



MEDIA RELEASE

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MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER UNVEILS ITS 2005/2006 SEASON

Artistic Director Joseph Hanreddy has announced Milwaukee Repertory Theater's 05/06 season in the Quadracci Powerhouse Theater, Stiemke Theater, Stackner Cabaret, and for the 30th year, A CHRISTMAS CAROL. For more than 50 years, The Rep has presented some of the finest productions in the nation, and this season will continue to give audiences an enjoyable and memorable experience. Mr. Hanreddy calls the 05/06 season "a wide ranging celebration of theater at its best."

The Quadracci Powerhouse season opens with George Feydeau's hilarious farce, **A FLEA IN HER EAR**, directed by László Marton. Resident Acting Company members Deborah Staples and Torrey Hanson will play the leads as suspicions of infidelity lead to secret plots and an evening of comic chaos. The next production will be Sarah Ruhl's **THE CLEAN HOUSE**, a beautiful and touching play about a well-ordered household that turns to disarray when the new maid is more interested in the perfect joke than cleaning. To capture the spirit of the holidays, The Rep will present **LAUGHING STOCK** for the third Quadracci Powerhouse production. J.R. Sullivan will return to direct this backstage look at a thespian's attempt to produce the perfect summerstock season and the entertaining mayhem that ensues. Joseph Hanreddy will be directing the next production, Jose Rivera's **SUÑO**, adapted from the dramatic classic LIFE IS A DREAM by Calderon de Barca. The fifth play, **A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY**, is another adapted version of a classic, this time by Irish playwright Brian Friel of Ivan Turgenev's original European drama. The Rep is thrilled to have world-renowned director Ben Barnes collaborate in this production, which will be his first project with an American theater company. The final Quadracci Powerhouse Theater production is a special treat for mystery and adventure lovers. **SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE FINAL ADVENTURE**, by Rep favorite Steven Dietz, is a play full of surprises that will have audiences thrilled and chilled to the bone.

The Stiemke Theater will feature three very different plays, all of which have interesting and engaging women as the central characters. The first production will be **I HAVE BEFORE ME A REMARKABLE DOCUMENT GIVEN TO ME BY A YOUNG LADY FROM RWANDA**, a play of humor and emotions set against the backdrop of a monumental tragedy. Resident Acting Company member Laura Gordon will be making her directing debut with this play. The next production, **BAD DATES**, recounts a New York woman's search for love and happiness as she re-enters the dating world. The Stiemke season will conclude with **INITMATE APPAREL**, the winner of five national playwriting awards and one of the most acclaimed plays of last year's New York theater season. Audiences will experience a beautiful play full of longing and tenderness through the story of a turn-of-the-century Manhattan seamstress.

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Administrative: 414-224-1761 Ticket Office: 414-224-9490 Fax: 414-224-9490
MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER
Patty & Jay Baker Theater Complex 108 East Wells Street Milwaukee WI 53202
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In addition to these subscription plays, The Rep will be offering two bonus, non-subscription productions in the Stiemke Theater. The first is **GUYS ON ICE**, which has been an audience favorite at The Rep for more than five years. The next production is an adaptation of Mitch Albom's popular novel **TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE**. This touching and funny new play will illustrate what it means to live a full and meaningful life through the interaction of Morrie and the cynical sportswriter.

The Stackner Cabaret season will offer four great pieces of musical theater. The season starts off with **BLUE ROSE: THE ROSEMARY CLOONEY STORY**, a musical tribute to the star of radio, television, and films. In the second Stackner production, Roger Bean, creator of **LANA MAE'S HONKY-TONK LAUNDRY**, takes audiences back to the 1940s with **THE ANDREWS BROTHERS**, a story of USO headliners who seem to be mistaken for the more famous trio of sisters. The next play, **THE POLISH DIVA FROM MILWAUKEE**, offers hysterical stories and characters while following Terry Palasz across the world as she tries to escape her Polish-Catholic Milwaukee upbringing. The Stackner Cabaret season ends with a production of memorable songs and smooth soul in the tribute to the great figure in American jazz, **ELLINGTON, THE LIFE & MUSIC OF THE DUKE**.

