



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Tony Award-winning **ALL THE WAY** Kicks off History Theatre's 40th Season

SAINT PAUL – History Theatre proudly kicks off its 40th Season with 2014 Tony Award winner for Best Play, Pulitzer Prize-winner Robert Schenkkan's political masterpiece **ALL THE WAY**. The regional premiere of this production will be directed by History Theatre's Artistic Director Ron Peluso. Lauded by critics as a "jaw-dropping political drama," this "sensational night of theatre" previews October 5 and 6 at 7:30pm, opening night is Saturday, October 7 at 7:30pm, and the production runs through October 29.

1963. The day that JFK was assassinated in Dallas, Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) became the 36th President. The country was in shock and the business of the nation continued. The top priority was the Civil Rights Act, and LBJ, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey and Roy Wilkins take on a Congress divided on this hot button matter of policy. The KKK bombed black churches, Freedom Riders disappeared into the night, George Wallace held a tight grip on Alabama, and Bobby Kennedy posed a challenge to LBJ in the coming election and tensions ran high.

ALL THE WAY, a power-packed drama takes its name from Johnson's 1964 campaign slogan, "All the Way with LBJ," is the first of two plays by Schenkkan on Johnson's presidency. The second part, *The Great Society*, his sequel spanning the rest of Johnson's presidency, depicts the larger-than-life politician's tragic fall from grace by the bitter failure of the Vietnam War.

"Sometimes, history throws you a softball," Schenkkan said in the *Houston Chronicle*. "It came to me that was the way to frame this play - his first year, that accidental term. It laid things out beautifully, both to show all aspects of Johnson in action, as well as everything that was happening in the country at that time. The moral quandaries the play raises, the fights over race, over voting rights, the surveillance state, health care, involvement in foreign wars - we're still fighting over the same things! The meat of it is so much what we are still dealing with today. Sometimes you wonder whether you are in 1964 or 2016. Democracy is a messy business."

ALL THE WAY will be a thrilling night of theatre that will make you feel like you are living through one of the most disruptive, defining moments in the great American story. "If you are intrigued with history and politics, this is a play you won't want to miss. America was in crisis mode and we'll take a behind-the-scenes look to see how President Johnson steers this country into calmer waters. LBJ is like King Lear battling the storm of a chaotic America," Peluso said.

Local theater veteran **Pearce Bunting** leads History Theatre's talented cast as the iconic LBJ with **Shawn Hamilton** as Martin Luther King, Jr., **Andrew Wheeler** as Hubert H. Humphrey, **Joe Nathan Thomas** as Roy Wilkins and **J.C. Cutler** as J. Edgar Hoover, **Jennifer Blagen** as Lady Bird Johnson and **Jamila Anderson** as Coretta Scott King. A cast of 18 actors will portray roles of some of the most dynamic political figures of the century: **Bruce Abas**, **Josh Carson**, **Ron Collier**, **Rex Isom Jr.**, **Song Kim**, **Eric Knutson**, **Patty Mathews**, **Peter Middlecamp**, **Derrick Mosley**, **Jeff Slinkard**, and **Peter Thomson**.

The **ALL THE WAY** creative team includes **Rick Polenek** (Scenic Designer), **Barry Browning** (Lighting Designer), **C. Andrew Mayer** (Sound Designer), **E. Amy Hill** (Costume Designer) and **Kathy Maxwell** (Video Designer).

Special Events

Downtown Live: St. Paul Mayoral Candidate Conversation

Monday, October 9, 6-7:30pm (doors open 5:30pm) | History Theatre

Food trucks and concessions. Free.

Candidates are invited to an informal conversation about issues relevant to downtown life.

Sponsors: Lowertown Media Initiatives, CRC, BOMA, TPT, Hygge Lowertown, and History Theatre

The FBI and ACLU: Supporting Civil Rights & Voting Rights

Thursday, October 12, 6-7:30pm, History Theatre | Register online at HistoryTheatre.com

Speakers: Teresa Nelson, J.D., Interim Executive Director, ACLU of Minnesota; Jeffrey Van Nest, J.D., Media Coordinator, FBI Minneapolis.

General public: \$40, includes program, light dinner, and show ticket.

Lawyers: \$55, includes program, light dinner, show ticket, and 2 standard CLE credits

Mitchell Hamline students: free program, \$30 for light dinner and show ticket

Season Ticket Holders - \$30 for program and light dinner

A Conversation with The Honorable Walter Mondale

Fundraiser for History Theatre | Guest Host MPR's Gary Eichten

Sunday, October 15, 11am-1pm | University Club, St. Paul

\$150 brunch | \$200 brunch + performance

Hear Mondale's reflections on the Civil Rights Act and the turbulent time captured in *All the Way*.

