



THE ROOT BEER LADY

Written and performed by KIM SCHULTZ

Originally directed by Addie Gorlin-Han

Remounted by Jess Yates

July 8-26, 2026

history theatre

LIVE MUSIC GETS **HOT** THIS SUMMER.



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Laura Leffler
Artistic Director

Welcome to summer at the History Theatre.

What better time to visit Dorothy Molter's cabin than in the height of summer, when the Boundary Waters are bursting with life and possibility? We are delighted to have the multi-talented Kim Schultz (yes, performer AND playwright!) back to tell Dorothy's story.

And what a story it is. A confident- and intelligent- young woman who forges her own path, outside the societal norms of her time. While Dorothy is certainly independent, she is not alone. Her days are overflowing with care and community- she takes good care of both the travelers who pass through, and attends to the land, which is full of unparalleled beauty and wonder. If you can't make it to the Boundary Waters in person this summer, then visiting Dorothy on our stage is a pretty close second (my goodness, this design team is stellar). You can almost smell the pine needles.

After your stay with Dorothy, you are very welcome to come back and enjoy everything the 49th season at History Theatre has to offer: world premieres, regional premieres, exciting partnerships, faces new and familiar, and - as always - real stories and real people. Dance, sport, song, comedy and deep dives into real history that includes and affects us all. It's a whole season full of personal stories, impactful legacies, and joyful celebrations.

We'll see you again, and soon.

THE ROOT BEER LADY

Written and Performed by
KIM SCHULTZ*

Original Direction by
ADDIE GORLIN-HAN†

Remount Direction by
JESS YATES

Scenic Designer
CHELSEA M. WARREN#

Lighting Designer
CHRIS JOHNSON

Properties Designer
ABBEE WARMBOE

Costume Designer
SARAH BAHR*

Sound Designer/Composer
KATHARINE HOROWITZ

Arranger
JOE CRUZ*

Projection Designer
LESLIE RITENOUR



Land Acknowledgment for *The Root Beer Lady*

Dorothy Molter's cabin was located on the Isle of Pines, Boundary Waters, Northern Minnesota where Indigenous people have lived for countless generations. Minnesota's Arrowhead region, which includes the Boundary Waters, is within the 1854 Ceded Territory, where Anishinaabe people, also known as Ojibwe, retain hunting, fishing, and gathering rights.

SETTING

1986. Dorothy Molter's cabin in Isle of Pines,
Boundary Waters, Northern Minnesota

This production will be performed with no intermission.

THE CAST

Dorothy Molter **Kim Schultz***
Dorothy Molter Understudy **Jen Maren***

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager **Samantha Fairchild Poppen***
Assistant Stage Manager **Gianna Haseman**
Assistant Stage Manager Sub **Elijah Virgil Hughes**
Technical Director **Gunther Gullickson**
Master Electrician/Board Operator **Nick Walberg**
Stage Electricians **Chase Foster Adams, Ariel Bodnar-Klein, Will Glaser,
Kevin Chamberlin, Alan Donahue, Kate Peters, Bevibel Harvey,**
Assistant Lighting Designer/Programmer **Nick Fetting**
Scenic Supervisor **John Lutz**
Scenic Charge **Erica Soukup***
Painter **Hannah Litzinger**
Carpenters **Edward Folly, Alex Cleberg**
Open Captioner **Shelia Bland**



**National
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Network**



* Appearing through an agreement between History Theatre and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States
+ Member, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Inc.
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Member, United Scenic Artists Local #829
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U Understudy



Kim Schultz
Playwright

What a thrill to bring *The Root Beer Lady* back to History Theatre audiences for a third time!

I'm so happy this play and Dorothy's story has resonated with audiences. Although it is how she is remembered, Dorothy was so much more than the "root beer lady." And I would posit that she was certainly not the "Loneliest Woman in America," as she was called in the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1952. She was a woman of grit, determination, and kindness; a brave and daring woman who broke all the norms and, by doing so, I think, found her happiness—a lesson for us all.

But in 2026, this play resonates in a different way. The pristine waters of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area are at risk. We cannot allow greed and corruption to destroy this beautiful, sacred place. We must do all we can to protect BWCA - and all our national parks and wildernesses. It's what Dorothy would want. And it's what Dorothy would do. Kwitichurbeliakin!

