

# ROOT BEER LADY

#### Written and performed by Kim Schultz

Originally directed by Addie Gorlin-Han Remounted by Jess Yates

January 25 - February 23, 2025





#### **NOW ON VIEW**

Girlhood (It's complicated) explores the concept of girlhood in the United States and highlights the many ways young women have influenced politics, education, work, health, and fashion.

mnhs.info/girlhoodonview





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Girthood (It's complicated) was created by the National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. The exhibition is supported by the Smithsonian's American Women's History Initiative, a program of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum.

MNHS Presenting Sponso



Media Partner











Welcome to 2025 and our return to adventure and drama in the Boundary Waters as told by Dorothy Molter in Kim Schultz's one-woman show *The Root Beer Lady*. Kim and the talented artistic team first presented this wonderful story of Dorothy's unique and inspiring life in 2023, and we are thrilled to share it once again on our stage.

We are equally excited about the remaining two shows in our season. Please join us for R.A. Shiomi's Secret Warriors, which opens on March 29. You will not want to miss this inspiring and suspenseful story about Japanese Americans who worked as translators and soldiers for the U.S. Armed Forces to help end WWII. Also, join us for Josef Evans' Whoa, Nellie! The Outlaw King of the Wild Middle West, which opens on May 17. I'm guessing Nellie's story is history you have never heard of before, told in a fast-paced, funny and moving new musical!

Thank you for your ongoing enthusiasm for History Theatre's unique mission.

Karen Mueller Managing Director

P.S. Mark your calendars for History
Theatre's upcoming spring benefit, "A
Historic Night Out" which will take place
on April 27 at the 317 on Rice Park. Music,
delicious food, and memorable auction items
will be plentiful.

# history theatre

#### THE ROOT BEER LADY

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY
KIM SCHULTZ\*

ORIGINALLY DIRECTED BY

ADDIE GORLIN-HAN‡

SCENIC DESIGN

CHELSEA M. WARREN#

SOUND DESIGN/COMPOSER

KATHARINE HOROWITZ

STAGE MANAGER

LEE JOHNSON\*

COSTUME DESIGN

SARAH BAHR#

LIGHTING DESIGN

**CHRIS JOHNSON** 

PROPS DESIGN

ABBEE WARMBOE

REMOUNTED BY

JESS YATES

VIDEO DESIGN

LESLIE RITENOUR

ASST. STAGE MANAGER
GIANNA HASEMAN

RECORDED MUSIC

JOE CRUZ

#### **SETTING**

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

This production will be performed with no intermission.



#### 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.

#### THE CAST

-	Kim Schultz <sup>*</sup> Jen Maren <sup>*</sup>
PRODU	JCTION TEAM
Bev	Kevin Champion, Richard Graham, Asa Gutow, ibel Harvey, Kurt Jung, Jenna Lory, Brianna Mae, Lucas Martin, Kate Peters, Matt Smith
Assistant Lighting Designer	Nick Fetting
•	Tobias Gilbert, Phong Mai, Caleb TerryErika Soukup
HISTORY	THEATRE STAFF
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR	Richard D. Thompson
New Works & Producing Associate	Laura Leffler
Production Manager	Lee Johnson*
Technical Director	Gunther Gullickson
Associate Technical Director	Evan Sima
Master Electrician	Nick Walberg
Costume Assistant	Meghan Kent
MANAGING DIRECTOR	Karen Mueller
Business Manager	Ashton Schneider
Education Manager	Paul de Cordova
	Rob Thomas
•	tantMcKinnley Aitchison Jessica Huang
•	Chari Hall
. •	ordinatorCraig Cerrato
Front of House	Monique Franson, Alex Geer, Janet Hall,
	Anne Hammel, Julia Milne, Rhu VanVactor-Lee
Open Captioner	Shelia Bland
Marketing Director	Erica Skarohlid







<sup>\*</sup> 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.