In addition, who could forget one of Milwaukee's oldest and best-loved traditions of the holiday season, Charles Dickens' **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**, which will be returning to the Pabst Theater for its 30th consecutive year. This newly updated production creates a memorable holiday experience full of carols, familiar characters, and splendid costumes the entire family can enjoy.

Subscriptions to the Quadracci Powerhouse Theater (6 plays), Stiemke Theater (3 plays), and Stackner Cabaret (4 plays) range in price from \$35 to \$250. Flex Passes, good for six admissions to any Quadracci Powerhouse Theater, Stiemke Theater or Stackner Cabaret performances are available for \$250 (valid any time) and \$195 (valid Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday). Subscriptions are now available at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater Ticket Office, 108 E. Wells Street, or by phone at (414) 224-9490. Single tickets for the 05/06 season will go on sale **August 22, 2005**. For more information, or to receive a free brochure, call The Rep Ticket Office. Information and subscription sales are also available on The Rep's web site at: milwaukeeep.com.

Milwaukee Repertory Theater is a nationally recognized theater company that presents a critically-acclaimed selection of compelling dramas, powerful classics, award-winning contemporary works, and lively Cabaret shows on three stages from September through May. The Rep also produces an annual production of **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**. The Rep's home, the Patty and Jay Baker Theater Complex, accommodates the Quadracci Powerhouse Theater, the Stiemke Theater, and the Stackner Cabaret. The Rep is also "home" to a resident acting company of 10 actors who perform with The Rep throughout the season.

The Resident Acting Company is an essential component of the artistry and uniqueness of Milwaukee Repertory Theater. The ensemble enhances the work of the company through its ability to develop complex and ambitious productions over time; plan seasons to utilize the unique strengths of an ensemble of actors; and undertake large cast productions on a regular basis and consistently achieve inspired performances in both large and small roles.

The 05/06 Milwaukee Repertory Theater Resident Acting Company includes Jim Baker, Jonathan Gillard Daly, Lee E. Ernst, Laura Gordon, Torrey Hanson, James Pickering, Rose Pickering, Lanise Antoine Shelly, Peter Silbert, and Deborah Staples.

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Subscriber Benefits

- Subscribers can pre-purchase Parking Passes for the Milwaukee Center underground parking garage for only \$4.
- Guaranteed Seating – Guaranteed Nights Out!
- Savings
- Easy Ticket Exchange
- Missed Show Insurance
- Babysitter Rebate
- Park & Dine Convenience
- Free Subscriber Benefits Card
- Priority on tickets to A CHRISTMAS CAROL, GUYS ON ICE and TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE
- 4 issues of The Rep's new Entertainment Guide with in-depth information about The Rep and its productions
- \$5 'Bring a Friend' discount on additional single tickets
(Excludes A CHRISTMAS CAROL, GUYS ON ICE and TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE)

SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

Theater Thursdays

An event that's perfect for Milwaukee's fun, creative professionals and their co-workers, friends (single or attached), and others who like to get together around a drink and see a great production. Held on the second Thursday of each Quadracci Powerhouse Theater production, Theater Thursdays feature a pre-show reception with complimentary hors d'oeuvres, behind-the-scenes insights, and a full cash bar for an additional \$24 fee for the six receptions.

Early Bird Tuesday

This series is perfect for theatergoers who like to get home early on a weeknight or dine out after work and come straight to the theater. These Tuesday evening performances begin at 6:30 p.m.

Smoke-Free Sunday Matinee

One Sunday matinee in the Quadracci and Stiemke Theater will eliminate onstage smoking if used for that production.

Family Sunday Matinees

When you subscribe to this series, children can also have a great time at The Rep. While you enjoy the play, 5 to 12-year-old children can participate in the fun, educational theater activities with The Rep's Education Department in on-site theater workshops – at no additional cost! 5 to 7-year-olds will enjoy creative dramatic activities, while a separate class for 8 to 12-year-olds will offer more advanced theater games and explorations.

Audio-Described Performance

Each production features a special audio-described performance. Patrons who have a visual impairment are supplied with a headset attached to a small radio receiver, which allows them to hear a live, real-time description of the action on stage.

