



TEN THOUSAND THINGS/FREESTYLE FILM

**WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY
GRETA OGLESBY**

**DIRECTED BY RICHARD D. THOMPSON
MUSIC DIRECTOR SANFORD MOORE**

JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 18, 2024

history theatre

A HISTORIC NIGHT OUT
ANNUAL BENEFIT

SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024
317 ON RICE PARK

history theatre

≡ FORMAL INVITATION TO FOLLOW ≡

For more information, contact development@historytheatre.com | 651-292-4326

history theatre
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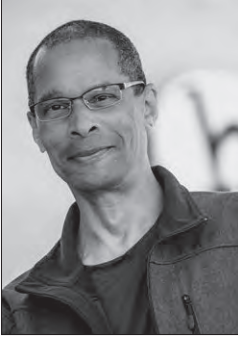
FEBRUARY 14, 7:30 PM

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Scan to enjoy
the musical fun!

WELCOME



RICHARD D. THOMPSON



KAREN MUELLER

Welcome back to History Theatre, thank you for being here and supporting theatre.

Continuing our season with *Handprints* we are exploring stories about the personal histories, relationships, and joyous triumph of the human spirit.

I have had the pleasure of working with Greta over the years, including *Nellie* and *Summer in the Shadows* here at History Theatre and thrilled to help share her story with you all here today. Building upon History Theatre's important legacy of creating new and existing work, we see to continue telling well-known and untold stories while amplifying unheard voices and welcoming everyone to the audience.

Hope to see you back in the theatre this spring for *A Unique Assignment* by Harrison David Rivers.

Richard D. Thompson, Artistic Director



Thank you for joining us for this wonderful new work by and about local veteran actor Greta Oglesby. Our state is truly blessed with many talented artists such as Greta and History Theatre is thrilled to be able to lift up her story in particular, through words and music.

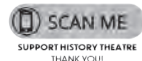
As always, your ongoing support helps History Theatre to produce new work, thoughtfully developed for the stage. Your donations help fill in the gap between keeping ticket sales affordable and the actual cost of developing and presenting what you see on the stage.

Our patrons are generous in many ways. One shining example was the winter food drive during the run of our holiday musical hit "I Am Betty." Audiences donated over 2,700 pounds of food and household supplies to the theatre, which staff enthusiastically delivered to Neighborhood House in St. Paul. We appreciated your help in making this our most successful holiday drive ever!

Mark Sunday April 21 in your calendars for our spring annual event that benefits the theatre. This year, our celebration will take place at the beautiful and historic 317 on Rice Park in downtown St. Paul. More details to come soon!

Karen Mueller, Managing Director

**To make a donation, visit
www.HistoryTheatre.com/donate
or call the Box Office at 651-292-4323.**





HANDPRINTS



Written and Performed by GRETA OGLESBY

Original Music by GRETA OGLESBY

Directed by RICHARD D. THOMPSON

Music Director SANFORD MOORE

THE CAST



GRETA OGLESBY



DENNIS SPEARS



SANFORD MOORE
PIANO/MUSIC DIRECTOR

SPECIAL THANKS

Many thanks to Greta Oglesby for handmaking the quilt seen in the show and Ten Thousand Things Theater for their support of this production.

ARTISTIC TEAM

Playwright & Composer	Greta Oglesby*
Music Director	Sanford Moore
Director	Richard D. Thompson
Dramaturg	Alayna Jacqueline
Scenic and Properties Designer	Kirby Moore
Costume Designer	Jacourtney Mountain-Bluhm
Lighting Designer	Karin Olson#
Video Designer	Leslie Ritenour
Sound Designer	Nick Walberg
Stage Manager	Laura Topham*
Assistant Stage Manager	Gianna Haseman
Voiceover	Linnea Cole, Meghann Oglesby

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Electricians	Nick Fetting, Joel Gay, Asa Gutow, Jacob Pasiuk, Lucas Martin, Dante Benjergdes, Kai Yamanis, Mike Lee, Brianna Mae
Master Carpenter	Zachary Morgan
Carpenters	Jensen Bailey, Ian Iosso, AJ Sass
Scenic Charge	Erika Soukup
Assistant Scenic Charge	Mack Meza
Costume Assistant	Meghan Kent
ASL Interpreters	James Gardner, Erin Gardner
Audio Describer	Laurie Pape-Hadley
Open Captioner	Laura Weiber

STAFF

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR	Richard D. Thompson
New Works & Producing Associate	Laura Leffler
Production Manager	Lee Johnson*
Technical Director	Gunther Gullickson
Master Electrician	Nick Walberg
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Education Manager	Paul de Cordova
Development Director	Rob Thomas
Development Assistant	Faith DuBose
Grant Writer	Jessica Huang
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Group Sales Manager and Volunteer Coordinator	Craig Cerrato
Box Office Associate	Daniel Evans
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Marketing Director	Erica Skarohlid
Marketing Consultant	In-Fin Tuan



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The Director is a member of the
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*Member of Actors' Equity Association
† Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Inc.
• Member of Twin Cities Musicians Union Local 30-73, American Federation of Musicians
Member of United Scenic Artists Local #829

FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT AND COMPOSER



GRETA OGLESBY

ON SALE AT CONCESSIONS



"Mama 'n 'Nem" is available
for purchase in the lobby.