I hope you enjoy this story of the maverick, rule-breaker and root beer maker: Dorothy Molter.

I'm glad you're here!

- Kim Schultz



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THE CAST/THE CREATIVE TEAM



KIM SCHULTZ* (she/her)
Dorothy and Playwright
History Theatre: *The Root Beer Lady*, 2023, 2025, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Gangster Musical*.
Theater: Goodman Theatre: *A Christmas Carol*; Silk Road Rising: *No Place Called Home*; John F. Kennedy Center for Performing

Arts: *No Place Called Home*; Theatre de La Jeune Lune: *Yang Zen Frogs*; Hamptons Shakespeare Festival: *Comedy of Errors*; Oberon Theatre: *Two Gentlemen of Verona*; New England Shakespeare: *Comedy of Errors*; Commonwealth Theatre: *The Importance of Being Earnest*; Ten Thousand Things: *King Lear*; Park Square: *Lady Windermere's Fan*; amongst others. **Other:** Performed improv and sketch on Disney Cruise lines, Brave New Workshop, HBO Comedy Showcase. **TV/Film:** NBC: *Chicago Fire*; HBO: *Sex and The City*; Comedy Central: *Star Wipe*; Author of memoir: *Three Days in Damascus* (Palewell Press, 2016) and two additional solo shows: *The F Trip* and *No Place Called Home*. **Upcoming:** *The Root Beer Lady* regional tour and a new solo play about another fascinating woman of the wild, *Diana of the Dunes*.
kimschultz.com.



JEN MAREN* (she/her)
u/s Dorothy
History Theatre: *Glensheen*, *Hungry Like the Wolf*, *Lord Gordon Gordon*, *The Boy Wonder*, *The Root Beer Lady*; u/s, *A Christmas Schooner*. **Theater:** Guthrie Theatre: *The Sunshine Boys*; Ordway Theatre: *Beauty and the Beast*; Penumbra Theatre:

The Wedding Band; Mixed Blood: *Love Person*; Old Log Theater: *Dixie Swim Club*, *Leaving Iowa*; Illusion Theater: *My Antonia*; Park Square Theatre: *Rock-n-Roll*, *Panic*, *33 Variations*; Children's Theater Company: *Jackie and Me*; NorShor Theatre: *Don't Dress for Dinner*; Looney Lutheran Company Member; Science Live Theater Member. **Other:** Audible Audiobook narrator, audio description. **Awards:** Ivey Award for Overall Excellence, *Glensheen*. **Training:** St. Olaf College B.A. Theater Arts; British American Drama Academy, Oxford, England. Keep up with Jen at jenmaren.com IG: @jenact

THE CREATIVE TEAM

SARAH BAHR+ (she/her)
Costume Designer

History Theatre: *Hungry Like the Wolf*, *I am Betty*, *The Root Beer Lady*, Parks: *Portrait of a Young Artist*.
Theater: Theater Latté Da: *My Antonia*, *Gutenberg! The Musical!*, *We Shall Someday*, *To Let Go and Fall*; Theater Mu: *Hmong Futures*, *Maybe You Could Love Me*, *Man of God*; Trademark Theater: *The Reunion*, *5, The Hollow*, *Understood*, *The Boy and Robin Hood*; Ten Thousand Things: *Men on Boats*, *Violet*, *This Girl...*, *Emilia*, *Iphigenia at Aulis*, *Thunder Knocking on the Door*, *The Sins of Sor Juana*; Artistry: *Singin' in the Rain*,

Waitress, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; Jungle Theater: *The Effect*, *Christmas at Pemberly Trilogy*, *Stinkers*, *Small Mouth Sounds*, *The Wolves*, *Hand of God*, *Lone Star Sprits*, *Anna in the Tropics*.
sarahbahr.com Instagram: @sarahbahrdesign

JOE CRUZ* (he/him)
Arranger

Composer: History Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival. **Musician:** Children's Theatre, Guthrie, Theater Latté Da, Park Square, Oregon Shakespeare Festival Theater, Artistry. Props Artisan: CTC, Guthrie. joecruzmusic.com