Interpreted Performance

Each Quadracci Powerhouse Theater and Stiemke Theater production features a performance interpreted in American Sign Language (ASL) for the enjoyment of patrons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Captioned Theater Performance

On the fourth Sunday matinee of each Quadracci Powerhouse Theater production, patrons can watch the performance and view lines from the script as they run concurrently with the actors' lines on a 4' X 6' screen located on the house left wall next to the stage. This is a perfect way for patrons who are deaf or hard of hearing to enjoy the performance.

**TO ORDER 05/06 SEASON TICKETS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CALL THE REP TICKET OFFICE AT (414) 224-9490.
OR VISIT MILWAUKEEREP.COM**

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Milwaukee Repertory Theater 05/06 Season

Quadracci Powerhouse Theater

A FLEA IN HER EAR

by Georges Feydeau
directed by László Martón

Previews: September 7 – 8, 2005

Opens: September 9, 2005

Closes: October 9, 2005

Doors slam, beds revolve and secret assignations go wildly amiss in one of the most hilarious farces ever written. When Madame Chandebise suspects her husband of infidelity, she hatches a steamy plot that throws friends and strangers alike into a crazed evening of trysts and narrow escapes at the notorious Hotel Coq d'Or. A classic French romp that will have you in stitches from start to finish.

THE CLEAN HOUSE

by Sarah Ruhl
directed by TBA

Previews: October 19 – 20, 2005

Opens: October 21, 2005

Closes: November 20, 2005

A family's well-ordered universe comes tumbling down when they hire a maid who prefers telling jokes to cleaning. This beautiful and tender new comedy finds laughter and redemption in unusual places and proves how telling a good joke can be a matter of life or death.

LAUGHING STOCK

by Charles Morey
directed by J.R. Sullivan

Previews: November 30 – December 1, 2005

Opens: December 2, 2005

Closes: January 8, 2006

Summer stock has never been so hilarious in this backstage look at a dedicated thespian's valiant attempt to turn a dilapidated barn into a place for theater magic. With a season lineup of *Dracula*, *Hamlet*, and *Charley's Aunt* in the works, this stage is a world of well-intentioned mayhem and loads of laughs.

SUEÑO

by Jose Rivera, from LIFE IS A DREAM by Calderon de Barca
directed by Joseph Hanreddy

Previews: January 18 – 19, 2006

Opens: January 20, 2006

Closes: February 19, 2006

Filled with magic, poetry, and irreverent wit, this dramatic classic is given a fresh, contemporary spin by an award-winning American playwright. When the stars make ominous predictions, a king banishes his newborn son to an arid wilderness. However, when a young stranger gives the prince a second chance, will he seize his destiny or succumb to fate?

A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY

by Ivan Turgenev; adapted by Brian Friel
directed by Ben Barnes

Previews: March 1 – 2, 2006

Opens: March 3, 2006

Closes: April 2, 2006

Seeking relief from her dull life on a family estate, a restless young woman is entwined in a passionate love triangle with her son's young tutor. A masterwork of romantic literature, this intoxicating play moves nimbly between comedy and tragedy in a newly adapted version by Irish playwright Brian Friel.

SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE FINAL ADVENTURE

by Steven Dietz; based on the 1899 play by William Gillette and Arthur Conan Doyle
directed by Joseph Hanreddy

Previews: April 12 – 13, 2006

Opens: April 14, 2006

Closes: May 14, 2006

Who will test the master detective with the greatest challenge of his career: Professor Moriarty and his intricate network of London crime, or Irene Adler, the beautiful opera diva who has captured his heart? It's elementary, my dear Watson! In this pulse-quickening new play by Rep favorite Steven Dietz, passion and intellect collide, and the most insignificant clue can unlock the deepest secrets of the mind and heart.

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Stiemke Theater

I HAVE BEFORE ME A REMARKABLE DOCUMENT GIVEN TO ME BY A YOUNG LADY FROM RWANDA

by Sonja Linden
directed by Laura Gordon

Previews: September 16 – 17, 2005
Opens: September 18, 2005
Closes: October 16, 2005

Juliette is a refugee who wants to document one of the great horrors of the twentieth century. Simon is a writer whose life is in a slump. In this touching new play, they meet across a teacher's desk and discover they can help each other face their demons with humor and grace.

