AGATHA CHRISTIE
RULE OF THUMB
PARK SQUARE THEATRE JUL 12–AUG 25, 2019
sponsored in part by DELUXE
Park Square is honored to dedicate this production to John Clarey, who with his wife Robyn Hansen created the Mystery Writers Producer’s Club that helps underwrite our annual summer mystery.

John was a lover of mysteries and all the arts, with a particular fondness for Park Square. He died April 11, 2019, only one month after receiving a cancer diagnosis. Among many other things, John will be remembered by all of us at Park Square for a laugh that came easily and brought joy to whatever room he was in and for a kindness and generosity of spirit. To his core, John's values are defined by what he called the “Code of the West:”

1. Don’t do what’s wrong, and more importantly do what’s right and needs doing.
2. Protect the weak and cherish those you love.
3. Be grateful.

We are grateful to have had John's support for this production, and in so many other ways. He is missed.
DEAR PARK SQUARE PATRON,

Welcome to *Rule of Thumb* by the legendary Agatha Christie, and to your annual Park Square Theatre summer mystery!

I am proud to be part of Park Square’s tradition of offering suspenseful family entertainment in the summer months—especially after having gone through my first long Minnesota winter. (Luckily, my car started in the airport parking garage on the harshest day of the polar vortex.) I now fully appreciate having fun, intelligent, riveting theatre after a full day outside enjoying the spectacular weather.

Director Austene Van, whose Park Square work includes acting (*Might as Well Be Dead: A Nero Wolfe Mystery; To Kill a Mockingbird*) and directing (*Hot Chocolate, Gee’s Bend, and Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar and Grill*) brings a playful intelligence to Christie’s work. She and this talented company have cooked up some wonderful surprises to keep you guessing.

If you enjoy the mysteries at Park Square, please consider joining our Mystery Writers Producers’ Club. Your generous support will bring these plays to life and the club will immerse you in the heart of the creative process.

In closing, I want to focus on resident lighting designer Mike Kittel, who will be leaving us this summer and whose design creates so much of this play’s mood. He was first introduced to Park Square by his former teacher Mary Finnerty (Park Square’s Education Director). Over the past 26 years he has lit 250 shows with us. In my first 10 months at Park Square, I have come to love and respect his talent, intelligence, work ethic, camaraderie and collaborative spirit. Mike has been a very important part of your Park Square experience. He will be greatly missed. Thank you for all your many contributions, Mike.

With that, enjoy the play and your summer!

Flordelino Lagundino  
*John W. Harris Family Artistic Director*  
651.767.8482  lagundino@parksquaretheatre.org
SYNOPSIS

This triple bill of one act murder mysteries takes place in multiple locations and the director has chosen to set them during distinct eras in Agatha Christie’s writing career, traveling backwards in time from the early 1960s to the early 20th century. First, The Rats, is a dark and chilling tale in which a pair of adulterous lovers find themselves lured to a flat, trapped like rats and framed for murder. The Patient is a tense thriller in which a woman has been hospitalized after seemingly falling from her balcony. Finally comes The Wasp’s Nest, which sees Hercule Poirot come between a bitter triangle of lovers to prevent a sinister murder before it takes place!

This show was made possible in part by Park Square Theatre’s

MYSTERY WRITERS PRODUCERS’ CLUB:

Linda Boss
Tim & Sara Beckstrand
John Clarey & Robyn Hansen
Michael & Sharon Conley
Ken & Gwen Crabb
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Miriam & James Stake
Paul Stembler & Mary Ebert
Fred Wall & Bobbie Molck-Ude
Colleen Watson & Mary McDougall

The Mystery Writers Producers’ Club is a fun and devoted group of Park Square Theatre donors who help support our mystery show each season and stay connected to the production year round. Next year the group will produce Holmes and Watson.