ADDIE GORLIN-HAN* (she/her)
Original Direction

History Theatre: *The Root Beer Lady* (2023, 2025, 2026), *Evidence of V* (reading) 2026. **Theater:** Theater Latté Da: *Fun Home*; 2023–2026, Guthrie Theatre: *A Christmas Carol*; Arkansas Rep: *Into the Woods*; Alabama Shakespeare Festival: *And Then They Came for Me...*; Mixed Blood Theatre: *The Song of Summer*, *Charm and According to Coyote*; Cloutgate: *Strange Heart Beating*; Children's Theatre Company TAT: *The Laramie Project*; Phoenix Theatre & Children's Hospital: *I and You*; Cutting Ball Theater: *Five Tries*. **Awards:** American Theatre's Role Call: People to Watch 2024 and a finalist for the regional theater Zelda Fichandler Award. **Training:** B.A. Dartmouth College, Brown University/Trinity Rep MFA
Upcoming: Childrens Theatre Company: *Princess Kay of the Milky Way*

GIANNA HASEMAN (she/her)
Assistant Stage Manager

History Theatre: *Hungry Like The Wolf*, *Don't Miss Doris Hines*, *Whoa, Nellie!* *The Outlaw King of the Wild Middle West*, *Handprints*, *The Root Beer Lady*.
Theater: Artistry: *Kiss Me*, *Kate*; Park Square Theatre: *R. L. Stine's Goosebumps The Musical*; *Phantom of the Auditorium*, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*; New Arab American Theater Works: *Festival of New SWANA Plays*, *Rosette*; Gremlin Theatre: *Apples In Winter*, *The Thin Place*; Twin Cities Theater Camp: *The Lightning Thief*, *Something Rotten! Jr.*, *Matilda The Musical*, *The Music Man*, *The Logic Pit*; University of Minnesota Theatre Arts & Dance Department: *Energy & U*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Moliere One Acts*, *She Kills Monsters*. **Training:** B.A. Theatre Arts, University of Minnesota: Twin Cities.

KATHARINE HOROWITZ (she/her)
Sound Designer/Composer

History Theatre: *Behind The Sun*, *A Unique Assignment*, *The Boy Wonder*, *The Root Beer Lady*, *Diesel Heart*, *Superman Becomes Lois Lane*, *Stewardess!*, *A Crack In The Sky*, *The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin*. **Theater:** Asolo Repertory Theatre, Capital Rep Theatre, Theater Latté Da, Guthrie Theater, Children's Theatre Company, Jungle Theater, Great River Shakespeare Festival, Artistry, Mixed Blood Theatre, Park Square Theatre, Pillsbury House Theatre, Theater Mu, Gremlin Theatre, Walking Shadow Theatre Company, Creede



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Member of United Scenic Artists Local #829

THE CAST / THE CREATIVE TEAM

Repertory Theatre, Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre, Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival and Alliance Theatre. **Awards:** 2017 McKnight Theatre Artist Fellow at the Playwrights' Center. **Training:** B.A., University of Iowa. katsound.com

CHRIS JOHNSON (she/her)

Lighting Designer

Chris has worked as a professional scenery and lighting designer for over 50 years in Europe and the United States. **History Theatre:** *The Root Beer Lady*, *Down to Earth* (1983), *Beyond the Rainbow*, *Mesabi Red*, *Buddy-The Buddy Holly Story*, *Lombardi*, *Orphan Train*.

SAMANTHA FAIRCHILD POPPEN* (she/her)

Stage Manager

History Theatre: *Courting Harry*. **Theater:** Theatre Novi Most: *An Ocean Away*; Six Points Theater: *Vienna*, *Vienna*, *Vienna* (ASM), *The Messenger* (ASM); Mixed Blood: *The Ally* (production), *The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington*; Old Log Theatre: *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Reluctant Dragon* & *Snow White and the 7 Vikings*; Playwrights' Center: *Garden of Memories & Fantasma*; TigerLion Arts: *The Buddha Prince in Concert & Big World* (workshop); Wonderlust Productions: *Hidden Herald* (Season 2), *Riverwalk Project*, *The Caregiver Play Project*, *Hidden Herald* (Season 1), *Every Brilliant Thing*; Interact Center: *Dancing on the Edge of a Volcano*, *Interact's Greatest Hits*. **Other:** Wonderlust Productions ensemble member. **Training:** B.S., MSU, Mankato.

