

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY

Dear Leslie and the entire Grumbling Gryphons family,

What a magical milestone! I can hardly believe we're celebrating 45 years of grumbling, growling, and absolutely enchanting audiences around the world. As one of the original co-founders back in 1980 when Bob Flanagan (may he rest in peace), Vanessa Roe, Mary Melia, you, and I first brought these mythical creatures to life in New York,



Leslie, watching you transform our little theatrical experiment into the award-winning, internationally touring phenomenon it has become has been nothing short of spectacular. Your artistic vision and leadership have taken the Gryphons far beyond what we ever imagined in those early days. From West Cornwall, you've built something truly extraordinary. This company doesn't just perform for children, but creates genuine magic that sparks imagination and wonder.

The Connecticut Governor's Arts Award, your Arts Hero recognition, and countless other accolades are well-deserved tributes to the incredible work you and your team have accomplished. But what moves me most is knowing that for 45 years, the Gryphons have been opening young minds to the power of storytelling, environmental awareness, and cultural understanding. Through Ellen Moon's fantastic masks, captivating performances, and that signature interactive spirit that makes every show an adventure.



From Anansi's clever webs to Persephone's mythical journey, from summer camps to international festivals, you've kept the Gryphons' wings strong and their voices clear. The company has grown and evolved in ways that honor our original vision while reaching heights we never dreamed possible.

As you celebrate this incredible 45th anniversary gala, please know that this founding Gryphon is bursting with pride and gratitude. Thank you for nurturing our shared dream, for inspiring countless children and families, and for proving that sometimes the most wonderful ideas really do have wings.

Here's to 45 years of magical flights and to many more adventures ahead! May the Gryphons continue to grumble with joy and soar with purpose for generations to come.

With boundless appreciation and the warmest congratulations,

Tsila Blomberg,

Co-founder, Grumbling Gryphons Theater Company (1980)