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Saco and Portland Stage Co.

The arts are not optional for a healthy society. This is where people learn about the real world outside of their own narrow world view- where they are exposed to new ideas and grow as citizens. Although not essential for physical health, they are most essential for emotional well-being, social, and yes, mental health. People learn best through the magic of stories (visual, auditory, participatory). Not only does the Portland Stage provide thought provoking productions and audience involvement, but also teaches school children through the Portland area, to develop self esteem while learning about others and the world- all essential for growth.

During this pandemic, not only have audiences suffered from not being able to share experiences with others, but more importantly, those making it happen have been without work and income. The "business" of theatre makes it all happen. The theatre business is essential for societal health and needs support as much, if not more so, than other businesses. I hope that you will recognize the intrinsic value of the arts as foundation of a healthy society and support them as much as possible. thank you carole palmer, 26 North Ave. Saco