

# history theatre

For immediate release:  
May 6, 2014

CONTACT: Rachel Flynn  
cell: 612.581.8170 | desk: 651.292.4323 x 106  
pr@historytheatre.com

## History Theatre's 2014-2015 Season features 4 world premieres about Minnesota icons, communities, and unsung heroes – and brings back an audience favorite!

SAINT PAUL, MN – History Theatre's 2014-2015 season will include *four world premieres* beginning Garrison Keillor's first full-length play, written as in honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his popular radio program, "A Prairie Home Companion."

The season will take audiences on a journey into the hearts and minds of national icons, trailblazers, and one of Minnesota's immigrant communities. We will begin on September 27 with the world premiere of **Radio Man**, a new play written by Garrison Keillor, featuring Pearce Bunting (HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*) playing The Host. The play will give audiences a glimpse of "A Prairie Home Companion" onstage, offstage, and through the eyes of the show's enigmatic creator. Then the holidays will be celebrated with the toe-tapping, hand-clapping, dancing-in-the-aisles fun of **Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story** (opens November 22). Part biography, part rock 'n' roll concert, we're excited to bring this one back this audience favorite featuring Nicholas Freeman as Buddy Holly.

The 2015 half of the season will kick off with the annual RAW STAGES New Works Festival in January (dates and titles will be announced in July). February 7 will see the world premiere of a new drama by local Presbyterian pastor and former Star Tribune columnist Kristine Holmgren about being one of the first women to be accepted into the Master of Divinity program at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1975. **God Girl** offers a unique perspective on the women's liberation movement featuring Summer Hagen. In March, History Theatre will partner with Mu Performing Arts for the world premiere of **The Debutante's Ball** (opens March 21) by local playwright (and former debutante escort) Eric "Pogi" Sumangil, directed by Randy Reyes. This charming new play is about more than just the Valentine's Ball and Presentation of Debutantes and Escorts, an annual event hosted within Minnesota's Filipino-America community; it's about history, family, assimilation, rebellion, and the self-discovery that all teens face.

The final show of the season is a new musical about the Godfather of Minnesota rock 'n' roll, Augie Garcia. Written by Joe Minjares and directed by Raul Ramos, **River Road Boogie: The Augie Garcia Story** (opens May 2) will introduce audiences to the son of Mexican immigrants who grew up in St. Paul's Westside neighborhood (The Flats) and became so popular that he almost upstaged the headliner when he opened for Elvis at the St. Paul Auditorium in 1956.

Performances are generally scheduled for Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, at 8:00 p.m., Sundays and select Saturdays at 2:00 p.m., and most Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. (All titles and performance times are subject to change.) Season passes for the 2014-2015 season are on sale now through September 30, 2014. Single tickets for all performances will go on sale to the general public July 8, 2014. Discounts on single tickets and season passes are available for Seniors (age 60+) and Young Adults (19-30 years). Student tickets (18 years and under) are always \$15 for all performances. Additional discounts for all performances are available for groups of 12 or more. More information is available by calling the History Theatre box office at 651-292-4323 or going online to [www.historytheatre.com](http://www.historytheatre.com).

(cont.)



For immediate release:  
May 6, 2014

CONTACT: Rachel Flynn  
cell: 612.581.8170 | desk: 651.292.4323 x 106  
pr@historytheatre.com

## History Theatre's 2014-2015 Season:

September 27 – October 26, 2014

### **Radio Man**

*A world premiere by Garrison Keillor*

Join the celebration of A Prairie Home Companion's 40th anniversary through a quirky and satiric journey into the memories of its creator. The "On Air" lights flash and the show begins. The host, played by Pearce Bunting (HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*), presides over a parade of singing groups, the private eye Guy Noir, the cowboys Dusty and Lefty, and the people of Lake Wobegon arguing about morality and a bag of frozen peas. The lines between imagination and reality are blurred as a young boy reminisces about his radio dreams, a producer chastises the host, and the stage manager somehow keeps the show rolling along. It's a night of rollicking humor in the first full-length play written by America's foremost storyteller and humorist.

Directed by Ron Peluso

November 22 – December 21, 2014

### **Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story**

*Written by Alan Janes Original London production directed by Rob Bettinson*

Spend the HOLLY-days with History Theatre when we bring back our popular, award-winning production of Buddy—The Buddy Holly Story. Part biography, part rock 'n' roll concert, this musical is a toe-tapping, hand-clapping celebration of the life and music of Buddy Holly (played by Nicholas Freeman). Talented, passionate, and impulsive, Buddy crossed racial barriers with his music and left an indelible legacy in just four short years. Relive his meteoric rise to stardom through the unforgettable concert in Clear Lake, Iowa. Packed with 24 hit songs including "Peggy Sue," "Oh Boy!," "Rave On," and "That'll Be the Day." It's guaranteed to have audiences dancing in the aisle.

