



NEWS RELEASE

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COMMONWEAL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS *ENCHANTED APRIL*

LANESBORO, MINN. — The Commonweal Theatre Company presents the heartwarming drama *Enchanted April*, June 26th through October 23rd with special \$15 tickets available for previews June 18th to June 25th. Call the box office at 800-657-7025 or visit Commonweal Theatre online at www.commonwealththeatre.org for exact performance dates and times.

Based on the 1922 novel by Elizabeth von Arnim, this stage adaptation by Matthew Barber was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Play in 2003. An ad offering an Italian castle for rent attracts four women seeking to leave the gloom of England behind in exchange for wisteria and sunshine. Strangers at first, they soon discover that loneliness and unhappiness is something they have in common, but also that new friendships may hold the key for the hope and love they so desperately seek.

Artistic Director Hal Cropp is in charge of steering *Enchanted April* from page to stage for the Commonweal. “This is a story that’s captured my heart ever since I first read it,” he says. “I think it offers a wonderful journey of renewal, not just for the characters but the audience as well. And the play is set on the beautiful Italian seaside – what could be better?”

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Commonweal Theatre Company
Enchanted April, p.2

Commonweal Resident Artists Stef Dickens and Adrienne Sweeney play Lotty and Rose, two middle class housewives yearning for an adventure to awaken their spirits. They are joined on their intrepid journey by Irene ErkenBrack as Caroline, a bored aristocrat, and Susan d'Autremont as Mrs. Graves, a set-in-her-ways widow. The production also features Stan Peal, Hal Cropp, Eric Bunge, Brennan Kelleher, and Nancy Huisenga.

Stela Burdt serves as stage manager and leads the production team consisting of designers Kit Mayer (sets), Jason Underferth (lights), Stan Peal (sound), Michael Van Schoick (props) and Lisa Lantz (costumes).

Thanks to support from F&M Community Bank, special weekday matinee performances are available for school groups at only \$3 per person which includes a study guide, pre-show classroom workshop, and post-performance discussion with the actors. The production is underwritten by Artesian Fresh, Inc. of LeRoy, MN.

All performances are at the Commonweal Theatre, 208 Parkway Avenue North in downtown Lanesboro. Ticket prices are \$25, with discounts available for students, and groups of ten or more. There will be a sign language interpreted performance on Saturday, September 18th with half-price tickets for the hearing impaired. For ticket reservations or information about any Commonweal events or programs, call 800-657-7025 or 507-467-2905, or email tickets@commonwealtheatre.org.

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