

BY: Senator JACOBS

CONGRATULATING Todd Benzin upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2018 Artie Award for Outstanding Character Performance

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

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Todd Benzin upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2018 Artie Award for Outstanding Character Performance; and

WHEREAS, The Artie Awards were established in 1991, by Anthony Chase, Theater Editor of **Artvoice**, an online weekly newspaper in Western New York; they were presented by the newspaper for the first 26 years; beginning with the 27th year, the awards are being presented by WNED/WBFO radio; and

WHEREAS, Currently, the Artie Committee votes in 19 categories to select the nominees and winners for the season's productions at Western New York theaters; to be eligible for an Artie, an artist must live and work in the Buffalo, New York area, while a theater must produce work locally, primarily with local artists; and

WHEREAS, The Artie Awards Ceremony is a benefit, with all proceeds from the evening going to an HIV/AIDS related charity; and

WHEREAS, Todd Benzin won the 2018 Artie Award for Outstanding Supporting Character Performance for his superlative performance in **The Producers**; 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 most fitting that we take time to celebrate the arts of our Nation, to honor our artists, and to express our appreciation to everyone who patronizes the arts; and as we celebrate the arts, we celebrate and give thanks to our American freedom, the only atmosphere in which artists can truly create and in which art is truly the expression of the soul; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Todd Benzin upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2018 Artie Award for Outstanding Character Performance; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Todd Benzin.