Directed by Ron Peluso  
Choreography by Jan Puffer  
Musical Direction by Gary Rue  
Produced in partnership with McNally Smith College of Music

February 7 – March 1, 2015

### **God Girl**

*A world premiere by Kristine Holmgren*

Meet the bright and spirited Macalester College graduate who was one of the first women accepted to the Master of Divinity program at Princeton Theological Seminary. In 1975, when the war in Vietnam was over and the women's liberation movement was in full swing, an idealistic and determined young woman decided to change the world starting with her ordination to ministry. This new play by Presbyterian pastor and former Star Tribune columnist Kristine Holmgren reflects on the hard work, humor, and heartbreak experienced by the brave women who dared to break through the stained glass ceiling within the protestant church.

Directed by Ron Peluso

(cont.)

For immediate release:  
May 6, 2014

CONTACT: Rachel Flynn  
cell: 612.581.8170 | desk: 651.292.4323 x 106  
pr@historytheatre.com

## History Theatre's 2014-2015 Season (continued):

March 21 – April 12, 2015

### ***The Debutante's Ball***

A world premiere by **Eric "Pogi" Sumangil**

Enjoy a glimpse into the pageantry, customs, and teenage restlessness that are all part of the Valentine's Ball and Presentation of Debutantes and Escorts. Since 1978, Minnesota's Filipino-American community has gathered for this annual affair which celebrates their vibrant heritage as Filipinos and Americans. This fun new coming-of-age play by local artist and former debutante escort Eric "Pogi" Sumangil follows six teens as they prepare for this special event and connect with their Filipino heritage through stories, haranas (traditional Filipino love songs), the waltz and even a bit of hip hop, while finding the balance between tradition and assimilation, parental pressure and personal independence.

Directed by Randy Reyes  
Produced in partnership with Mu Performing Arts

May 2 – 31, 2015

### ***River Road Boogie: The Augie Garcia Story***

A world premiere by **Joe Minjares**

After returning home to St. Paul from the Korean War, Augie Garcia created a unique style of music that blended the sounds of his Mexican heritage with rhythm and blues. The Augie Garcia Quintet really found their groove at the River Road Club in Mendota and, in 1956, they opened for Elvis Presley at the St. Paul Auditorium. This new musical explores the life and music of a man whose infectious smile, generous spirit, and incredible talent—along with his trademark Bermuda shorts—made him a Minnesota music legend.

Directed by Raul Ramos  
Produced in partnership with McNally Smith College of Music

---

January 13 – 18, 2015

### **RAW STAGES: New Works Festival**

Titles, playwrights, and directors will be announced and posted online after July 1, 2014.

The RAW STAGES Festival will consist of four readings of scripts-in-progress featuring professional actors and directors. The readings will be performed at the 3M Auditorium in the Minnesota History Center.

---

*(Please note that dates are subject to change.)*

# history theatre

Telling the stories of Minnesota, the Midwest  
and the American Experience for 35+ years

## THE COMPANY

History Theatre entertains, educates, and inspires through creating, developing, and producing new and existing works that explore Minnesota's past and the diverse American experience. Its work provides a unique lens which links our past to the present, explores our common heritage, and illuminates our understanding of what it means to be American. History Theatre is a three-time IVEY Award-winning theater, and is recognized nationally as a leader in producing historical work.

## THE ARTISTIC WORK

Each year History Theatre produces a season filled with excellent plays and musicals while developing new scripts through workshops and staged readings. Since 1978, the company has staged 116 world premieres, working with nationally recognized playwrights such as Jeffrey Hatcher, Kevin Kling, Eric Simonson, Craig Wright, Frank McCourt, Doris Baizley, Melanie Marnich, Kim Hines, John Olive, and Kira Obolensky. From a charming look at the innocence of youth in *Coco's Diary* to an urban musical celebration of the Twin Cities in *Snapshots: Life in the City*, and from the music of the iconic Judy Garland in *Beyond the Rainbow* to the an exploration of one of the most pivotal years in modern history in *1968: The Year That Rocked the World*, History Theatre moves audiences to rediscover, reexamine, and respect every piece of their history.

For more about History Theatre,  
visit [www.HistoryTheatre.com/about](http://www.HistoryTheatre.com/about)

30 East Tenth Street | Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101  
651.292.4323 • [www.HistoryTheatre.com](http://www.HistoryTheatre.com)

---

**ACCESSIBILITY:** History Theatre is equipped with an FM hearing enhancement system. Large-print and braille playbills are available at the box office. We offer ASL interpreted and Audio Described performances. We have complimentary wheelchairs for those patrons who need extra assistance into the building. The handicap-accessible entrance is on Cedar St. Just inside the entrance is an elevator that will take patrons to the theatre level.

###