\* Member, Fini Cities Musicians Union Local 30-73, American Federation of Musicians

# Member, United Scenic Artists Local #829

#### **PLAYWRIGHT**



In late summer 2019, I was invited to Tofte Lake Center, set on pristine land just outside of Ely, as an artist-in-residence. I discovered for the first time the beauty of the Northwoods and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Even though originally from Minnesota, I had never made it up to that beautiful area and was immediately entranced with the beauty and tranquility of the BWCA region. I was at Tofte to work on a play with an old friend, when I happened upon a new one. And I was hooked.

Dorothy Molter's story captivated me from the moment it was mentioned to me in passing. I devoured a book about her written by Bob Carey that I found in the Tofte library. And I kept digging, quickly discovering there was much more to Dorothy than root beer. She was an extraordinary woman who. in 1934, shattered the norms of her time by moving, unmarried, up to an isolated, remote area in the middle of the Northwoods (very close to where I was sitting at that moment), by herself. But then it seems, Dorothy was often alone. Her mother died when she was voung, and Dorothy was left in an orphanage for a number of years until her father remarried and was able to reunite the family. But there is certainly a difference between alone and lonely, and I think she probably always pushed back on being called the "Loneliest Woman in America," as she was in the Saturday Evening Post in 1952. I found her story to be one of independence, determination, generosity, kindness, and bravery. And I wanted her to tell it.

I had almost half a solo show script completed by the time I left Tofte, five days later. And in 2021, with live theatre largely shuttered, I sat down at my kitchen table in Chicago, in front of a webcam and told Dorothy's story for a virtual History Theatre audience. My gratitude to Ron Peluso for believing in both Dorothy and me, and for inviting me to bring her to life on the stage here in St. Paul for the world premiere in the winter of 2023.

And now here we are again. She's back! So kwitchurbeliakin!

This is the story of a woman who lived ahead of her time and outside of expectations in every way. She refused to live in the small space society had reserved for her. She wanted more and got more. Much more! She also spent her life protecting the environment and everything in it, realizing probably in no small thanks to her Ojibwe neighbors - the necessity and privilege of caring for the earth. This story is told recognizing the rights and privileges a white woman like Dorothy received, when displaced Indigenous people never did.

I am proud and grateful to be a part of this female-led artistic and design team. I think Dorothy would be pleased. 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 www.kimschultz.net

#### REMOUNT DIRECTOR



# As someone who grew up identifying trees, insects, and birds in Minnesota State Parks with my family, I'm so thrilled to be remounting Addie Gorlin-Han's wonderful production with Kim at the incredible History Theatre! Dorothy's story has so many timeless lessons to resonate with — how to cultivate our own aspirations despite others' expectations, survive unexpected challenges with grace and resilience, and find companionship in the wild world around us. For the next few moments, pop open that root beer and take a breath of Boundary Water air with Kim, Dorothy, and the wilderness.



Jess Yates

The guys pictured with Dorothy in July of 1986--the last summer she lived in the BWCA before passing away out there that December. From left to right: Tom, "Vector", Steve and me (Jim). This was my first ever trip to the BWCA and I have now been back over 30 times. - Jim Gruenke

FOR MORE BWCA MEMORIES, see "The Root Beer Lady BWCA Photo Album" on page 13.

#### SPECIAL THANKS

Tracy Brigden, Maura Dunst, Jess Edberg and the Dorothy Molter Museum, Liz Engelman and the Tofte Lake Center, Paul Estby, Grace Heatherington-Tilka, Laurie Flanigan Hegge, Chris Gorlin-Han, Sarah Guy-Levar, Jonathan Haynes, additional BWCA recordings, Zachary Morgan (voiceover work), Sandra Struthers, Judy Wolf.

#### THE CAST / CREATIVE TEAM

#### Cast



#### KIM SCHULTZ' (she/her) Dorothu Molter

Originally from Minneapolis, Kim is a Chicago-based actor, writer. solo show artist and storyteller. History Theatre: The Root Beer Lady, To Kill a Mockingbird, Gangster Musical, A Servant's Christmas. Theater: Commonweal Theatre:

