



For Immediate Release
September 7, 2016

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History Theatre is proud to present
Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story
A Musical Journey of a Rising Star Premieres October 1-30

SAINT PAUL, MN – Audiences are invited to take a trip back to the 1960s pop music heyday when a bright new star from Fargo emerged. Follow the meteoric rise of fifteen-year old Bobby Velline who wowed audiences at the Winter Dance Party in Moorhead, Minn. and thrilled audiences for more than a decade in History Theatre’s new musical, ***Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story***.

Written by Bob Beverage in collaboration with brothers Jeff and Tommy Vee and directed by Ron Peluso, the play begins with Bobby’s big break in the midst of tragedy on The Day the Music Died – February 3, 1959, when Buddy Holly’s plane crashed killing him, the Big Bopper and Ritchie Valens. He soon would become a teen idol appearing on American Bandstand with Dick Clark and an international star who entertained audiences with Top 40 hits like *Devil or Angel*, *The Night Has a Thousand Eyes*, *Take Good Care of My Baby*, *Come Back When You Grow Up*, and many more.

Billboard Magazine named Bobby Vee “one of the ten most consistent chartmakers ever.” From 1959-1970, Bobby Vee produced 38 Top 100 hits including six Gold Records. Whether you are a fan of Bobby Vee, a fan of the timeless ‘50s and ‘60s pop music, or just a fan of a good story, there’s something for everyone. From his first hit single, *Suzie Baby*, in Minneapolis, Bobby’s musical journey includes fellow pop stars like Little Anthony & The Imperials, Ronnie & The Ronettes, Dion, and Del Shannon.

More than just a story based on Bobby’s life in music, it’s a valentine to the love story between Bobby and his wife Karen. “It is a window into a special time in the history of rock ‘n roll and in American pop culture – rooted right here in the Midwest, the place where our dad and mom were so proud to call home,” said brothers Jeff and Tommy Vee, who toured with and managed their father’s later career.

“It has been an exciting ride,” shared Jeff and Tommy Vee, who served as collaborators of this new musical. “We are fans of our Dad because of the person he was: father, husband, brother, and friend. The fact that he was a multi-million record-selling rock and roll star is something else entirely.”

The musical pays tribute to the many artists that Bobby befriended during his long career, you’ll see **Tyler Michaels** portray Bobby Vee, **Ben Bakken** as Del Shannon, **Kasomo Wanza** as Little Anthony of the Imperials, **Kayla Jenson** as Ronny of The Ronettes, **Bowen Cochran** as Dion, Leonard Nimoy and Bob Dylan, **ShaVunda Horsley** as Shirley of The Shirelles and **Kenny Watson** as Chubby Checker.

As Bobby’s musical arranger for many years, George Maurer will provide musical direction, arrangements for the production with support from **Nic Delcambre** (Associate Music Director), **Blake Foster** (guitar), and **Kenny Watson** (bass/drums). Design team includes Kathy Kohl (costumes), Rick Polenek (set), Barry Browning (lighting), C. Andrew Mayer (sound), Jan Puffer (choreography) and Kirby Moore (properties).

Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story, which runs October 1 - 30, is the musical journey of a rising star. For more information, visit www.historytheatre.com.

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Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story

(See page 3 for complete performance calendar listing).

Opens: Saturday, October 1, 2016 Closes: Sunday, October 30, 2016

TICKETS:

Adults: **\$37-\$52**; Seniors (60+ years): **\$35-\$50**. Adults (Under 30): **\$30** (offer good by phone only);
Students (college ID): **\$15**; Children (up to 18): **\$10**

Discount rates are available for groups of 10 or more. Call 651-292-4320 or groups@historytheatre.com

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

Location: History Theatre, 30 East 10th Street, St. Paul, MN 55101

For directions and parking information visit: http://www.historytheatre.com/directions_and_parking/

PLAY DESCRIPTION:

1959. With the tragic crash of Buddy Holly's plane, a bright new star from Fargo emerged. Fifteen-year-old Bobby Velline performed at the Winter Dance Party in Moorhead, MN the day the music died. Bobby went on to record his first hit single, *Suzie Baby*, in Minneapolis - and soon would become a teen idol appearing on American Bandstand with Dick Clark and an international star who thrilled audiences for more than a decade with Top 40 hits like *Devil or Angel*, *The Night Has A Thousand Eyes*, *Come Back When You Grow Up Girl*, *Take Good Care of My Baby* and many more. Follow Bobby's musical journey that includes fellow pop stars like Little Anthony & The Imperials, Ronnie & The Ronettes, Dion, and Del Shannon.

Production Photos are available by request. Email 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.

Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story

Performance Schedule, October 1-30, 2016

Location: 30 E 10th Street, St. Paul MN 55101

Box Office phone: 651-292-4323

Website: www.historytheatre.com

Thursday, September 29	PREVIEW	7:30 p.m.
Friday, September 30	PREVIEW	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 1	Pre-Show Party	6:30 p.m.
	OPENING	7:30 p.m.
	Post-show Reception	
Sunday, October 2	<i>Afterthoughts</i>	2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 6		10:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.
Friday, October 7		7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 8		7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 9		2:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 13		10:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.
Friday, October 14		7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 15		7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 16	<i>ASL/AD</i> <i>Afterthoughts</i>	2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 20		10:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.
Friday, October 21		7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 22	<i>Open Captioning</i>	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 23	<i>Open Captioning</i> <i>Afterthoughts</i>	2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 27		10:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.
Friday, October 28		7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 29		7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 30	CLOSING	2:00 p.m.
	<i>Afterthoughts</i>	4:00 p.m.
	<i>Bandstand Bop (Benefit)</i>	5:30 p.m.

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

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Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story
Song List:

Wake Up Little Susie
He's Got the Whole World in his Hands
Wake Up Little Susie
Summer Time Blues
Suzie Baby
Come Back When You Grow Up
Lotta Lovin'
Dreamin'
Devil or Angel
Rubber Ball
More Than I Can Say
Walkin' With My Angel
Let's Twist Again
The Night Has A Thousand Eyes
Run To Him
Be My Baby
Ave Maria
Mama Said
Runaround Sue
Hurts So Bad
Palisades Park
Runaway
I'll Make You Mine
Do You Wanna Dance
Bus Medley
When I Get to Heaven
Goin' Nowhere
The Wanderer
Rubber Ball
I Go to Pieces
Wouldn't Change a Thing
If I Needed You
More Than I Can Say
Take Good Care of My Baby

Bobby Vee
Ronny Kerber
Bobby & The Shadows
Bobby & The Shadows
Bobby & The Shadows
Bobby and Ensemble
Bobby & The Shadows
Johnny Burnette & Studio Singers
Bobby and Studio Singers
Bobby & The Holiday Singers
Bobby Vee
Bobby Vee
Chubby Checker
Bobby and Company
Bobby and Co-Eds & Mrs. Schmidt
The Ronettes
Wedding Singer
The Shirelles
Dion & The Belmonts
Little Anthony & The Imperials
Freddie Cannon
Del Shannon
Bobby Vee
Bobby Freeman
Caravan of Stars
Caravan of Stars
Bobby
Dion
Bobby & Band
Del Shannon
Bobby Vee
Bobby Vee
Bobby and Karen
Bobby Vee