



For Immediate Release  
October 26, 2016

Contact: In-Fin Tuan, 651-292-4323 x106  
cell: 651-998-4011; email: [pr@historytheatre.com](mailto:pr@historytheatre.com)

History Theatre is proud to present

## ***Orphan Train***

*A History Theatre Classic Returns November 19-December 18*

**SAINT PAUL, MN** – History Theatre presents ***Orphan Train***, written by Patty Lynch with music and lyrics by Charlie Maguire. This History Theatre classic returns November 19 through December 18. Come celebrate the meaning of family and home in this emotionally powerful work this holiday season.

Directed by Artistic Director Ron Peluso and Artistic Associate Anya Kremenetsky, this stirring folk musical follows a handful of children – a brother and sister who were separated, a tough boy and a spirited girl whose courage soars in the face of adversity, and an African-American girl who finds love in the home of a Buffalo Soldier's family.

A cast that includes 13 children, ***Orphan Train*** is an emotional account of 100,000 homeless children brought by rail from the slums of New York City to the Midwest from 1853 to 1929. The musical vividly illuminates their story with songs written by Maguire, who also composed the music and lyrics for History Theatre's acclaimed ***Mesabi Red*** about the Iron Range.

"There are sweet stories where children found wonderful homes and stories that ended in tragedy. It's a great American "adoption" story and one that History Theatre is proud to bring back to the stage," Peluso said. "To this day, we still have a need to find solutions for children who, "through no fault of their own" are at risk. This stirring musical reminds us of the challenges that still are at our front door."

The initial idea for the musical came when Peluso saw a documentary on orphan trains. He was amazed that children were shipped out with only a tiny suitcase, a Bible and a shirt inside. They weren't permitted to take pictures or letters with them; the idea was to leave their families behind. Lynch said she loved "the Americanness of the story." "It's about trains, the West, naiveté and optimism - the whole notion of, 'OK, we've got a problem, we're going to fix it. We'll send these kids West. This'll work. They'll get good homes.'"

One of Maguire's songs, sung by two Irish children, asks this: *Dare you to love me. Bet you can't love me. No one has ever loved me true. It must be something with me. Down deep I can't see. Why should it be different with you?*

Cast includes Marcus Adams, Evie Bair, Lauren Bonner, Carley Clover, Dionna Commodore, Noah Coon, Devon Cox, Ethan Davenport, Terry Hempleman, Maia Hernandez, Zoe Hollander, Eric Knutson, Gavihn Lee, Ryan Levin, Peder Lindell, Norah Long, Jordan Muschler, T. Mychael Rambo, Carl Schoenborn, Callie Schroer, Angela Steele, Peter Thomson, Josie Turk, Karen Weber and Melanie Wehrmacher,

**Andrew Fleser** (*Glenshee*) will provide musical direction and musical arrangements from **Richard Kriehn**. Design team includes **Lynn Farrington** (costumes), **Gunther Gullickson** (set), **Chris Johnson** (lighting), **C. Andrew Mayer** (sound), **Emily Michaels King** (choreography) and **Abbee Warmboe** (properties).

***Orphan Train***, which runs November 19-December 18, is the timeless story of family told with humor and love. For more information, visit [www.historytheatre.com](http://www.historytheatre.com).

###

## ***Orphan Train***

(See page 3 for complete performance calendar listing).

Opens: Saturday, November 19, 2016    Closes: Sunday, December 18, 2016

### **TICKETS:**

Adults: **\$37-\$52**; Seniors (60+ years): **\$35-\$50**. Adults (Under 30): **\$30** (offer good by phone only);

Students (college ID): **\$15** (offer good by phone only); Children (up to 18): **\$10**

Discount rates are available for groups of 10 or more. Call 651-292-4320 or [groups@historytheatre.com](mailto:groups@historytheatre.com)

History Theatre Box Office at 651-292-4323 or [www.historytheatre.com/tickets/](http://www.historytheatre.com/tickets/)

Location: History Theatre, 30 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul, MN 55101

For directions and parking information visit: [http://www.historytheatre.com/directions\\_and\\_parking/](http://www.historytheatre.com/directions_and_parking/)

### **PLAY DESCRIPTION:**

1889. Over 100,000 orphaned children were shipped by rail from the slums of New York City to farm families in the Midwest between 1858 and 1929. Orphan Train brings to life the struggles and joys of the children who landed in Minnesota and the families who took them in. This stirring folk musical follows a handful of children – a brother and sister who were separated, a tough boy and a spirited girl whose courage soars in the face of adversity, and an African-American girl who finds love in the home of a Buffalo Soldier's family. Don't miss this new look at a History Theatre classic that will tug at your heartstrings and entertain audiences of all ages with humor and love.

**Production Photos are available** by request. Email [pr@historytheatre.com](mailto:pr@historytheatre.com)

---

## **About History Theatre**

Since 1978, History Theatre has been one of the nation's most prolific incubators of original plays. In recent years, History Theatre has staged new works by Jeffrey Hatcher, Lee Blessing, Melanie Marnich, Craig Wright, Kim Hines, Dorie Baizley, John Olive, Kira Obolensky, and more.

From the celebratory *Wellstone!* to the dark, complex *Piece of the Rope* about Minnesota's first public execution and the hilarious *Glensheen: The Musical* about an infamous Minnesota murder, History Theatre has moved Minnesotans to rediscover, relive, and respect every piece of their history. More than 200,000 students have connected with history through matinee performances and theatre arts residencies led by History Theatre actor/teachers.

### **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.

## Orphan Train

Performance Schedule, November 19-December 18, 2016

**Location:** 30 E 10<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul MN 55101

**Box Office phone:** 651-292-4323

**Website:** [www.historytheatre.com](http://www.historytheatre.com)

Thursday, November 17	PREVIEW	7:30 p.m.
Friday, November 18	PREVIEW	7:30 p.m.
<b>Saturday, November 19</b>	<b>OPENING</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
	<b>Post-show Reception</b>	
Sunday, November 20		2:00 p.m.
	<i>Afterthoughts</i>	4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 22		10:00 a.m.
Friday, November 25		7:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 26		7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 27		2:00 p.m.
	<i>Afterthoughts</i>	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 30 (SOLD OUT)		10:30 a.m.
Thursday, December 1		10:00 a.m.
Thursday, December 1	Special Holiday Performance featuring Pat Donohue & The Prairie All-Stars!	7:30 p.m.
Friday, December 2		7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 3	ASL/AD	2:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 3		7:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 4		2:00 p.m.
	<i>Afterthoughts</i>	4:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 8		10:00 a.m.
		7:30 p.m.
Friday, December 9		7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 10		2:00 p.m.
	<i>Open Captioning</i>	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 11	<i>Open Captioning</i>	2:00 p.m.
	<i>Afterthoughts</i>	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 14		10:00 a.m.
		7:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 15		10:00 a.m.
		7:30 p.m.
Friday, December 16		7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 17		2:00 p.m.
		7:30 p.m.
<b>Sunday, December 18</b>	<b>CLOSING</b>	2:00 p.m.
	<i>Afterthoughts</i>	4:00 p.m.

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