Learn about joining this group, the Future Audiences Club (performances for students) or the Premiere Club (new work) by contacting Mackenzie Romenesko:
651.767.1440 / romenesko@parksquaretheatre.org

Rule of Thumb is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.
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As a courtesy to our actors and those around you, please DEACTIVATE all PHONES and ELECTRONIC DEVICES.
ARTISTIC STAFF

Director ........................................................ Austene Van
Scenic Designer .............................................. Sarah Brandner
Costume Designer .......................................... Sonya Berlovitz
Lighting Designer .......................................... Michael P. Kittel
Assistant Lighting Designer ......................... Brent Anderson
Sound Designer .............................................. Jeff Bailey
Properties Designer ................................. Connor McEvoy
Dialect Coach .................................................. Keely Wolter
Fight Director ............................................... Annie Enneking
Stage Manager .............................................. Lyndsey R. Harter*
Assistant Stage Manager .......................... Samantha Diekman*
Stage Management Intern ....................... Dallis Votava

CAST

The Rats
Sandra Grey ............................................ Audrey Park*
Jennifer Brice................................. Sara Richardson*
David Forrester .................. Peter Christian Hansen*
Alec Hanbury ........................................ Ryan Colbert*

The Patient
Lansen ............................................................ Ryan Colbert*
Nurse .......................................................... Rajané Katurah*
Dr. Ginsberg .................................................. Bob Davis*
Inspector Cray .............................................. Neal Beckman
Bryan Wingfield ........................................... H. Adam Harris*
Emmeline Ross ........................................... Jamie White Jachimiec
William Ross .............................................. Peter Christian Hansen*
Brenda Jackson ........................................... Sara Richardson*
The Patient ............................................... Audrey Park*

The Wasp’s Nest
Charles Harborough .............. Neal Beckman
Claud Langdon ..................... H. Adam Harris*
Nina Bellamy ........................ Rajané Katurah*
Hercule Poirot ....................... Bob Davis*

SETTING
The Rats: Michael Torrance’s flat in Hampstead, late 1950s/early 1960s
The Patient: A private nursing home, late 1930s/early 1940s
The Wasp’s Nest: The garden of Charles Harborough’s house, nineteen-teens

PERFORMANCE TIME
The show will run approximately 2 hours, including a 20-minute intermission.

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States
Park Square Theatre is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, and a member of the Minnesota Theatre Alliance.

Cover photo by Richard Fleischman
For superfans of Agatha Christie like myself, who have read every single Christie novel, you might think that there is nothing new left to discover and enjoy. I, for one, spent years wistfully dreaming of a lost manuscript (or two, or three) of Christie’s, stuck in a dusty closet somewhere, which would one day be rediscovered and published, much to the delight of mystery fans everywhere. Of course, I reasoned, that was just a pipe dream. Authors like Christie didn’t just write entire novels and then just stick them in a drawer and forget about them.

But now, it seems that an Agatha Christie fan’s dream has come true, because a cache of her previously unpublished work has now been printed and made available to the general public. These rediscovered works aren’t full-length novels, but playscripts written by Christie, an accomplished and successful dramatist, some of which have never even been performed. Most Christie fans are aware of her stage adaptations of And Then There Were None, Witness for the Prosecution, and The Mousetrap, as well as four plays based on Poirot novels (The Hollow, Appointment with Death, Go Back for Murder, and Murder on the Nile), an adaptation of Towards Zero, and her original play Verdict, as well as a few one-act plays in Rule of Three. Fewer people are perhaps aware that those Christie plays that have been available to read and produce for two generations comprise less than half of her total dramatic output.

Julius Green’s book Curtain Up: Agatha Christie: A Life in the Theatre is a revelation for many Christie fans. Green was allowed unprecedented access to the Christie Archives, and in those files he discovered copies of entire plays that had never made it to the stage. His coverage of his findings delighted me, leading me to wonder whether or not these newly unearthed materials would ever be shown to the general public.

