history theatre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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History Theatre Gets Happy for the Holidays with *Beyond the Rainbow*

Judy Garland's iconic 1961 concert at Carnegie Hall is the centerpiece of this joyful celebration of her life and music

SAINT PAUL, MN— The History Theatre is proud to present William Randall Beard's *Beyond the Rainbow*, a musical tribute to the life and songs of Judy Garland. It's 1961, and "the World's Greatest Entertainer" paces nervously backstage at Carnegie Hall; she's 38 years old, a mother of three, and despite believing that the world sees her as a washed-up has-been, she's about to give one of the most celebrated performances of the 20th century. Feel the excitement as Judy Garland takes the stage in this technicolor celebration of her life and legacy in music. Directed by HT Artistic Director Laura Leffler, this reimagined holiday classic runs from November 21 to December 20, 2026. Tickets and more information about special events available at historytheatre.com

"*Beyond the Rainbow* has been a hit for HT for 21 years, and I'm humbled and excited to helm the piece this holiday season. I hope that audiences fall in love with Judy all over again - or for the very first time," says Leffler. "Judy looms so large in pop culture, it can be easy to forget that she was just a girl from Minnesota, just a person. This script does a beautiful job of honoring both sides - the diva icon owning the screen and stage, and the poor girl with a big voice and an even bigger heart who just wanted to be loved."

First developed by History Theatre in 2005, *Beyond the Rainbow* features hits from the Great American Songbook like "San Francisco," "The Trolley Song," "Zing! Went the Strings of My Heart," and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." Part live concert and part memory play, *Beyond the Rainbow* is a cavalcade of Judy Garland's greatest hits interspersed with the moments in her life that shaped her. From her childhood as a traveling vaudevillian to her decades as a Hollywood star, every song reveals a different facet of a dynamic and complicated woman who lived an intensely public life and was always undeniably herself.

The cast of *Beyond the Rainbow* features **Erin Capello** (HT: *I Am Betty, The Christmas Schooner*), **Chance Carroll** (HT: Debut), **Elena Glass*** (HT: *Rollicking: A Winter Carnival Musical*, *Whoa, Nellie! The Outlaw King of the Wild Middle West U/S*, *Glensheen* U/S, *Runestone!, Christmas of Swing, Beyond the Rainbow),* **Norah Long*** (*Beyond the Rainbow, A Servants' Christmas, Sisters of Swing, Christmas of Swing*), and **Kyle Weiler*** (HT: Debut).

Understudies include **AnnaBeth Baker**, **Jen Burleigh-Bentz***, **Tony Larkin***, and **Danny McHugh***.

The creative team includes **William Randall Beard** (Playwright), **David Lohman** (Music Arranger), **Laura Leffler^** (Director), **Wesley Frye** (Music Director), **Jaclyn McDonald** (Choreographer), **Annie Enneking** (Intimacy & Fight Director), **Eli Sherlock** (Set Designer), **Bryce Turgeon** (Costume Designer), **Emma Gustafson** (Wig Designer),

Grant Merges (Lighting Designer), **C Andrew Mayer#** (Sound Designer), **Kirby Moore** (Props Designer), **Lyndsey Harter*** (Stage Manager), and **Emerson Stenbeck** (Assistant Stage Manager.)

*Member, AEA, ^ Member, SDC, # Member, USA

Ticket Information
Tiers 1-5: $30-78. **Students:** $15. Recommended for ages 13+. Additional discounts are available for seniors (available online), patrons under 40 and Blue Star Families. Call 651-292-4323 or visit historytheatre.com. Discount rates for groups of 10 or more. Call 651-292-4320 or email groups@historytheatre.com to book a group.

Special Events

- Nov 19 and 20 7:30pm: Pay What You Wish Previews. Reserve your tickets for $20 or the box opens 1 hour prior, all door sales are subject to availability and Pay What You Wish. Cash and credit accepted.
- November 21 - December 20: Canned Food Drive with Neighborhood House
- Dec 3 and 10, 10am: School Day Matinees - *Filling Fast!*

Afterthoughts held following Sunday Matinees
Nov 22 and 29, Dec 6, 13, and 20. Free and open to all ticketed patrons; get closer to the story on stage with a lively post-show talkback. Special guests TBA.

Accessibility at History Theatre
History Theatre strives to make all events accessible to all patrons. When purchasing tickets please alert the box office of any accommodation or assistance needed. Contact the box office at 651-292-4323 for more information. http://www.historytheatre.com/box-office/accessibility

- **American Sign Language and Audio Description**: Saturday, Dec 12th, 2:00 p.m.
- **Open Captioning:** Saturday, Dec 19, 2:00 p.m. and Sunday, Dec 20, 2:00 p.m.

Contact Katie Hartman (khartman@historytheatre.com or 651.461.4329) with any requests for interviews, additional bios, or past production photos.

MISSION

History Theatre entertains, educates, and engages through creating, developing, and producing new and existing works that explore Minnesota's past and the diverse American experience. Its work provides a unique lens which links our past to the present, explores our common heritage, and illuminates our understanding of what it means to be American. www.historytheatre.com

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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