



NEWS RELEASE

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COMMONWEAL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS *WOODY GUTHRIE'S AMERICAN SONG*

LANESBORO, MN — The Commonweal Theatre Company proudly presents the exuberant musical tribute, *Woody Guthrie's American Song*, May 9th through September 28th. Discounted tickets are available for previews May 1st to May 8th. Call the box office at 800-657-7025 or visit Commonweal Theatre online at www.commonwealththeatre.org for exact performance dates and times.

The story follows Guthrie as he rambles from the Dust Bowl of Oklahoma at the dawn of the Great Depression to a migrant camp in California to a Bowery Bar in New York City. Those travels are paired with many of Guthrie's most beloved songs. The production is directed by Tod Petersen who joined the Commonweal ensemble last season and served as director for the highly popular *Arsenic and Old Lace*. "Woody Guthrie's American Song," says Petersen, "is such an exciting project for the Commonweal to undertake. The cast of five—all of them singing, playing instruments, story-telling, even dancing a little -- have thrown themselves into the music and life of Woody Guthrie with the positive, life-affirming energy that Guthrie represents. This show is bursting with humor, heart, joy and the deeply felt humanity and hope of Woody Guthrie's music."

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The cast includes resident ensemble members Gary Danciu, Ryan Lee, Megan K. Pence and Jeremy van Meter along with guest artist Stela Burdt. Stage Manager Bailey Otto and Production Manager/Lighting Designer Thomas White lead the production team consisting of designers Kit Mayer (set), Lisa Lantz (costumes), and Ana Hagedorn (props).

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

All performances are at the Commonweal Theatre, 208 Parkway Avenue North, in downtown Lanesboro. Ticket prices are \$35 with discounts available for 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, May 7th. 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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