Now, in late 2018, that day has come. The Collection, now with the addition of over a dozen works, is fully available to be read and performed. The Collection includes three plays Christie wrote for the radio, one television script, a handful of plays that have been available previously but were rarely performed, and a few long-lost plays that have never before made it to the stage. All plays in the Collection were either written by or with the direct involvement of Christie herself. Indeed, there are other plays that Christie wrote that are still waiting to be published, so fans may await more surprises in the years to come.
AGATHA CHRISTIE IS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AS THE QUEEN OF CRIME

Her books have sold over a billion copies in English with another billion in foreign languages. She is the most widely published author of all time and, in many languages, outsold only by the Bible and Shakespeare. She is the author of 66 crime novels, 150 short story collections, over 20 plays, and six novels written under the name Mary Westmacott. Her work includes Murder on the Orient Express, Death on the Nile, and the genre-defining And Then There Were None.

Agatha Christie’s first novel, The Mysterious Affair at Styles, was written towards the end of the First World War, in which she served in the VAD. In it she created Hercule Poirot, the little Belgian detective who was destined to become the most popular detective in crime fiction since Sherlock Holmes. It was published by Bodley Head in 1920.

In 1926, after averaging a book a year, Agatha Christie wrote her first masterpiece. The Murder of Roger Ackroyd was the first of her books to be published by Collins and marked the beginning of an author-publisher relationship that lasted for 50 years and well over 70 books. Ackroyd was also the first of Agatha Christie’s books to be dramatized—under the title Alibi—and to have a successful run in London’s West End.

By 1930, Agatha had introduced a new character to act as detective. When she created Miss Marple, Agatha did not expect her to become Poirot’s rival, but with The Murder at the Vicarage, Miss Marple’s first outing, it appeared she had produced another popular and enduring character. The Mousetrap, her most successful play of all, opened in 1952 and is the longest-running play in history.

Agatha Christie was made a dame in 1971. She died in 1976. Agatha Christie Limited (ACL) has been managing the literary and media rights to Agatha Christie’s works around the world since 1955, working with the best talents in film, television, publishing, stage and on digital platforms to ensure that Christie’s work continues to reach new audiences in innovative ways and to the highest standard. The company is managed by Christie’s great grandson James Prichard. Visit www.agathachristie.com for more information.

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NEAL BECKMAN
Inspector Cray, Charles Harborough
Park Square A
Midsummer Night’s Dream, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet
Representative Theatre
Illusion Theatre: Love and Marriage; Nebraska Shakespeare: Hamlet; Old Log Theater: Cinderella; Walking Shadow Theatre Company: Marie Antoinette; Classical Actors Ensemble: Julius Caesar; History Theatre: God Girl Training
B.A., Theatre Arts, Fordham University
Accolades
2012 Ivey Award for Best Production: Compleat Stage Beauty with Walking Shadow Theatre Company; 2016 Lavender Magazine Award for Superlative Performance in Julius Caesar

RAJANÉ KATURAH*
Nurse, Nina Bellamy
Park Square Marie and Rosetta Representative Theatre
Underdog Theatre Company: How It’s Gon’ Be; Ten Thousand Things: Into the Woods; Penumbra Theatre: For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rain Is Enuf; Children’s Theatre Company and The Old Globe: Dr. Seuss’s The Lorax; Alliance Theatre: Born For This Training
B.A., Drama, Spelman College; British American Drama Academy; Children’s Theatre Company Performing Apprentice 2017-2018
Accolades
Star Tribune 9 Twin Cities Artists to Watch in 2019
Upcoming Projects
Ordway: Smokey Joe’s Cafe; Children’s Theatre Company: Cinderella; Ten Thousand Things: Thunder Knockin’ on the Door

RYAN COLBERT*
Alec Hanbury, Lansen
Park Square Romeo and Juliet, Calendar Girls, Great Expectations
The Color Purple
Representative Theatre
Guthrie Theater: As You Like It, Frankenstein, A Christmas Carol, Choir Boy; Children’s Theatre Company and The Old Globe: Dr. Seuss’s The Lorax; Children’s Theatre Company: The Sneetches, The Abominables; Mixed Blood Theatre: Charm, Colossal; Pillsbury House + Theatre: Prep Training
B.A., University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater
Actor Training
Accolades
Ivey award for outstanding ensemble 2016

