

history theatre

Experience the Unforgettable

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sisters of Swing

A toe-tapping, finger-snapping musical tribute to the most successful female group of all time

History Theatre brings ***Sisters of Swing***, a joyful celebration of music, family and patriotism, to the stage during this holiday season. Featuring favorite songs such as “Don’t Sit Under Apple Tree,” “Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy,” and “All I Want for Christmas,” this musical retelling of the story of the Andrews Sisters is a treat for the whole family – from the newest generation to the Greatest Generation and everyone in between.

History Theatre swings into the holiday season with the return of the wildly popular ***Sisters of Swing***. The show first premiered at History Theatre in the spring of 2002, playing to record-breaking crowds and prompting a return run during the summer of 2003. Since premiering at History Theatre, ***Sisters*** has been produced in 25 other regional theatres including the Deutsches Theater in Göttingen, Germany.

“We are very excited to bring this new production of one of our most beloved shows back to our stage,” said director Ron Peluso. “Ruthie, Stacey, and Patty (playing Patty, Maxene, and LaVerne Andrews) are really terrific together with a blend and a style that truly captures that tight harmony, sweetness, and joy that made the Andrews Sisters so popular for so many years. And we’re also thrilled to be working with musicians from the McNally Smith College of Music once again after the great experience we had during our production of *Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story* this fall.”

The Andrews Sisters – LaVerne, Maxene, and Patty – were born and raised in Minnesota, getting their start in the musical business as children. Patty, the youngest, was only seven when the girls started performing, and just twelve years old when they won first prize at a talent contest at the Orpheum Theatre in Minneapolis. From there they toured with a vaudeville troupe and several big bands before scoring a hit with their first Top-Ten single “Bei Mir Bist Du Schön.” Between 1937 and 1950 they had 45 Top Ten hits and appeared in 15 full-length films and two Disney animated features. During World War II they volunteered to entertain enlisted and wounded men by singing, dancing and signing autographs. In 1945 they participated in an eight-week USO tour and were dubbed the “Sweethearts of the Armed Forces Radio Service.” Based on the book *Swing It* by John Sforza, the *Goldmine* article “The Andrews Sisters: Three Sides to Every Story” by William Ruhlmann and numerous interviews, ***Sisters of Swing*** offers glimpse into the lives and career of this amazing trio who recorded hundreds of songs and sold more than 90 million records.

Sisters of Swing was written by Beth Gilleland and Bob Beverage, with music arrangements and direction by Raymond Berg. It is directed by Ron Peluso with co-direction and choreography by Jan Puffer, scenic design by Erica Zaffarano, lighting design by Pamela Kildahl, costume design by Shannon O’Black, sound by C. Andrew Mayer, and properties design by Crystal Schneider. Starring Ruthie Baker as Patty Andrews; Stacey Lindell as Maxene Andrews; Patty Nieman as LaVerne Andrews; and Ari Hoptman as Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Johnny Carson, Carmen Miranda and more. Also featuring Michael Erickson as Vic Shoen and Shana Berg as the female ensemble. Students from the McNally Smith College of Music will once again be performing as musicians in the live band. Zach Spicer on drums and Josh Bourdon on bass are returning after a playing Crickets in ***Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story***, joined by Erik Gustafson on trumpet, Ben Link on trombone, and Morgan Daniel on tenor sax.

Ron Peluso, Artistic Director
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Kathleen Hansen, Managing Director

HISTORY THEATRE INSPIRES, ENTERTAINS, AND PROVOKES AUDIENCES BY CREATING AND PRODUCING NEW WORKS
THAT EXPLORE MINNESOTA’S PAST AND THE DIVERSE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE.

Sisters of Swing

Opens: Saturday, November 21, 2009

Through: Sunday, December 20, 2009

Thursdays @ 10 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. (no performances on 11/26/09)

Fridays @ 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays @ 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. (no 2pm performance on 11/28/09)

Sundays @ 2:00 p.m.

At the History Theatre, 30 East Tenth Street, St. Paul, MN

For directions and parking information visit: www.historytheatre.com/box_office.asp

TICKETS: Adults: **\$28-\$32.00**; Seniors: **\$25-\$30.00**; Students: **\$15.00**; Children: **\$10.00**.

Group rates are available.

To purchase tickets, call the History Theatre Box Office at 651.292.4323 or go to www.historytheatre.com.

