



NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contact

Adrienne Sweeney
507-467-2905 x208 or
adrienne@commonwealththeatre.org

Box Office

800-657-7025 or
www.commonwealththeatre.org

COMMONWEAL THEATRE COMPANY OFFERS SUMMER CONSERVATORY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

LANESBORO, MN — The Commonwealth Theatre Company of Lanesboro will offer an intensive two-week training program to all high school students with an interest in performing from July 14 - 28, 2010.

In the 18 years since its inception, the Commonwealth Conservatory has exposed more than 200 students to active learning through theatre, and has been enthusiastically praised by participants. Students gain new levels of personal confidence, not only for the stage, but for school and for life.

“This kind of work sharpens critical thinking, confidence, and personal expression,” said Commonwealth Artistic Director Hal Cropp. “Whether or not these students decide to follow a career in the theatre doesn’t really matter. These skills are valuable in any kind of business, any kind of industry.”

Curriculum topics this year will be acting, voice, movement, improvisation, and audition technique. Classes will be held from 9:30 to 3:30, Tuesday through Saturday, with a free public performance of the students’ work on Wednesday, July 28th at 7 p.m. at the Commonwealth’s new theatre in downtown

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Lanesboro. All classes are taught by the professional artists who make up the Commonweal's Resident Company, supplemented by seasonal actors who have come to the Commonweal from all over the United States with a variety of performing backgrounds and teaching strengths.

The cost is \$150 per student, and includes four complementary tickets to each of the Commonweal's summer productions. During the Conservatory, students and their families will be invited to see the outrageous comedy *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and the heartwarming drama *Enchanted April* and attend post-performance discussions with the cast.

Previous theatre experience is not required. Admission is by application only and is open to any student entering ninth grade through graduating seniors. For an application or information about scholarship opportunities, call Jerome Yorke at 507-467-2905 x210 or send an email to education@commonwealtheatre.org.

The Commonweal is a non-profit professional theatre with year-round main stage and educational programming located at 208 Parkway Avenue North in historic downtown Lanesboro. For more information, visit www.commonwealtheatre.org or call 800-657-7025.

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