



FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

MEET OUR NEXT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Richard D. Thompson

history theatre

When will the new History Theatre Artistic Director start?

Richard D. Thompson will start Jan 10, 2023, continuing his work of producing the *RAW STAGES: New Works Festival* January 18-22, 2023, and will be directing the final production of the 22-23 Season, *The Defeat of Jesse James*, a new musical by Jeffrey Hatcher and Chan Poling this spring.

What is Mr. Thompson's history with History Theatre?

Over the past 25 years, he has worked on various projects at History Theatre. Director credits include *The Meeting* (1991-92), *The Brotherhood* (1995-96), *Summer in the Shadows* (2001-02), *Joe* (2003-04), *Nellie* (2012-13), and *Not in our Neighborhood!* (2021-22). He also served as a dramaturg for *The Boy Wonder: Stassen Musical*, and *Christmas of Swing*.

Thompson joined the History Theatre staff as the Producing and Directing Associate last year. Since then he worked closely with Ron Peluso collaborating on season planning and working with playwrights and other artists to produce the annual *RAW STAGES: New Works Festival* and *Next Stage Workshops*, the theater's new works series.

Thompson brings a wealth of experience from the Twin Cities community and beyond. He worked as the Managing Director and Associate Producer for Penumbra Theatre, where he directed *The Last Minstrel Show*; he directed, a national tour of *Treemonisha* for the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra; directed *Into the Woods, Jr.* and *Sundiata: The Lion King* for The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. In addition, he has worked for Children's Theatre Company, Illusion Theater, Jon Hassler Theater, Virginia Opera, Playwrights' Center, and Mixed Blood Theatre Company.

What comes next for History Theatre?

Thompson will work in partnership with Managing Director Karen Mueller to build on a solid foundation of artistic and organizational health. "Navigating the future of a performing arts organization in our world today is a challenge. I look forward to collaborating with Rick in his new role as Artistic Director. His understanding and passion for history, his commitment to artistic excellence and his dedication to equity at all levels will be invaluable as we move ahead into our next chapter," Mueller said.

What was the search and hiring process?

Earlier this year Artistic Director Ron Peluso announced his plan to step down at the end of December 2022. Per the Board of Directors' succession plan, History Theatre formed a Search Committee comprised of Board members, key staff, and input from artists from the Twin Cities theater community and began a national search for his replacement. Hiring Orion Search Group to lead the search process, the committee met with several candidates, focused not only on their artistic experience but also their passion for the mission and their artistic vision for the theatre before recommending a candidate to the full Board. The Board was unanimous in its support of the Search Committee's recommendation.

Who can I contact for information?

For additional information visit [this page](#)

If you have any additional questions, comments, or feedback please call Karen Mueller, Managing Director at 651-292-4321 or send an email to kmueller@historytheatre.com