BOB DAVIS*
Dr. Ginsberg, Hercule Poirot
Park Square Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders, Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club, Becky’s New Car, Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure, The Spider’s Web
Representative Theatre
Harold Pinter Theatre London West End: Nice Fish; Guthrie Theater: To Kill A Mockingbird; Ten Thousand Things: Richard III; Jungle Theater: Sylvia; Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: The Foreigner; Torch Theater: A Thousand Clowns
TV Algo’s FACTory (UPN) Film Twin Cities, On Thin Ice, Nobody, Factotum, A Simple Plan, Herman USA, Trauma, Fairytales
Training
B.A., Theater, Claremont McKenna College; Teachers: Stella Adler, Dale Morse, Jeff Corey
Accolades/Other
McKnight Theater Artist Fellow 2006; Star Tribune Best Performance 2006 (Richard III); Lunt-Fontanne Fellow 2010; Co-Founder and Director: Brazil! School of the Arts
PETER CHRISTIAN HANSEN*
David Forrester, William Ross
Park Square Opus, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Romeo and Juliet, Enchanted April, Proof
Representative Theatre Guthrie Theater: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof; Penumbra Theatre: benevolence; Gremlin Theatre: A Steady Rain; Jungle Theater: Venus in Fur; Ten Thousand Things: Othello; Torch Theater: True West TV/Film Project Eden, Twin Cities, Special Ed, GUNN, The Public Domain, 20/20 In an Instant (ABC), Lady Dynamite (Comedy Central) Accolades Ivey Awards for Burn This at Gremlin Theatre and Clybourne Park at Guthrie Theater
The Weir; Aethem: Persuasion; Nimbus: Endgame; Theatre Unbound: Shattered
Film Discrepancy, The Greatest, Last
Cowboys of Excelsior, 120 Hertz, Rainbow, Pardon List Training B.F.A., Acting, Wayne State University Accolades/Other Lavender Magazine Best Music Director 2017 for Moby Dick at Theatre Coup d’Etat; Audience-Voted Best Drama 2017 at MN Fringe for One Foot; WSU’s Best Actress for Marlene in Top Girls

H. ADAM HARRIS*
Bryan Wingfield, Claud Langdon
Park Square The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence, A Midsummer Night’s Dream; Representative Theatre Children’s Theatre Company and The Old Globe: Dr. Seuss’s The Lorax; New Conservatory Theatre Center: This Bitter Earth; Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra: A Nighttime Story Training B.F.A., University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater Actor Training Program Other Education Coordinator, The Playwrights’ Center; Lead Teaching Artist/ Facilitator, Penumbra Theatre Company; Board Member and Core Artist, Ten Thousand Things Theater

JAMIE WHITE JACHIMIEC
Emmeline Ross
Park Square Antigone, Romeo and Juliet
Representative Theatre Lyric Arts: God of Carnage; Theatre Coup d’Etat: The Crucible; Matchbox Theater:

AUDREY PARK*
Sandra Grey, The Patient
Park Square Debut Representative Theatre Theater Mu: You For Me For You; Ten Thousand Things: Electra; Penumbra Theatre: For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rainbow Is Enuf; San Diego Rep: Aubergine; Pillsbury House + Theatre: She Persists: The Great Divide III; Yellow Tree Theatre: Cry It Out

SARA RICHARDSON*
Jennifer Brice, Brenda Jackson
Park Square Ken Ludwig’s Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery, The Liar Representative Theatre Pillsbury House + Theatre: She Persists: The Great Divide III; Theater Mu: You For Me For You; Jungle Theater: The Night Alive; Torch Theater: Boeing Boeing; Theatre Novi Most: Rehearsing Failure TV In an Instant (ABC) Training Ecole Jacques Lecoq Other Sara will be completing her M.A. in Graphic and Web Design at MCAD this August; sara-richardson.com
AUSTENE VAN
Director
Park Square (as Actor) Might as Well Be Dead, To Kill a Mockingbird (as Director) Hot Chocolate, Gee’s Bend, Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar & Grill Representative Theatre (As Actor) Ten Thousand Things: Into the Woods; Guthrie Theater: Familiar, Disgraced; Penumbra Theatre: Wedding Band; (as Director) Yellow Tree Theatre: The Royale; Ordway: Annie; Ten Thousand Things: Intimate Apparel Accolades McKnight Theater Artist Fellowship Award 2014 Upcoming Projects New Dawn Theatre Company: Crowns; New Dawn Theatre & Yellow Tree Theatre co-production: Skeleton Crew; Rochester Civic: AIDA

