

2013-J5223

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 25th Anniversary of Queens Theatre

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched by its exceptional cultural, educational and recreational institutions; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to call attention to individuals and organizations that devote their time and energies to the cultural enrichment of the Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concerns, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Queens Theatre, to be celebrated on Monday, June 2, 2014, with a 25th Anniversary Gala at the theatre in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens, New York; and

WHEREAS, The mission of Queens Theatre is to provide quality and diverse performing arts activities that are economically and geographically accessible to the 2.2 million residents of Queens, the most ethnically diverse county in the nation, and the surrounding metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, For 25 years, this outstanding arts and cultural organization has endeavored to foster greater cultural awareness and appreciation, through presenting and producing programs that reflect the diversity of Queens, featuring international, national and local artists; and

WHEREAS, Located in the iconic Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens Theatre began as the Theaterama, one of three structures designed by renowned modernist architect Philip Johnson to comprise the New York State Pavilion at the 1964 World's Fair; when the fair closed in 1965, the pavilion was one of the few structures spared demolition; and

WHEREAS, In 1972, Theaterama was converted from a movie theater to a

live entertainment venue; it was managed by a number of organizations before being officially established as Queens Theatre in 1989 and, after a complete renovation, the theatre opened on October 16, 1993; and WHEREAS, Today, Queens Theatre is a vibrant performing arts center with three performance spaces: its 472-seat mainstage theatre, a 99-seat studio theatre, and its intimate cabaret and cocktail bar; and WHEREAS, Queens Theatre is committed to presenting world-class theater, music and dance as well as programming that reflects the diversity of its community; its annual Latino Cultural Festival is the nation's largest and most important multi-disciplinary festival of Latino culture, featuring music, theater, dance, film and family productions, as well as visual art exhibitions; and WHEREAS, In addition, the outstanding Queens Theatre is one of the only performing arts centers in the borough that actively develops new works through two New Play Development programs, including the Immigrant Voices Project; more than 75 new plays have received staged readings and productions at Queens Theatre, most notably "Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo" by Rajiv Joseph, which premiered on Broadway in 2011 in a production that starred Robin Williams and was directed by Moises Kaufman; and WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the importance of the performing arts, which act to inspire, enlighten, and unify people from all cultural backgrounds through the transcendent power of human expression; and WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that individuals and organizations whose commitment and creative talents have contributed to the entertainment and cultural enrichment of their community, and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Queens Theatre, and to pay tribute to the staff, volunteers, and patrons that have made it strong over its quarter century of existence; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Queens Theatre.