The Importance of Being Earnest; Ten Thousand Things: King Lear; Park Square Theatre: Lady Windermere's Fan; Pioneer Place Theatre: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf; 15 Head Theatre Lab: The Insatiate Countess: Goodman Theatre: A Christmas Carol; Lookingglass Theatre: In the Garden (u/s); The Kennedy Center: No Place Called Home: Theatre de la Jeune Lune: Silk Road Rising and 3LD, Yang Zen Froggs; New England Shakespeare: The Comedy of Errors; The Zipper Factory: The F Trip. Solo Shows: The F Trip, No Place Called Home, The Root Beer Lady. **Television:** Sex in the City, Chicago Fire, national/regional commercials. Literary: Three Days in Damascus. Other: The Brave New Workshop, Disney Cruise Line, Chicago Improv Festival, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, HBO Comedy Showcase; corporate improvisation trainer and occasionally runs artist residencies in Mexico. kimschultz.net



#### JEN MAREN\* (she/her) Understudu

History Theatre: Glensheen, Lord Gordon, The Boy Wonder, A Christmas Schooner, Nellie, Theater: Guthrie Theater: The Sunshine Bou: 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, cabaret singer, voiceover artist. Awards: Ivey Award Best Overall Production: Glensheen. Training: B.A. Theater Arts, St. Olaf College; British American Drama Academy, Oxford, England. jenmaren.com IG:@jenact

#### Creative Team

#### JESS YATES

Director

History Theatre: The Root Beer Lady (2023 Assistant Director). Theater: Lakeshore Players Theatre: What the Constitution Means to Me; Milwaukee Rep EPR: Evanston Salt Costs Climbing, American Alliance for Theatre & Education: Under the Surface; Lime Arts Productions: Women Supporting Women; Emerging Professionals Ensemble: Marie Antoinette. Directing: (Regional Assistant Directing) Trinity Rep Company: A Christmas Carol; Philadelphia Theater Company: La Egoísta; Milwaukee Rep Theater: Little Women, What the Constitution Means to Me, A Christmas Carol, Nuncrackers; Children's Theater Company: Carmela Full of Wishes. Other: Netflix & Williamstown Theatre Festival: Death, Let Me Do My Show (producing assistant). Training: BA Macalester College, National Theatre Institute. Upcoming: Lakeshore Players Theatre: The Book Club Play. jessyates.com; IG: @jess.l.yates

#### ADDIE GORLIN-HAN<sup>‡</sup> (she/her)

Original Direction

History Theatre: The Root Beer Lady. Theater: Guthrie Theater: A Christmas Carol; Arkansas Rep: Into the Woods; Alabama Shakespeare Festival: And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the Story of Anne Frank; Mixed Blood: Song of Summer, Charm, and According to Coyote; Cloudgate Theater: Strange Heart Beating; Children's Theatre Company T.A.T.: Laramie Project; Phoenix Theater: I and You; Cutting Ball: Five Tries. Awards/Fellowships: American Theater's 'People to Watch', O'Neill/ NNPN National Directors Fellowship, NNPN Producer-in-Residence, Training: M.F.A., Brown University/Trinity Rep, B.A., Dartmouth College, National Theater Institute. Upcoming: Theater Latté Da: Fun Home. addiegorlin.com

#### CHELSEA M WARREN" (she/her)

Scenic Designer

History Theatre: The Root Beer Lady. Theater: Steppenwolf, Steep Theatre, Penumbra Theatre, Ananya Dance Theatre, Jungle Theater, Victory Gardens, Studio Theatre, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Cleveland Play House. Puppet Designer: Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Studio Theatre, Jungle Theater, Water Tower Theatre, Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra. Awards: Michael Maggio Emerging Designer Award. Training: MFA, Northwestern University; Assistant Professor of Scenic Design, UMN, Twin Cities. chelseamwarren.com

#### ABBEE WARMBOE (she/her)

**Props Designer** 

History Theatre: Diesel Heart, Parks, Runestone!, Gloria: A Life, Stewardess!, Lord Gordon Gordon, Orphan Train, The Highwaymen, The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin, others. Theater: Walker/WaxFactory: Traces (after Sophie Calle); Mixed Blood Theatre: The Ally; Guthrie Theater: Skeleton Crew, Murder on the Orient Express, The Little Prince, Vietgone; Penumbra Theatre: Wine in the Wilderness, Re-Memori; Theater Latté Da: Stones in his Pockets, Christmas at the Local, Falsettos, Next to Normal, Merrily We Roll Along; Theater L'Homme Dieu: Beautiful; Pillsbury House: The Bull Jean Stories, others. Awards: 2020-2021 McKnight Theater Artist Fellow, Playwrights' Center. Upcoming: Theater Mu: Stop Kiss.