Ticket Information

OPENS: Saturday, October 7, 2017

CLOSES: Sunday, October 29, 2017

PLAYING: **Thu 10am** (10/12, 10/19, 10/26) | **Thu, Fri, Sat @ 7:30 pm** | **Sun @ 2pm**

Complete performance schedule is included on page 4

TICKETS: Adults: Tier 1 **\$52**; Tier 2 **\$42**; Tier 3 **\$37**; Tier 4 **\$25**

Seniors (60+ years old): Tier 1 **\$47**; Tier 2 **\$37**; Tier 3 **\$32**; Tier 4 **\$25**

Students (age 5 to college students – ID required): **\$15**

Discount rates are available for groups of 10 or more.

Ticket prices subject to change. Dynamic ticket pricing applies.

Performing at History Theatre, 30 East Tenth Street | St. Paul, MN 55101

History Theatre Box Office at 651-292-4323 or www.historytheatre.com/tickets/

Promotional photos and photos are available upon request. Please email request to

pr@historytheatre.com

About the Play

All the Way explores a turbulent time in our political history. In 1964, the year that LBJ is looking toward an election, he has also dedicated himself to the passage of the Civil Rights legislation that has languished in Congress, stirring the hopes, passions and fears of a country headed toward monumental change. Working with Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey and Roy Wilkins, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., don't miss this brilliant portrayal of LBJ's first year as president.

"With cinematic sweep with an eye toward teasing out our parallels to our current gridlock, Schenkkan traces the first year of LBJ's presidency." – *Entertainment Weekly*

About the Artists

Robert Schenkkan PLAYWRIGHT

ROBERT SCHENKKAN is a Pulitzer-prize winning, Tony@ Award winning, Writer's Guild Award winning, three-time Emmy nominated writer of Stage, Television, and Film. He is the author of fourteen original full-length plays, two musicals, and a collection of one-act plays. He co-wrote the feature film, *Hacksaw Ridge* (six Academy Award nominations) and *The Quiet American*, and his television credits include: *All the Way*, *The Pacific*, *The Andromeda Strain* and *Spartacus*.

Ron Peluso DIRECTOR

Ron has commissioned over 60 playwrights and composers and produced more than 50 original works, including the popular *Sisters of Swing* and *Beyond the Rainbow*. He has also commissioned and directed Jeffrey Hatcher's critically acclaimed scripts *A Piece of the Rope* and *Tyrone & Ralph*. He commissioned *The Incredible Season...* from Eric Simonson after directing his Broadway-hit play *Lombardi* in 2012. He has directed over 150 professional productions with such companies as Florida Stage, Riverside Theatre, Pennsylvania Opera Theater, Mixed Blood Theatre, Old Creamery Theatre, and the Minnesota Opera. Ron holds an M.F.A. in Directing from the University of Minnesota.

About History Theatre

Since 1978, the History Theatre Experience has created: Inspiration. History Theatre features real stories about real people to the stage in an immediate experience that touches our lives. 120 world premiere performances, more than any other theater in the Twin Cities. 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 at History Theatre.

Accessibility

History Theatre is equipped with an FM hearing enhancement system. 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. Patrons are asked to indicate any special needs that when ordering tickets.

History Theatre

All the Way

Performance Schedule, October 7-29, 2017

Thursday, October 5	<i>Preview</i>	7:30 p.m.
Friday, October 6	<i>Preview</i>	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 7	<i>Opening</i>	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 8	Afterthoughts: Founders' Weekend	2:00 p.m.
Monday, October 9	<i>St. Paul Mayoral Candidate Forum</i>	6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 12	<i>The FBI and ACLU: Supporting Civil Rights and Voting Rights</i>	10:00 a.m.
		6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
		7:30 p.m.
Friday, October 13		7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 14	<i>AD/ASL</i>	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 15	<i>Afterthoughts</i>	2:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 15 Brunch, Public Kitchen, St Paul	<i>A Conversation with The Honorable Walter Mondale (HT Fundraiser)</i>	11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 19		10:00 a.m. / 7:30 p.m.
Friday, October 20		7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 21	<i>OC</i>	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 22	<i>OC Afterthoughts</i>	2:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 26		10:00 a.m. / 7:30 p.m.
Friday, October 27		7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 28		7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 29	<i>Closing Afterthoughts</i>	2:00 p.m.

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