



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: May 28, 2015

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COMMONWEAL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS
CHARLEY'S AUNT

LANESBORO, MN — The Commonweal Theatre Company presents *Charley's Aunt* by Brandon Thomas June 27th through October 26th. There is nothing more hilarious than a man in a dress and the laughter knows no end in a play widely considered to be one of the most sensational comedies of all time. Jack and Charley can't court their sweethearts without a chaperone and Charley's Aunt who is on her way for a visit is the ideal choice until her arrival is delayed. How the boys keep their dates includes a mixture of slapstick, wit, a bad wig, some lipstick and results in a laugh-out-loud classic. Discounted tickets are available for previews, June 19th to June 26th. Reservations can be made by phoning the theatre box office at 800-657-7025 or by visiting www.commonwealththeatre.org.

Charley's Aunt is the third offering in Commonweal's 27th Season and is directed by Hal Cropp, now in his 24th year with the company. "To me," states Cropp, "*Charley's Aunt* is the epitome of the evolution of

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the classic comedy, with its themes of intergenerational conflict and romance, leavened with the time-honored comic techniques of mistaken identity, gender confusion, and fast paced action. I'm confident that we'll be bringing smiles, if not rib-tickling sensations to all who see it."

Commonweal Resident Ensemble members in the cast include Gary Danciu, Megan K. Pence and David Hennessey. Rounding out the cast are annual company member Brandt Roberts, guest artists Wade Alden and Eric Lee as well as members of the 2015-16 Commonweal Apprentice Class including Abbie Cathcart, Elizabeth Dunn, Kami Spaulding and David Wasserman.

Thomas White, Commonweal Production Manager, serves as stage manager and leads the production team consisting of designers Kit Mayer (sets), Dietrich Poppen (lights), Jen Brown (costumes), Adrienne Sweeney (props) and Nick Johnston (sound engineer).

The production is underwritten by Four Daughters Vineyard & Winery of Spring Valley and Intermission Restaurant in Lanesboro. Thanks to support from F&M Community Bank special weekday matinee performances are available for school groups at only \$5 per person, which includes a set of enhancement notes, video materials, a pre-show classroom workshop, and a post-performance discussion with the actors.

Funding for Commonweal Theatre's programming is provided in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature, a grant from the McKnight Foundation, and private funders. All performances are at the Commonweal Theatre, 208 Parkway Avenue North, in downtown Lanesboro. Ticket prices are \$35 with discounts available for seniors, students and groups of ten or more. Employees and residents of Fillmore and Houston Counties are offered free admission to the *Pay It Forward* preview performance on Thursday, June 25th. For ticket reservations or information about any Commonweal events or programs, call 800-657-7025 or 507-467-2525, or email tickets@commonwealtheatre.org.

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