LESLIE RITENOUR (she/her)

Video Designer

History Theatre: *Hungry Like the Wolf*, *Rollicking!*: *A Winter Carnival Musical*, *Don't miss Doris Hines*, *The Root Beer Lady*, *I Am Betty*, *Handprints*, *The Defeat of Jesse James*. **Theater:** Jungle Theater: *The Effect*; Collide Dance Co.: *Bonnie and Clyde*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Dracula*, *Little Women*, *The Joy List*. **Training:** B.S Psychology, B.A. Theatrical Arts, UMN-TC. **Upcoming:** History Theatre: *Fancy Dancer* (Associate Video Designer), *Ldritenour.com* @Babybeanlettuce

ABBEE WARMBOE (she/her)

Properties Designer

History Theatre: *Diesel Heart*, *Runestone*, *Parks*, *Gloria: A Life*, *Stewardess*, *The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin*, *The Highwaymen*, *Orphan Train*, *Capital Crimes*, 1968. **Theater:** Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Mixed Blood Theater, Frank Theatre, Ten Thousand Things, Theater L'homme Dieu, Theater Mu, The Walker/Wax Factory, Guthrie Theater, The Hive Collaborative, Theater Latté Da, Penumbra Theater, among others. **Awards:** 2020-21 McKnight Theater Artist Fellow, Playwrights' Center.

CHELSEA M. WARREN+ (she/her)

Set Designer

History Theatre: *The Root Beer Lady*. **Theater:** Penumbra Theatre: *Weathering*, *The White Card*; Jungle Theatre: *5*, *Ride the Cyclone*, *A Doll's House Part 2*, *Stinkers*, *The Children*, *The Wickham's*, *Little Women*, *Hand to God*; Pittsburgh Public Theatre: *Enemy of the People*; Steppenwolf Theatre: *The Children*, *Ironbound*, *fm!*; How Carson McCuller's *sm!*; City Theatre: *Another Kind of Silence*, *POTUS*, *Somewhere Over the Border*; Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park: *Louisa May Alcott's Little Women*, *Vietgone*,

Origin Story; Quantum Theatre: *Seagull*, *Scenes from An Execution*; Everyman Theatre: *A Doll's House*; Studio Theatre: *Cry It Out*; Cleveland Playhouse: *Sex with Strangers*; Victory Gardens Theatre: *Queen*, *Cocked*, *Rest*, *The Whale*; Philadelphia Theatre Company: *A Small Fire*. **Affiliations:** Co-Chair, USA 829 Scenic Design Category Committee; Ensemble Member, Steep Theatre; member, USA 829. **Training:** MFA, Northwestern University & Associate Professor of Scenic Design at Carnegie Mellon University. chelseamwarren.com; [@chelseamwarren](https://twitter.com/chelseamwarren)

JESS YATES

Remount Direction

History Theatre: *The Root Beer Lady* (2026, 2025, asst. 2023), *Rollicking: A Winter Carnival* (asst. 2025). **Select Theater:** Bramble Theatre: *Hell-Burnt*; Wild Set Theatre Collective: *Skylight*; Melancholics Anonymous: *Lion's Tooth*; Lakeshore Players Theatre: *RED*, *The Book Club Play*, *What the Constitution Means to Me*; Trinity Rep.: *A Christmas Carol* (asst.); Philadelphia Theater Company: *La Egoista* (asst.); Milwaukee Rep.: *Little Women*, *What the Constitution Means to Me*, *A Christmas Carol*, (asst.); CTC: *Carmela Full of Wishes* (asst.); Renaissance Theaterworks: *Naked Tuesdays*, *Black Bear Island*; Milwaukee Rep. EPR: *Evanston Salt Costs Climbing*. **Other:** Collide Theatrical Dance Company: Director of Development & Engagement; Netflix & Williamstown Theatre Festival: *Death, Let Me Do My Show* producing team; Williamstown Theatre Festival: *Pamela Palmer*, *Dragon Lady*, *WTF is Next*, *The Plastic Bag Store* producing team; Wild Set Theatre Collective: Founding Producer. **Upcoming:** The Hive Collaborative: *Tosca*; Great Theater: *Urinetown*. jessyates.com IG: [jess.lyates](https://www.instagram.com/jess.lyates)