First and foremost, thank you to Rick Thompson and History Theatre for inviting "Handprints" into this historic space. And to Marcela Lorca who championed and nurtured this piece from its infancy to the full film production of *Handprints* in 2021.

In 2012 I wrote a book entitled "Mama 'n 'Nem, Handprints On My Life" (Kirk House). After reading the book, Joe Dowling (former Artistic Director of Guthrie Theater) said, "Greta! These characters are so evocative. They're moving. And they're so funny! You should write a One-Woman-Show!"

Three years would go by before I picked up a pen to write the first draft. I cherry picked scenes from my favorite chapters. First draft done. It was a play, but just random scenes. It needed a beginning, middle and end. It needed a theme, a through-line. As a writer, sometimes it's hard to delete words you've fallen in love with. I edited. I made crucial cuts and revisions. What started as a One-Woman-Show, is now a Two-Hander with live accompaniment.

Handprints features my mother, an aunt, and other people influential in my life. But it ultimately became a story about my relationship with my father, whose legacy continues to inform and define my life's journey.

I hope you are deeply moved, you laugh hysterically, and that you are ultimately swept away by these ordinary yet extraordinary people.

Greta Oglesby

P.S. My book "Mama 'n 'Nem" is on sale in the lobby.

THE CAST

GRETA OGLESBY* (she/her)

History Theatre: *Summer in the Shadows, Nellie*. Her performances have been described as “ravishing,” “indelible,” “powerful,” “magnificent,” “heartbreaking,” and “brilliant.” **Theater:** Ten Thousand Things: *Thunder Knocking on the Door, Emilia, King Lear*. Penumbra: *The Wiz, The Piano Lesson, Amen Corner*. Guthrie: *A Christmas Carol, Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner, Caroline or Change*. Children’s Theatre: *Last Stop on Market Street, Beggar’s Strike, Five Fingers of Funk*. **Awards:** Joseph Jefferson Award, Black Theater Alliance Award, Ivey Award, McKnight Theater Artist Fellowship (2009, 2022).

DENNIS SPEARS* (he/him)

History Theatre: Debut. **Theater:** Penumbra: Proud company member and veteran *Black Nativity* soloist. *Piano Lesson, Get Ready, Two Trains Running, A Raisin in the Sun* and *I Wish You Love*. **Awards:** Ivey Award for his portrayal of Nat King Cole. Minnesota Music Hall of Fame Inductee, 2013. **Other:** Vocalist, jazz ensemble Moore by Four, performed nationally and internationally; Director, Legends Music Series, Capri Theater.

THE MUSICIAN

SANFORD MOORE (he/him)

Pianist/Music Director

History Theatre: Debut. **Theater:** Ordway: *Ordway Cabaret, Smokey Joe’s Café*; Penumbra: *Girl Shakes Loose, By the Way Meet Vera Stark, The Ballad of Emmet Till, The Amen Corner, I Wish You Love, Black Pearl Sings, Black Nativity, Ain’t Misbehavin’, Get Ready, Dinah Was*; Theater Latte Da: *Jelly’s Last Jam, Hello Dolly*; Children’s Theatre: *The Wiz, Last Stop on Mrkt St., Three Little Birds*. Guthrie: *Parchman Hour, Disgraced, To Kill a Mockingbird, Choir Boy, Crowns*; Ten Thousand Things: *Thunder Knocking at the Door*; Park Square: *Nina Simone: Four Women*; Mixed Blood: *Two Queens, One Castle, Black Belts*; Illusion: *Always and Forever*; Lab Theater: *When a Man Loves a Diva*. **Other:** Director, Arranger for the vocal jazz ensemble Moore by Four. **Awards:** Minnesota Music Hall of Fame inductee; Director of Music at Kingdom Life Church, N. Minneapolis. **Upcoming:** *The Color Purple*, Theater Latte Da

THE CREATIVE TEAM

KIRBY MOORE (he/him)

Scenic & Properties Designer

History Theatre: *Glensheen, The Defeat of Jesse James, Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story, Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story, Coco’s Diary, Courting Harry, Lombardi and Christmas of Swing*. **Other:** His professional career spans 40 years of stage, film, and commercial production in Minneapolis, Chicago, and Los Angeles. He’s grateful to Circa 21’ Dinner Playhouse, in Rock Island Ill., and to Children’s Theatre Company for their design internship programs which gave him his start in the professional arts.