#### SARAH BAHR" (she/her)

Costume Designer

**History Theatre:** I Am Betty, Parks: Portrait of a Young Artist. Theater: Minnesota Opera: Romeo & Juliet,







<sup>\*</sup> 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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#### CREATIVE TEAM

Don Giovanni, Albert Herrings; Ten Thousand Things: Emilia, Ighegania at Aulis, Thunder Knocking on the Door; Trademark Theater: The Reunion, 5, The Hollow, Understood, The Boy and Robinhood; Jungle Theater: Christmas at Pemberly series, Redwood, Hand of God, The Wolves, Lone Star Sprits. Training: MFA Design and Tech Theatre, UMN. Upcoming: Ten Thousand Things: This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing; Park Square Theater: The Gin Game; Jungle Theater: The Effect. sarahbahr@me.com IG: @sarahbahrdesign

#### **CHRIS JOHNSON**

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.

#### KATHARINE HOROWITZ

Sound Designer, Composer

History Theatre: I Am Betty; Handprints; Defeat of Jesse James, The Root Beer Lady (video designer); Blended Harmony (programmer). Theater: U of MN-TC: She Kills Monsters; Silent Sky; Collide Theatrical Dance Co.: Bonnie and Clyde (video designer). Training: B.S. Psychology, B.A Theatre, U of MN-TC. Upcoming: Jungle Theatre: The Effect; Collide Theatrical Dance Co.: Romeo and Juliet.

#### LESLIE RITENOUR (she/her)

Video Designer

History Theatre: I Am Betty (world premiere), Handprints, The Defeat of Jesse James, The Root Beer Ladu. Theater: Collide Dance Company: Bonnie and Clyde (projection designer). Other: Who Gives a Duck? by Michael David MacBride, Illustrationist. Training: B.A. Theatre Arts; B.S Psychology, UMN. LDRitenour. com @Babybeanlettuce

#### LEE JOHNSON\* (he/him)

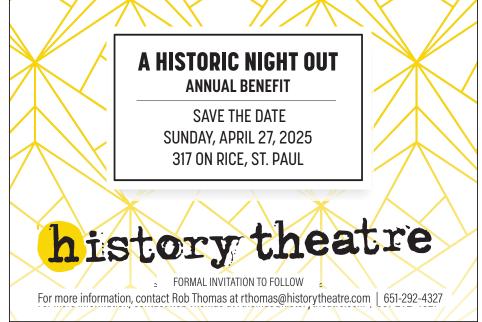
Stage Manager

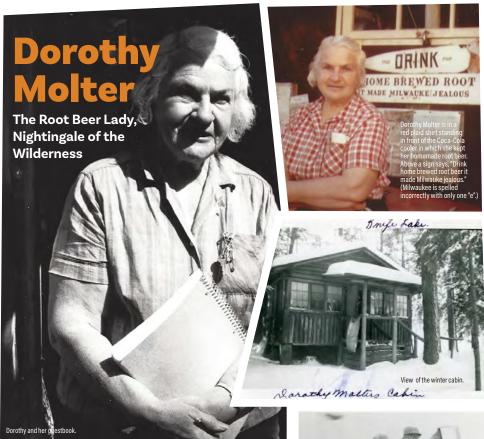
History Theatre: I Am Betty, Glensheen, A Unique Assignment, The Defeat of Jesse James, Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story, Parks. Theater: The Duluth Playhouse: Annie; Artistry Theater: Over 20 productions including The Bridges of Madison County, A New Brain, Victor/Victoria, She Loves Me, Legally Blonde, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat; Lyric Opera of the North: Hansel & Gretel. Twin Cities credits: Theater Latté Da, Park Square Theater, Mu Performing Arts, Flying Foot Forum, EMK, Twin Cities Horror Festival, MN Fringe Festival, others. Production Stage Manager, Artistry Theatre (2017-20). Training: B.A. Theatre Arts, UMN.

