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## MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER ANNOUNCES 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season

February 13, 2023 [Milwaukee] – **Artistic Director Mark Clements** and **Executive Director Chad Bauman** are thrilled to announce [Milwaukee Repertory Theater's](#) 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season with 12 production across three unique venues in the Associated Bank Theater Center and the Historic Pabst Theater.

The 2023/24 Season features:

- A World Premiere musical on the mainstage commissioned by Milwaukee Rep about Milwaukee's infamous femme fatal, ***Run Bambi Run***.
- The Stiemke Studio season includes a World Premiere by **Idris Goodwin** and the Pulitzer Prize Finalist play ***What the Constitution Means to Me***.
- Celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary from its original premiere at Milwaukee Rep – ***Guys on Ice*** returns to the Stackner Cabaret.
- The 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary production of Milwaukee's Favorite Holiday Tradition – ***A Christmas Carol***.

"Seven decades ago, Milwaukee was one of the first cities in the country to build a professional theater," said **Artistic Director Mark Clements**. "Seventy years after our humble beginnings Milwaukee Rep has become the largest performing arts organization in Wisconsin, providing world-class theater to 300,000 patrons annually. To celebrate this extraordinary milestone, we have hand-picked a season of exceptional plays including our first World Premiere musical on the mainstage, beloved literary adaptations, the return of Milwaukee Rep favorites and exciting new works by the country's leading playwrights. This season marks a turning point in our history as we embark on the **Powering Milwaukee Campaign** to raise \$75 million to create a new theater complex, including three state-of-the-art performance spaces, a dedicated Education and Engagement Center with classrooms and a stage to serve our 20,000 students, and venues with modern audience amenities to ensure we are able to serve our community for the next 70 years. We look forward to welcoming you to our stages today with dynamic, thought-provoking entertainment as we continue to invest in our future."

Milwaukee Repertory Theater's 2023/24 **Quadracci Powerhouse Season** opens with ***Run Bambi Run***, a World Premiere musical commissioned by Milwaukee Rep through the John (Jack) D. Lewis New Play Development Program, featuring a book by Academy Award-winner Eric Simonson (*Lombardi*) with rock songs from Grammy-nominee Gordon Gano of the Violent Femmes and direction by Artistic Director Mark Clements. Next up is ***Dial M for Murder*** adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher (*Holmes and Watson*) and directed by Laura Braza where blackmail, passion and revenge combine for a breathtaking, edge of your seat murder mystery. Then a timeless tale for a new generation unfolds in ***Little Women*** adapted by

Kate Hamill (*Sense and Sensibility*), the third production of the Classic Play Initiative. Next, based on the beloved novel, a deeply emotional story of faith, family and friendship develops in ***The Chosen*** adapted by Aaron Posner and Chaim Potok. Finishing out the season is ***Nina Simone: Four Women*** by Christina Ham, a play with music that shines a light on how Nina Simone found her true calling and gave voice to a movement through her impactful and inspirational songs.

The **Stiemke Studio Season** kicks off with the World Premiere of ***Parental Advisory: a breakbeat play*** by award-winning playwright Idris Goodwin (HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*). This engaging new play – half DJ jam session, half Ted Talk – uses wit, humor and the uncanny powers of the Wu-Tang Clan to enter a conversation on parenting, identity and survival. Next, direct from a sold-out Broadway run comes Pulitzer Prize-Finalist ***What the Constitution Means to Me*** by Heidi Schreck and directed by Laura Braza. Called “The best and most important new play” by the *New York Times*, playwright Heidi Schreck revisits her fifteen-year-old self to trace the profound relationship between four generations of women and the lasting impact of the document that shaped their journey.

The **Stackner Cabaret Season** begins with a celebration of the queens of classic country with the Artists Lounge Live production of ***Country Sunshine: The Legendary Ladies of Nashville With Katie Deal***. Then the hilarious sisters of *Nonsense* return in ***Nuncrackers***, spreading yuletide laughs, cheerful carols, and the gift of festive mischief. The laughs continue when one of the Stackner Cabaret's most popular musical comedies makes its encore as the theater celebrates their 70th Anniversary and the 25th Anniversary of its original premiere at Milwaukee Rep – ***Guys on Ice!*** Lastly, ***Piano Men 2*** returns to transform the Stackner Cabaret into a sizzling, anything-can-happen piano bar where the best of rock, pop, classical, Broadway and more combine to create an unforgettable and unbelievably fun experience.

Milwaukee Rep's holiday tradition, ***A Christmas Carol***, celebrates its 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the historic Pabst Theater with Rep favorite Matt Daniels returning as Ebenezer Scrooge.