KARIN OLSON* (she/her)

Lighting Designer

History Theatre: *I Am Betty, The Defeat of Jesse James, Runestone! A Rock Musical, River Road Boogie, Debutante’s Ball*. **Theater:** MN Opera: *Song Poet*; Alliance Theater: *Into the Burrow*; Theater Mu: *Kung Fu Zombie saga*; PRIME/Park Square: *The Revolutionists*; Jungle: *Redwood, Cambodian Rock Band, The Wolves*; Guthrie: *Valor, Circle Mirror Transformation*; Cleveland Playhouse: *Antigone*; Children’s Theatre: *Spamtown, USA!*; Trinity Rep: *Fuente Ovejuna, A Christmas Carol*; Ordway: *West Side Story*; HERbeat, Oregon Shakespeare Festival,

Syracuse Stage, Trademark Theater, Skylark Opera, Mixed Blood Theater, Frank Theater, Full Circle Theater, Artistry, Stages Theater Company, Penumbra, Twin Cities Ballet, TU dance, Alternative Motion Project, Threads Dance Project. **Awards:** 23-24 McKnight Theater Artist. **Other:** *HandPrints: Cineplay w/ Ten Thousand Things*. **Upcoming:** Mu Performing Arts: *Hell’s Canyon*; Mixed Blood: *The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington*. karinolsonlighting.com

JACOURTNEY MOUNTAIN-BLUHM (she/her)

Costume Designer

History Theatre: Debut. **Theater:** Artistry MN: *Godspell*; Yellow Tree Theater: *Rats & The Wasps Nest*. **Training:** BFA Theater, Texas State University - San Marcos.

LESLIE RITENOUR (she/her)

Video Designer

History Theatre: *I Am Betty, The Defeat of Jesse James, The Root Beer Lady, Diesel Heart*. **Theater:** UMN-TAD: *She Kills Monsters, Silent Sky*. **Training:** U of MN-Twin Cities B.A. Theatre Arts; B.S. Psychology. Ldritenour.com

NICK WALBERG (he/him)

Sound Designer

History Theatre: Debut for design, staff master electrician, sound engineer for *The Defeat of Jesse James, Glensheen Tour, Happy Holi-Dane, and I Am Betty*. **Training:** B.A. Theatre Design Western Illinois University.

LAURA TOPHAM* (she/her)

Stage Manager

History Theatre: *The Boy Wonder, Diesel Heart, Parks*. **Theater:** Guthrie Theater: (Stage Manager) *A Raisin in the Sun*, (Assistant Stage Manager) *A Christmas Carol, Murder on the Orient Express, The Little Prince*; Park Square Theatre: (selected) *Holmes and Watson, The Rocky Horror Show, Jefferson Township Sparkling Junior Talent Pageant, Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery, and The Diary of Anne Frank*; Yellow Tree Theatre: *A Streetcar Named Desire, Another Miracle on Christmas Lake*; Collide Theatrical Dance Company: *Romeo and Juliet*; Theater Latte Da: *Candide, Beautiful Thing*; Artistry: *Godspell, Follies*. **Training:** B.A. Theatre Arts, University of Minnesota. **Upcoming:** Guthrie Theater: *Skeleton Crew*

GIANNA HASEMAN (she/her)

Assistant Stage Manager

History Theatre: *The Root Beer Lady*. **Theater:** Gremlin Theatre: *The Thin Place*; Twin Cities Theater Camp: *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. in Theatre Arts and Sociology, University of Minnesota: Twin Cities.

ALAYNA JACQUELINE (she/her)

Dramaturg

History Theatre: Dramaturg, *The Boy Wonder*. **Theater:** Dramaturg/Writer, Theater Mu, Daleko Arts, Phoenix Theater, Market Garden Theatre, Walking Shadow Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, National Black Theatre, William Inge Center, Concord Theatricals, Playwrights’ Center, Athena Project, MadLab Theater, Lincoln Theater, Pythian Theater. **Plays:** *All Of The Everything, You Know I’d Never (Even If I Did), Laurie, Laurie An Urban Legend, The Retelling, An Evening With Ella And Harold, You Know I’d Never (Even If I Did), Drapetomania, Get Broken Like Me, It’s Too Cold For You Here*. **Other:** Film/TV credits, books, voice over, concerts) **Training:** BA in Theater, Otterbein University, MFA in Creative Writing, Goddard College. alaynajacqueline.com

GRETA OGLESBY FAMILY ALBUM



Me and my mom.



Father's Day (sister) 2014.



My Mom and Dad's wedding.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GRETA OGLESBY

GRETA OGLESBY FAMILY ALBUM



My Dad's Birthday (me, my sister, my niece) 2010.



My husband, Dennis.



College sweethearts
Dennis and me.



THANK YOU FUNDERS



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



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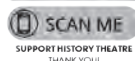
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History Theatre entertains, educates, and engages audiences by creating, developing, and producing new and existing works that explore Minnesota's past and the diverse American experience.

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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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THANK YOU!



BLENDED 和 (HARMONY)

THE KIM LOO SISTERS



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the musical fun!

Book and lyrics by Jessica Huang
Music by Jacinth Greywoode
Directed by Lily Tung Crystal

May 4-26, 2024

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historytheatre

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PREMIERES MARCH 16, 2024



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Written by **HARRISON DAVID RIVERS**

Directed by **Richard D. Thompson**

March 16-April 7, 2024

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