Special Events & Offers:

- **Thanksgiving Friday Family Special** Get 4 tickets for \$75

Friday, November 27 @ 7:30 pm

Purchase [tickets online](#) using the Promotion Code: **4pak**

- **Military Day Special** \$10 tickets for Veterans, \$5 tickets for children, \$15 tickets for adults

Saturday, December 5 @ 2:00 pm or 7:30 pm

Purchase tickets by calling the History Theatre 651.292.4323

Promotion Code: **Vets**

- **Afterthoughts Discussion Series**

Sundays, 11/22, 11/29, 12/13 and 12/20

Patrons are invited to join a discussion series which will immediately follow Sunday performances.

Afterthoughts will feature the cast and creative team who helped craft the stories that are seen on the History Theatre stage. Check www.HistoryTheatre.com for details about special guests and topics.

The Creative Team

Bob Beverage & Beth Gilleland ~ Writers

Ron Peluso ~ Director / HT Artistic Director

Raymond Berg ~ Music Director

Jan Puffer ~ Co-Director / Choreographer

Erica Zaffarano ~ Scenic Designer

Pamela Kildahl ~ Lighting Designer

Shannon O'Black ~ Costume Designer

Sound Designer ~ C. Andrew Mayer

Mike Pledl ~ Live Sound Designer / Master Electrician

Crystal Schneider ~ Property Designer

Justin Hooper ~ Technical Director

Gunther Gullickson ~ Assistant Technical Director

Janet Hall ~ Stage Manager

The Cast

Patty Andrews ~ Ruthie Baker

Maxene Andrews ~ Stacey Lindell

LaVerne Andrews ~ Patty Nieman

Vic Shoen / Piano Accompanist ~ Michael Erickson

The Man ~ Ari Hoptan

The Woman ~ Shana Berg

The Band

Drums ~ Zach Spicer

Bass ~ Josh Bourdon

Trumpet ~ Erik Gustafson

Trombone ~ Ben Link

Tenor Sax ~ Morgan Daniel

Up Next at History Theatre:

RAW STAGES ~ January 7-10, 2010

A festival of works-in-progress featuring:

Brave Heart, Noble Soul, written by Donald Orwald ~ Thurs, January 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Nellie Stone Johnson written by Kim Hines, directed by Rick Thompson ~ Fri, January 8 at 7:30 p.m.

A Tale of Two Cities written by Kevin Kling, directed by Suzy Messerole ~ Sat, January 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Coco's Diary adapted by Bob Beverage and Ron Peluso, directed by Suzy Messerole ~ Sun, January 10 at 2:00 p.m.

Sister Kenny's Children ~ January 23 – February 14, 2010

A world premiere by written by Doris Baizley, directed by Ron Peluso, and starring Claudia Wilkens and students from the St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists. Baizley's new play is a powerful retelling of Sister Elizabeth Kenny's battle with the American medical establishment in the 1950s to make her treatment of polio the standard.

About History Theatre:

For 32 years, the History Theatre Experience has created:

- Inspiration. The History Theater Experience brings real stories about real people to the stage in an immediate experience that touches our lives.
- 105 world premiere performances. more than any other theater in the Twin Cities. The History Theatre is one of the country's most impressive new play development homes – bringing to full production new work by Jeffrey Hatcher, Melanie Marnich, Craig Wright, Kim Hines, Dorie Baizley, John Olive, Kira Obolensky, and more.
- Brave, entertaining explorations of all the histories that make up our diverse community. From *Farm Boys* to *Snapshots: Life in the City*, from the celebratory *Wellstone!* to the dark, complex *Piece of the Rope* about Minnesota's first public execution, HT has moved Minnesotans to rediscover, relive, and respect every piece of their history. More than 200,000 students have connected with history through performances at HT.

Complete Performance Schedule Attached

Photos are available at www.HistoryTheatre.com/press/

History Theatre

Sisters of Swing

Performance Schedule 2009

Thursday, November 19 2009 (preview)	7:30 p.m.
Friday, November 20, 2009 (preview)	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 21, 2009 (opening)	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 22, 2009 (A)	2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 24, 2009	10:00 a.m.
Friday, November 27, 2009	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 28, 2009	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 29, 2009 (A)	2:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 3, 2009	10:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Friday, December 4, 2009	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 5, 2009	2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 6, 2009	2:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 10, 2009	10:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Friday, December 11, 2009	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 12, 2009	2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 13, 2009 (A)	2:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 17, 2009	10:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Friday, December 18, 2009	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 19, 2009	2:00 p.m. & 7:30 pm
Sunday, December 20, 2009 (A)	2:00 p.m.

(A) = performance will be followed by *Afterthoughts* discussion

AD/ASL = Audio Description & American Sign Language interpreted performance

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