BAD DATES

by Teresa Rebeck
directed by TBA

Previews: January 13 – 14, 2006
Opens: January 15, 2006
Closes: February 12, 2006

You'll love this off-Broadway hit that has America laughing at the outrageous misfortunes of the single life. Haley loves her daughter, her restaurant job, and her shoe collection. But when this single mom enters the dating world, oh does she have some stories to tell.

INTIMATE APPAREL

by Lynn Nottage
directed by Risa Brainin

Previews: February 24 – 25, 2006
Opens: February 26, 2006
Closes: March 26, 2006

Esther, a plain African-American seamstress in New York, stitches together a life making exquisite lingerie for the high and low classes of turn-of-the-century New York City. When she strikes up a correspondence with a man from across the world, her hopes for fulfilling companionship seem finally within reach. This remarkable play, the winner of five national critic's prizes, finds poetry and touching delicacy in the simplest of lives.

Stiemke Theater SPECIAL BONUS PRODUCTIONS

GUYS ON ICE

book and lyrics by Fred Alley
music by James Kaplan

Previews: October 21 – 22, 2005
Opens: October 22, 2005 (8:30 pm)
Closes: November 20, 2005

Back by popular demand, the ice shanty crew returns for their sixth hilarious engagement. Join us in celebrating "De Wishing Hole", "Ode to a Snowmobile Suit", "Fish is de Miracle Food" and "De One dat Got Away!"

TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE

written by Mitch Albom
adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher

Previews: April 7 – 8, 2006
Opens: April 9, 2006
Closes: May 7, 2006

Based on Albom's novel of the same name, the play tells the story of a go-getting, somewhat cynical sportswriter who stops by to visit his old college professor who he discovers is dying of cancer. Week after week, the writer returns to hear more of Morrie's feisty wisdom, and eventually learns some valuable lessons of what it means to succeed and live a full and deliberate life.

Pabst Theater

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

adapted by Joseph Hanreddy and Edward Morgan
directed by Judy Berdan

Preview: November 25, 2005 (2:00 pm)
Opens: November 25, 2005 (8:00 pm)
Closes: December 24, 2005

For 30 years, *A Christmas Carol* has been Milwaukee's best-loved family tradition and longest-running holiday production! This highly acclaimed production combines traditional Christmas carols, magnificent costumes, and memorable characters with Dickens' timeless Christmas tale. Rep Resident Company Actor Lee E. Ernst returns in the role of Scrooge. Don't miss this Milwaukee favorite that is sure to be a memorable holiday experience for the whole family!

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Stackner Cabaret

BLUE ROSE: THE ROSEMARY CLOONEY STORY

by David Scully
directed by David Koch

Preview: September 9, 2005
Opens: September 10, 2005
Closes: November 6, 2005

This musical tribute takes us on a unique journey through the highs and lows of Rosemary Clooney's colorful life as a star of radio, television and movies. Hit songs include *Mambo Italiano*, *On a Slow Boat to China*, *Love You Didn't Do Right By Me*, and many more.

THE ANDREWS BROTHERS

written and directed by Roger Bean

Preview: November 11, 2005
Opens: November 12, 2005
Closes: January 8, 2006

After being kept out of the Army for various ailments, our trio finally makes it to the South Pacific as headliners in a USO Show. Of course, the USO thinks they've hired the other, slightly more famous Andrews trio. Can our brothers pull off the performance of a lifetime?

THE POLISH DIVA FROM MILWAUKEE

by Terry Palasz
directed by Sandy Ernst

Preview: January 13, 2006
Opens: January 14, 2006
Closes: March 12, 2006

Terry Palasz, an opera trained, polka dancing, mountain climbing, soprano comedienne stars in this musical comedy revue. This evening of hysterical songs and characters follows Terry as she travels the world trying to escape her Polish-English-Catholic Milwaukee upbringing.

ELLINGTON, THE LIFE & MUSIC OF THE DUKE

by David Scully
directed by David Koch

Preview: March 17, 2006
Opens: March 18, 2006
Closes: May 14, 2006

In a remarkably long and varied career, Mr. Ellington wrote everything from concertos to sacred music. This show concentrates on the pop-jazz songs he created — a treasure chest of beloved tunes, including: *Take the A Train*, *Satin Doll*, *It Don't Mean A Thing If Ain't Got That Swing*, *Don't Get Around Much Anymore*, and *Lush Life*.