**Subscriptions** are now available for renewing and new Subscribers. Subscription prices for the 2023/24 Season range from \$110-\$640. Packages available are the Ultimate 11-play package, which includes the entire season spanning all three of Milwaukee Rep's performance spaces; Quadracci Powerhouse/Stackner Cabaret 9-play package; Quadracci Powerhouse/Stiemke Studio 7-play package; Quadracci Powerhouse 5-play package; Stackner Cabaret 4-Play package as well as a Create Your Own Season package and Flex Passes. Single Tickets will go on sale later in the summer. For additional information on Subscription offerings, please contact Milwaukee Rep's Ticket Office at **414-224-9490** or visit [www.MilwaukeeRep.com](http://www.MilwaukeeRep.com).



## 2023/24 Season – 70th Season

### ***Country Sunshine: The Legendary Ladies of Nashville With Katie Deal***

Presented by Artists Lounge Live  
September 8 – October 29, 2023  
Stackner Cabaret

### **The Women Who Made Music City**

Celebrate the queens of classic country as award-winner Katie Deal honors a mighty lineage of artists: Loretta Lynn, Tammy Wynette, Dolly Parton, Reba McEntire, and more! Seen previously in Milwaukee Rep's *Back Home Again: On the Road with John Denver*, Deal leads a band of superb musicians and shares heartwarming stories with authentic southern charm. Sing along to hits including "Stand By Your Man," "Crazy," "Harper Valley PTA," "Jolene" and "Coal Miner's Daughter." An Artists Lounge Live Production.

World Premiere Event

### ***Run Bambi Run***

Book by Eric Simonson  
Music & Lyrics by Gordon Gano  
Directed by Mark Clements  
September 13 – October 22, 2023  
Quadracci Powerhouse

### **A New Musical about Milwaukee's Infamous Femme Fatale**

The truth is indeed stranger than fiction in this new musical ripped from the headlines! An outrageous 'true crime' saga that took the nation by storm, Lawrenca "Bambi" Bembenek's fall from Milwaukee Police Department cop to Playboy Bunny lands her in the slammer, convicted of a murder that she didn't commit. Or did she? Fueled by original rock songs and lyrics from Grammy-nominee Gordon Gano of the Violent Femmes, a captivating book by Academy Award-winner Eric Simonson (*Lombardi*), and Artistic Director Mark Clements' directorial showmanship, this rollicking hometown story about truth and justice is a wild ride that you have to see to believe.

World Premiere Event

***Parental Advisory: a breakbeat play***

By Idris Goodwin

September 26 – October 29, 2023

Stiemke Studio

**Hip-Hop, Humor and the History of Censorship**

In this high-energy World Premiere by award-winning playwright Idris Goodwin (HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*), two Hip-Hop artists mix slick beats and rhymes with important questions about censorship and expression in popular music. This engaging new play – half DJ jam session, half TED Talk – uses wit, humor and the uncanny powers of the Wu-Tang Clan to enter a conversation on parenting, identity and survival. At what age is it appropriate to introduce our children to music, life and an uncertain world – however controversial it may be?

***Nuncrackers***

Book, Music and Lyrics by Dan Goggin

November 3, 2023 – January 7, 2024

Stackner Cabaret

**Enjoy Holiday Hijinks with the Singing Sisters of Nonsense**

The hilarious sisters of *Nonsense* are back, spreading yuletide laughs, cheerful carols, and the gift of festive mischief. From the basement of Mount Saint Helen's Convent, they take to the airwaves to broadcast a new cable access Christmas special: complete with (mostly) traditional holiday songs ("Here We Come-a-Waffle-ing," "We Three Kings of Orient Are Us"), a silly secret Santa contest, a not-so-graceful take on Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Ballet and loads of laughs that only the Little Sisters of Hoboken can provide. Can this show get its act together? You'll be laughing all the way through New Year's finding out!

***Dial M for Murder***

By Frederick Knott

Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher

Directed by Laura Braza

November 14 – December 17, 2023

Quadracci Powerhouse

**Jealous Husband. Wealthy Wife. The Perfect Crime.**

Passion, blackmail and revenge combine into a breathtaking, edge-of-your-seat murder mystery. Jealous suspicion gives way to cold-blooded vengeance when a gold-digging husband's perfect crime misfires, trapping all parties in a sinister and dangerous web of lies. This classic, which inspired Alfred Hitchcock's masterpiece, has been newly adapted by acclaimed playwright Jeffrey Hatcher (*Holmes and Watson*) and is brimming with shocking surprises that will keep you guessing until the end.