SARAH BRANDNER
Scenic Designer
JEFF BAILEY  
Sound Designer

Park Square  Debuted Representative Theatre  
Yellow Tree Theatre: The Royale; Walker Art Center: The Punic Wars; Brooklyn Academy of Music: Hittite Empire’s Black Fathers and Sons TV/Film  
White Savior: Racism in the American Church Training  B.M., Bass Performance, McNally Smith College of Music  
Accolades/Other  Best of Twin Cities Award; Artists Played with: Geoff Keezer, James Carter, Jonatha Brooke, MN Orchestra, Joey McIntyre, Don McKinney

SONYA BERLOVITZ  
Costume Designer

Park Square  Great Expectations; Elliot, A Soldier’s Fugue Representative Theatre  
The Moving Company: Love’s Labour’s Lost; Ten Thousand Things: Into the Woods; Milwaukee Opera Theatre: Tales of Hoffmann; Theatre de la Jeune Lune: Carmen; Guthrie Theater: Refugia; Theater Latté Da: Peter and the Starcatcher TV/Film  
Ida’s Story, BW Productions; Purple Rain, Warner Bros. & Purple Films, Assistant Men’s Costumer Training  B.F.A., The School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Certificate, La Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne  
Accolades/Other  2016 McKnight Theatre Fellowship; 2015 Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award; 2015 Costume Society of America Upcoming Projects  
Ten Thousand Things: The Winter’s Tale; The Moving Company: At Work; Park Square Theatre: Pride and Prejudice

SAMANTHA DIEKMAN*  
Assistant Stage Manager


ANNIE ENNEKING  
Fight Director

Park Square  Cardboard Piano, Of Mice and Men, Cyrano, Panic Representative Theatre  
Theatre Company: Love’s Labour’s Lost; Ten Thousand Things: Henry IV; Theater Latté Da: The Man of La Mancha; UMN/Guthrie Theater B.F.A. Actor Training Program: Boudica TV/Film  
55414 Training  Associate Instructor with Dueling Arts International; Theatre Arts (Dance), University of Minnesota  
Accolades/Other  Playwright’s Center McKnight Theatre Fellowship; Jerome Foundation Grant; Artist Initiative Grant  
Upcoming Projects  Touring with the rock band Annie and the Bang Bang; Teaching stage combat at the University of Minnesota (B.A. and B.F.A. departments)

LYNDSEY R. HARTER*  
Stage Manager

Park Square  The Agitators, The Diary of Anne Frank, Cardboard Piano, The House on Mango Street; As ASM: Flower Drum Song, Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol, My Children! My Africa!, Murder for Two, The Other Place Representative Theatre  
Theater Mu: The Korean Drama Addict’s...
Guide to Losing Your Virginity, Charles Francis Chan Jr.’s Exotic Oriental Murder Mystery; Theater Latté Da: Man of La Mancha; History Theatre: Neighbors; Great River Shakespeare Festival: As You Like It; Minnesota Opera: Fellow Travelers
Training B.A., Theatre Arts, Hamline University

Upcoming Projects

New Dawn Theatre Company: Crowns

MICHAELE P. KITTEL
Lighting Designer

Park Square

Over 250 productions (as Resident Lighting Designer) including The Color Purple, Red, Ragtime, Grey Gardens, Democracy, To Kill a Mockingbird, Rock ‘n’ Roll
Representative Theatre
Orway, Frank Theatre, Stages Theatre Company, Steppingstone Theatre, Mu Performing Arts, Bloomington Civic Theatre
TV/Film TPT: The St. Olaf Christmas Festival
Training University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Accolades
Ivey Award for The Pillowman (Frank Theatre); Lavender Magazine Best Lighting Design 2008 & 2009