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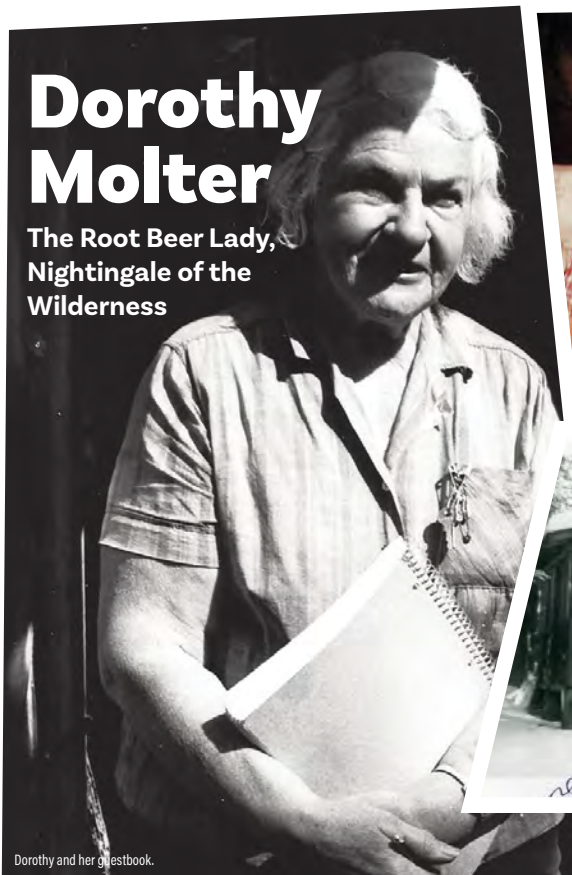
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Dorothy Molter

The Root Beer Lady,
Nightingale of the
Wilderness



Dorothy and her guestbook.



Dorothy Molter is in a red plaid shirt standing in front of the Coca-Cola cooler in which she kept her homemade root beer. Above a sign says, "Drink home brewed root beer it made Milwaukee jealous." (Milwaukee is spelled incorrectly with only one "e".)



Drift Lake.

View of the winter cabin.

Dorothy Molter's Cabin



Nursing School graduate



EARL SEIBERT

Dorothy wearing sunglasses, plaid shirt and gloves riding on a Polaris Sno-Traveler with her father, John, "Cap" Molter





Dorothy Molter standing in the doorway of her summer tent.

Nestled in a quiet grove of pines, just outside of Ely, Minnesota, are the cabins and museum of one of the north wood's dearest and most colorful individuals, Dorothy Molter. Some remember her fondly as the "Root Beer Lady" while others recall her as the "Nightingale of the Wilderness" or, simply, Dorothy.

Dorothy carved out her legacy in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) located within the Superior National Forest. Dorothy lived on the Isle of Pines on Knife Lake for more than 56 years where she paddled, hiked, fished, skied and snowshoed this pristine area, until her death in 1986. She was visited by as many as 7,000 people a year.

Dorothy was a model of independent thinking, and her story encourages us to think for ourselves. Today, we can look back at how the sociopolitical history of America during Dorothy's lifetime influenced and challenged Dorothy's own path in life and

imagine her as a person, rather than simply an historic figure.

The transition from the Victorian Era at the turn of the 20th century, women's suffrage, two world wars, and women's employment were only a few of the profound points of reference on Dorothy's timeline – no doubt significantly affecting her as a woman living through those changing times. She once said, "If I can ever find a man who can portage heavier loads, chop more wood, or catch more fish, then I'll marry him."

- Dorothy Molter Museum

To learn more about Dorothy, visit rootbeerlady.com



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History Theatre entertains, educates, and engages audiences by creating, developing, and producing new and existing works that explore Minnesota's past and the diverse American experience.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

History Theatre sits on the ancestral, traditional and contemporary land of the Dakota people, for whom the land holds historical, spiritual, and political significance. We recognize and honor the Dakota people, ancestors, and descendants, as well as the land itself, and all the sovereign Native nations in Minnesota and beyond. We recognize that this acknowledgement itself is not enough and only serves as a first step towards decolonization.

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