Life is a banquet!"

DINING ROOM: Decorated by the Dogwood Garden Club of Princeton, the long table is set for a holiday dinner for 10, hosted by the stars of the film version of *White Christmas*: Rosemary Clooney, Bing Crosby, Danny Kay and Vera-Ellen.

PARLOR: Decorated by Premiere Stages and Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, the theme for the Parlor Room is *Madison* (by Guillermo Reyes) and *The Misanthrope* (by Molière). The Keyport Garden Club has used its location on the Raritan Bay to inspire the parlor's holiday décor. Local greens and oyster shells adorn the arrangements. The costumes in the parlor are reflected in the design elements of colors, feathers, plumes and spiced orange pomander balls.

MUSIC ROOM: Decorated by The Growing Stage: The Children's Theatre of New Jersey, the theme for this room is *Rudolph the Red*

Nosed Reindeer. The West Trenton Garden Club welcomes Rudolph all dressed up and updated for the holidays. Rudolph's whimsical wonderland is filled with sophisticated white orchids and silver mercury glass with red-nosed accents. The Club has also incorporated the environmentally conscious theme of "Choices Make Changes" into the décor.

LIBRARY: Decorated by Centenary Stage Company, the Library's theme is *A Christmas Carol* based on the story by Charles Dickens. Adorned by the Shrewsbury Garden Club, the tree is decorated with Marley's silver chains with natural ornaments and touches of snow to remind us of Christmas past. The fireplace niche has lanterns and greens to lead the way to the village scenes presented on the coffee tables.

GOVERNOR'S STUDY: Decorated by East Lynne Theater Company, the room's theme is *It Pays to Advertise* (by Roi Cooper Megrue and Walter C. Hackett). Decorated by the Shrewsbury Garden Club, the scene evokes an English period of time gone by. The fireplace is adorned with a swag of greens, antique ornaments and silver Christmas crackers and ribbon. The side tables add a touch of elegance with caches filled with orchids and greens.



Drumthwacket Foundation

Founded in 1982, the Drumthwacket Foundation is non-partisan, non-profit organization that works to increase a sense of pride in New Jersey by preserving the Drumthwacket properties and broadening access, furthering awareness and support of the Foundation and its activities. The Foundation's educational outreach to schools is the Discover Drumthwacket field trip program, which offers the unique combination of the teaching of state history and promoting understanding of state government and public service.

The Garden Club of New Jersey

The Garden Club of New Jersey (GCNJ) founded in 1925, serves over 4,700 members in 109 clubs throughout the state. Landscape Design, Gardening Study and Flower Show Schools are offered for educational development. The GCNJ provides education, resources and many opportunities for adult and youth members to expand the love of gardening and floral design and encourages active participation in civic, environmental and historic preservation projects.

New Jersey Theatre Alliance

Founded in 1981, the New Jersey Theatre Alliance supports a thriving statewide professional theatre community with a wealth of resources. The first statewide service organization in the United States devoted to professional nonprofit theatre, the Alliance provides innovative, collaborative and engaging programming for theatres and their diverse audiences.

PHOTO CAPTION 1: Parlor: Premiere Stages' *Madison* (photo courtesy NJ Theatre Alliance)

PHOTO CAPTION 2: Office: East Lynne Theater Company's *It Pays to Advertise* (photo courtesy NJ Theatre Alliance)

PHOTO CAPTION 3: Library: Centenary Stage Company's *A Christmas Carol The Musical* (photo courtesy NJ Theatre Alliance)

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