CONNOR MCEVOY
Properties Designer

Park Square

My Children! My Africa!, Hamlet, Dot, The Pirates of Penzance
Representative Theatre
Great River Shakespeare Company: Richard III; Mixed Blood Theatre: African American; Minneapolis Musical Theatre: Toxic Avenger; Classical Actor’s Ensemble: MacBeth
Training B.A., Theatre Arts, Hamline University

KEELY WOLTER
Dialect Coach

Park Square

Romeo and Juliet, Ken Ludwig’s Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery, Amy’s View, Calendar Girls, The Diary of Anne Frank
Representative Theatre

Guthrie Theater: The Great Leap; Jungle Theater: Miss Bennet; Penumbra Theatre: Wedding Band; Theater Latté Da: Hedwig and the Angry Inch; Artistry: Awake and Sing!; Old Log Theatre: Guys and Dolls
Training M.A., Voice Studies, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama; B.A., Theater Performance, Viterbo University

Accolades
2018 Lavendar Magazine “Best Vocal Dialogue Coach”

Upcoming Projects

Lyric Arts Main Street Stage: Bright Star; Jungle Theater: Miss Bennet and The Wickams

Production Staff & Crew

Associate Producer: Laura Leffler
Production Manager: Mary Montgomery-Jensen
Technical Director: Gaea Dill-D’Ascoli
Carpenters: Elizabeth Streif, Alex Mongin, Paul Rutledge, Tyler Waters, Claudia Errickson
Scenic Charge: Jeni Tolifson
Master Electrician: Brent Anderson
Lighting Programmer: Brent Anderson
Electrician: Alexi Carlson
Sound Supervisor: Charlotte Deranek
Sound Board Op: Aaron Newman
Run Crew: Samm Nordstrom, Kyla Moloney
Wardrobe/Dresser: Veronica Stark

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Special Thanks to the Historic Hamm Building
Their investment of $12,000,000 in donated rent and use of facilities over our 40-year tenure creates a vibrant cultural life in downtown Saint Paul.

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### Annual Fund

| Corporations, Foundations and Government: |
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| Dollar Range | Organizations |
| $10,000-24,999 | Boss Foundation, Huber Corporation Foundation, John Larsen Family Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, RBC Wealth Management Foundation |
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### Individuals:

#### Champions $25,000+
- Linda Boss
- The John W. Harris Family
- Richard & Nancy Nicholson
- Gayle & Timothy Ober
- Helen Wagner

#### Directors $10,000+
- Suzanne Ammerman
- The Crabb Family, Ken, Gwen, Casey & Rachael
- Barb Davis
- Dianne & Jim Falteisek
- Nancy Feldman
- Karen Heintz
- James Persoon & Barbara Schmidt Persoon
- Susan Rostkoski
- James Rustad & Kay Thomas
- Paul & Pat Sackett
- John Sullivan

#### Fans $5,000+
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- John & Sandra White

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- Carolyn Sorensen & David Kelm
- Ann Wynia

### Pacesetters $1,500+
- Anonymous
- Jim & Ellen Altman
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- Casey & Rachael Crabb
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- Rita Dibble
- Phyllis Goff
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- Janice Kimes
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- Rosanne Nathanson
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- Emily & Dan Shapiro
- Sheri Zigan
- Jo & Steve Zimmermann

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- Daniel Boone
- Christopher & Kristin Boylan
- Paul & Kristy Brown
- Gissell Castellon
- C.C. & Dawn Clawson
- Michael & Sharon Conley
- Joan Duddingston
- Steven Euller & Nancy Roehr
- Tim & Susan Flaherty
- John Gillen in memory of Lawrence E Pierson

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Our Contributors

These activities are 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, and a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.

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continued on next page
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6:30-8:30pm for 7:30 evening performances
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Proscenium Stage seats 348. Andy Boss Thrust Stage seats 203. The Historic Hamm Building is a smoke-free facility. Latecomers are seated at the discretion of the House Manager. Restrooms and water fountains are on main floor and lower level. Cameras/audio/video equipment and laser pointers are prohibited.

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