



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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History Theatre returns to the Northwoods with *THE ROOT BEER LADY* Opening January 25

"I never intended to live on a remote island in Northeastern Minnesota, steps from the Canadian border at the edge of...well, everything. I mean who would—intend such a thing?"

– Dorothy Molter, *The Root Beer Lady*

SAINT PAUL, MN – History Theatre kicks off the new year with the one-woman show, *The Root Beer Lady*. Written and performed by Kim Schultz and directed by Jess Yates (Based on original direction by Addie Gorlin-Han), *The Root Beer Lady* is the story of the indomitable Dorothy Molter. The play, funny and passionate, explores her independence, fortitude, and love of nature and pushes back against the premise that her time in the North Woods made her the "Loneliest Woman in America," as the *Saturday Evening Post* claimed in 1952. *The Root Beer Lady* runs January 25-February 23, 2025- tickets on sale now!

Molter was an independent woman from Chicago who fell in love with the beauty of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA). Going against the social norms of the 30's and 40's, and her father's wishes, she moved into a small cabin and made northern Minnesota her home. While Molter may have become a legend for her rugged and independent life, it was the root beer she brewed with lake water and served to thirsty paddlers, that established her fame as "The Root Beer Lady." Opening January 25, come witness the beauty and hardships of Molter's solitary-yet-satisfying life as the last legal non-indigenous resident of the BWCA. Her story will delight all, young and old.

"I love telling this story that so many Minnesotans recognize. Almost everyone has a "Dorothy" story. She touched so many lives. It is such a joy to bring her back to life for audiences. And if you haven't seen it yet now is your chance! It's a lot of fun!" said Schultz about the return of *THE ROOT BEER LADY*. "I hope audiences walk away feeling they had a really good laugh and maybe shed a tear or two, learned something about a real Minnesota legend and spent some time in community with folks, which I think is really important for our spirits right now, both individually and collectively. I also hope it makes people think, reflecting on their own lives and choices and that it gives them something to talk about at drinks or dinner after the show, because that's one of the purposes of theater I believe - to connect us both *in the moment* and after."

The team includes **Kim Schultz*** (Playwright and Performer), **Jen Maren*** (Understudy), **Jess Yates** (Director), **Addie Gorlin-Han** (Original Direction), **Chelsea M Warren#** (Scenic Designer), **Abbee**

Warmboe (Props Designer), **Sarah Bahr#** (Costume Designer), **Chris Johnson** (Lighting Designer), **Katharine Horowitz** (Sound Designer and Composer), **Leslie Ritenour** (Video Designer), **Lee Johnson*** (Stage Manager), **Gianna Haseaman** (Asst. Stage Manager), **Joe Cruz** (Recorded Music), **Gunther Gullickson** (Technical Director), **Eva Sima** (Associate Technical Director), **Nick Walberg** (Master Electrician), and **Meghan Kent** (Costume Assistant).

* Member AEA # Member USA 829

Kim Schultz (Playwright and Performer): Originally from Minneapolis, Kim Schultz is a Chicago-based actor, writer, solo show artist and storyteller. Select theatrical credits include: A Christmas Carol at The Goodman Theatre, In the Garden at Lookingglass Theatre (u/s), No Place Called Home at The Kennedy Center, Silk Road Rising and 3LD, Yang Zen Froggs at Theatre de la Jeune Lune and King Lear at Ten Thousand Things, The Comedy of Errors at New England Shakespeare and The F Trip at The Zipper Factory. As an improviser and writer, she has worked at The Brave New Workshop, Disney Cruise Line, Chicago Improv Festival, Edinburgh Fringe Festival and on an HBO Comedy Showcase. This is Kim's third solo show. Previous solo work includes The F Trip and No Place Called Home. Kim also authored the memoir, Three Days in Damascus (Palewell Press, 2016) about her experience meeting Iraqi refugees in the Middle East. Her television work includes Sex in the City, Chicago Fire, as well as several national/regional commercials. In addition, Kim is a corporate improvisation trainer and occasionally runs artist residencies in Mexico. www.kimschultz.net

Ticket Information

Tiers 1-5: \$25-69. **Students:** \$15. Additional discounts are available for seniors (available online) and patrons under 30 (must call to purchase). For tickets 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.

Pay What You Can Previews: January 23 and 24 at 7:30pm. Pre-reserve for \$20 or PWYC at the door. Cash and credit accepted.

Afterthoughts held following Sunday Matinees

January 26, February 2, 9, 16, and 23. Free and open to all ticketed patrons get closer to the story on stage with a lively post-show talkback.

- January 26- Jess Edberg, Executive Director of the Dorothy Molter Museum
- February 2- Steve Schultz- Government Relations Manager with Friends of the Boundary Waters
- Additional Guest Speakers TBA on the History Theatre website

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. Accessibility offerings include hearing enhancement receivers, seating for patrons with wheelchairs and their companions, accessible restrooms, Entrance on Cedar St., and elevator right to the theatre level for easy access. Contact the box office at 651-292-4323 for more information. www.historytheatre.com/box-office/accessibility

- **Open Captioning:** Saturday, February 22 2p.m. and Sunday, February 23 2:00 p.m.

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History Theatre 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.