### ***Guys on Ice***

Book & Lyrics by Fred Alley

Music by James Kaplan

Directed & Choreographed by Jeffrey Herbst

January 12 – March 17, 2024

Stackner Cabaret

### **A Knee-Slappingly Funny Wisconsin Favorite**

One of the Stackner Cabaret's most popular musical comedies makes its encore as we celebrate our 70th Anniversary Season and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of when this show premiered at Milwaukee Rep! Life on the lake is easy, especially when the fish are biting, the jokes are funny, there's a 'couple two three' beers in the bucket and the Green Bay Packers are on the field. From the warmth of their shanty 'up north,' old pals Marvin and Lloyd spin wit, wisdom and hilarious songs about life, love and the one that got away. Don't miss this Wisconsin musical tradition, featuring songs like "When On Thin Ice," "Ode to a Snowmobile Suit" and "The Wishing Hole."

Presented by The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation

### ***Little Women***

By Kate Hamill

Adapted from the novel by Louisa May Alcott

January 16 – February 18, 2024

Quadracci Powerhouse

### **A Timeless Tale for a New Generation**

This endearing tale of family, friendship, love, and adventure never fails to tug on the heartstrings, and with a new adaptation by prolific playwright Kate Hamill, it's never been more resonant. During the years of the Civil War, ambitious 15-year-old Jo March and her sisters must navigate hardships, heartbreak and humility as they come of age in a world bound by class and tragedy. Tender and playful, this incredible production will help you fall in love all over again with these four young dreamers as they discover themselves in a country divided. *Little Women* is the third production in our Classic Play Initiative.

*Pulitzer Prize Finalist*

### ***What the Constitution Means to Me***

By Heidi Schreck

Directed by Laura Braza

February 6 – March 10, 2024

Stiemke Studio

### **Direct from a Sold-Out Broadway Run**

Since its premiere in 2019, this Pulitzer Prize finalist has taken the theatrical world by storm, breathing new life into our Constitution by imagining how it will shape the next generation of Americans. As a teenager, Heidi earned her college tuition by winning Constitutional debate competitions across the country. In this hilarious, witty, and refreshingly honest new play, she revisits her fifteen-year-old self to trace the profound relationship between four generations of women and the lasting impact of the document that shaped their journeys.

### ***The Chosen***

Adapted by Aaron Posner and Chaim Potok  
From the Novel by Chaim Potok  
March 5 – March 31, 2024  
Quadracci Powerhouse

### **A Deeply Emotional Story of Faith, Family and Friendship**

One of the most beloved novels of the 20th century comes to life in this captivating portrayal of faith, family and friendship. In 1940s Brooklyn, two brilliant young Jewish boys grow up sharing a love of baseball. Although they live just five blocks from each other, the shadows of their fathers keep them a world apart. As they reach adulthood, their complicated friendship will test the bounds of belief, understanding and reconciliation. Set against the backdrop of WWII and the creation of the state of Israel, Chaim Potok's acclaimed story balances transformation and tradition, growing up and growing wise, and living out your truths – no matter the consequences.

### ***Piano Men 2***

Created by Mark Clements  
March 22 – May 19, 2024  
Stackner Cabaret

### **From Bach to Broadway – and Back Again!**

Come ready to laugh, clap and sing along as two virtuoso pianists play dazzling renditions of YOUR favorite hits, live! *Piano Men 2* transforms the Stackner Cabaret into a sizzling, anything-can-happen Piano Bar where the best of rock, pop, classical, Broadway and more combine to create an unforgettable and unbelievably fun experience. No two shows are ever the same, so bring your song requests as this hit production makes its return by popular demand.

### ***Nina Simone: Four Women***

By Christina Ham  
April 16 – May 12, 2024  
Quadracci Powerhouse

### **Fiery Anthems from "The High Priestess of Soul"**

The creator of some of our nation's most powerful Civil Rights anthems, Nina Simone shook the world with her music. After the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Simone's tribute song "Four Women" transformed her from gifted pianist to trailblazing activist, charting a new course as an agent of change and healing. This play with music shines a light on how she found her true calling and gave voice to a movement through impactful and inspirational songs like "Mississippi Goddam," "Go Limp" and "Sinnerman."

**OFF –SUBSCRIPTION**

Jay Franke & David Herro Present  
Sponsored by West Bend Mutual Insurance  
***A Christmas Carol***  
By Charles Dickens  
Directed by Mark Clements  
November 28 – December 24, 2023  
Pabst Theater

**Milwaukee’s Favorite Holiday Tradition**

*A Christmas Carol* is one of the best-known and well-loved stories in the English language. During the course of one memorable Christmas Eve, the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future help Ebenezer Scrooge discover that it is never too late to change his miserly ways. Milwaukee Rep favorite Matt Daniels returns to play Scrooge, as enchanting music, dance, costumes, scenery and special effects will once again fill the theater to tell this timeless tale of love, hope and redemption.

\*All plays, artists and dates subject to change.

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