#### GIANNA HASEMAN (she/her)

Assistant Stage Manager

History Theatre: Handprints, The Root Beer Lady, Theater: Park Square Theatre: The Best Christmas Pageant Ever; New Arab American Theater Works: Rosette; Gremlin Theatre: Apples In Winter, The Thin Place; Twin Cities Theater Camp: 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: BA, Theatre Arts, UMN.

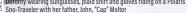








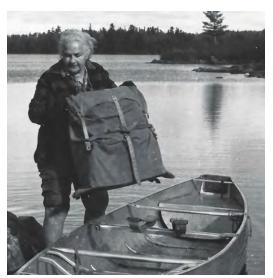














estled in a quiet grove of pines, just outside of Ely, Minnesota, are the cabins and museum of one of the north wood's dearest and most colorful individuals, Dorothy Molter. Some remember her fondly as the "Root Beer Lady" while others recall her as the "Nightingale of the Wilderness" or, simply, Dorothy.

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



### ROOT BEER LADY

## **TRIVIA**

Trivia answers on page 14.

- When did Dorothy first visit what would become the Boundary Waters? How old was she?
- 2) What was the name of the group who canoed and snowmobiled supplies to Dorothy for decades?
- 3) What foods did Dorothy serve visitors?
- 4) How much did the Forest Service offer to Dorothy for Isle of Pines in 1949?
- 5) After her death,
  Dorothy's cabins were
  dismantled and moved
  to where? How were the
  disassembled cabins
  transported?





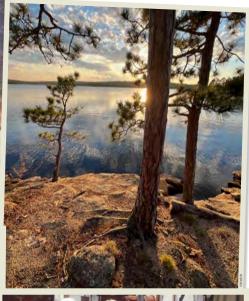
Dorothy Molter standing with a group of campers from Camp Birchwood. Actress Julia Roberts is wearing a yellow rainsuit on the left side of the photo. Dorothy's great-nephew, Danny Galante is standing in the front with his hands on his knees.

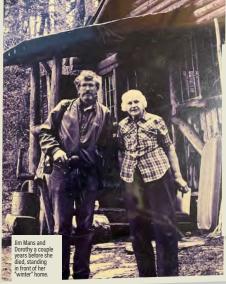
6) Why was the Isle of Pines Resort forced to shut down?

#### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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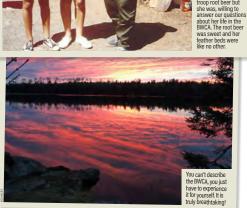
# ROOT BEER LADY BVCA PHOTO ALBUM





ENSIGN LAKE...
"How many
portages back did
we leave the tent?





serving a Boy Scout troop root beer but

#### TRIVIA from page 12

- 1. 1930. She was 23.
- 2. Dorothy's Angels
- 3. Hot soup, cold root beer
- 4. \$3,000
- Ely, Minn. Dogsleds and snowmobiles (special permission was granted to use motorized vehicles due to an unseasonablywarm March stalled efforts to move the cabins).
- 6. The Wilderness Act of 1964 created 9 million acres of federal lands, including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Dorothy continued using the Summer Tent as her root beer base camp.

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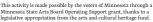
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# history theatre



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#### **MISSION**

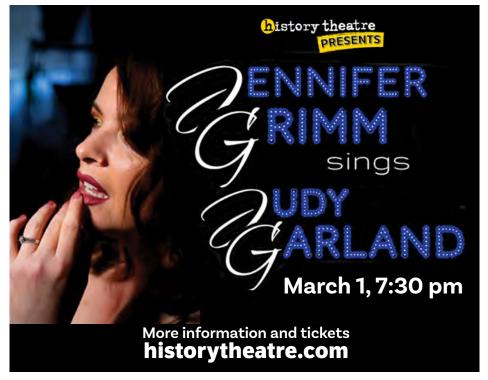
History Theatre entertains, educates, and engages audiences by creating, developing, and producing new and existing works that explore Minnesota's past and the diverse American experience.

#### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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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#### **COMING NEXT**







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