



NEWS RELEASE

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COMMONWEAL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS
OUTSIDE MULLINGAR

LANESBORO, MN — The Commonweal Theatre Company presents *Outside Mullingar*, playing September 12th through November 8th. Discounted tickets are available for preview performances on September 10th and 11th. Call the box office at 800-657-7025 or visit Commonweal Theatre online at www.CommonwealTheatre.org to view a calendar of exact performance dates and times.

A 2014 Tony Award nominee for best new play, *Outside Mullingar* is the tale of Rosemary Muldoon and Anthony Reilly, neighbors since birth in the Irish countryside. Both are middle-aged, unmarried and living with an aging parent. There is a tie between the two which has festered and grown and bloomed over the years and that tie is the foundation of what is a delightful romantic comedy. Commonweal resident ensemble member Adrienne Sweeney is cast in the role of Rosemary. “What’s most gorgeous about *Outside Mullingar*,” says Sweeney, “is the scope of this romance. Yes, it tells the story of a romantic love between the two central characters. But it also celebrates the love between parent and child, between humans and nature, the present and the past, the practical and the mystical. This play reminds me of the countless wonderful things to love about life. It’s a grand romance on an epic scale. And I think we can all benefit from that.”

~more~

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The Commonweal is pleased to welcome the return of Michael Bigelow Dixon to direct the production. Audiences will remember Dixon as the director of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Philadelphia Story* and, most recently, *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure* from the 2013 Commonweal season. “*Outside Mullingar*,” states Dixon, “explores how being rejected at a young age can both form and deform one’s character. Specifically, the play poses these questions: How long can someone sustain being obsessed and depressed by an unrequited love, and conversely, how long can someone wait for the right person to enter his or her life? The element of time is a fascinating aspect of the play, especially in this age of instant gratification and technological immediacy.”

Along with Sweeney, the cast includes Commonweal resident artists Hal Cropp and Jeremy van Meter. The Commonweal is pleased to welcome Minneapolis resident Miriam Monasch who is making her debut on the Lanesboro stage with the production. The creative team is rounded out by Mollie LaFavers (dramaturg), Brandt Roberts (dialect coach) and Stephanie Robinson (research assistant).

Bailey Otto serves as production stage manager and, along with Production Manager/Lighting Designer Thomas White and Assistant Stage Manager Ashley Willingham, leads the design team consisting of Kit Mayer (sets), Annie Cady (costumes), Matt Vichlach (sound) and Elizabeth Dunn and Kami Spaulding (props).

The Commonweal’s production of *Outside Mullingar* is produced thanks to sponsorship from Four Daughters Winery and Vineyard of Spring Valley. Additional underwriting support from F&M Community Bank makes possible special weekday matinee performances for school groups, which also includes a study guide, 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, September 17th. For ticket reservations or information about any Commonweal events or programs, call 800-657-7025 or 507-467-2525, or email tickets@commonwealtheatre.org.