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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Cape Fear Regional Theatre Announces Receipt of Cumberland Community Foundation, Inc.
Grants to Support the Theatre Endowment**

Fayetteville, NC —November 21, 2019—Cape Fear Regional Theatre (CFRT) is pleased to announce the receipt of two grants from Cumberland Community Foundation, Inc. in support of building the theatre’s endowment.

CFRT was awarded the Lilly Endowment Challenge grant. This grant will provide a dollar for dollar match to the next \$25,000 of contributions made to The Bo and Herbert Thorp Endowment for CFRT. The Lilly Endowment Challenge Grant Program of Cumberland Community Foundation is made possible by the Ashton W. Lilly Fund for Philanthropy, a charitable fund created in honor of the great philanthropy of Ashton Lilly, and Community Grants of Cumberland Community Foundation. “We are so grateful to the CCF and the Ashton W. Lilly Fund for Philanthropy for this opportunity to continue to grow CFRT’s endowment, which has recently exceeded \$1,000,000. The foresight of this incredible foundation and this generous funder have allowed local non-profits to grow substantial endowments that allow them to thrive in any economic market. Cumberland County should be so proud of the work that this fund and the foundation allow local organization to do,” says Artistic Director Mary Kate Burke.

CFRT received a \$5,000 Endowment Operating Support grant which will allow CFRT to engage potential endowment donors. As part of the endowment campaign, three special performances of the 29th Annual *Best Christmas Pageant Ever* will feature Founding Artistic Director Bo Thorp: December 8th, 14th, and 15th. The tickets for these performances will cost \$30, half of which will go towards the endowment fund.

In 2011, CFRT celebrated Thorp’s retirement with a robust 5-year campaign to launch the Bo and Herbert Thorp Endowment for CFRT. Since then, over \$1 Million has been raised in generous pledges and gifts to this campaign.

The future of CFRT cannot be supported alone through ticket sales, grants, and annual fundraising. CFRT relies on endowment funds to thrive as well. Revenues made from endowment investments support capital improvements, on-going production costs, artist’s fees, and education programs and help ensure continued growth of CFRT programs, local talent, and the next generation of theatre-goers. CFRT endowment funds are managed by Cumberland Community Foundation, Inc. to ensure

sound financial stewardship. Founded in 1980, the Foundation has more than \$70 million in assets and 450 funds under management. Cumberland Community Foundation is confirmed in compliance with National Standards for US Community Foundations and is audited annually.

Since 1962, CFRT is committed to presenting an annual series of plays, performances and special events that, in addition to entertaining, will enlighten, inspire, and educate performers and audiences. CFRT strives to tell the stories that resonate with all members of this dynamic diverse community and be a place for the entire community to come together to laugh harder, think deeper, share experiences, and grow as a community.

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