



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 PRESENTS
THE CLEAN HOUSE

LANESBORO, MN — *The Clean House* is a funny and tender play about love, life, spirituality and compassion and it's playing June 28th — October 22nd at the Commonweal Theatre in historic Lanesboro. Currently celebrating its 30th Season providing high quality professional live theatre to SE Minnesota, the Commonweal is pleased to announce the third of five productions for 2018. Reservations can be made by phoning the theatre box office at (800) 657-7025 or tickets may also be reserved and purchased online at www.CommonwealTheatre.org.

The Clean House by Sarah Ruhl was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and tells the story of Lane, a middle aged doctor and Matilde, her Brazilian cleaning lady who hates to clean. Add to the mix Virginia, Lane's sister who loves to clean, the surprising relationship between Lane's husband Charles to one of his patients and the result is an enchanting play about the positive side of life's little messes. Commonweal professional resident ensemble member Megan K. Pence fills the director chair for the production. The most recent Commonweal directing credit for Ms. Pence was last season's *The Elephant Man*.

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“When you ask what *The Clean House* is about,” says Pence, “it’s hard to come up with a straight answer. It runs the gamut from the mundane: apple-picking, fish-feeding, laundry - to the profound: marriage, careers, and grief. But ultimately,” she continues, “it’s a show about love and how each of us loves and is loved in our own way, whether through humor, gratitude, forgiveness, or grand gestures.”

Commonweal resident ensemble members in the cast include Adrienne Sweeney and Jeremy van Meter. The company is pleased to welcome the return of guest artist Bette Battocletti in the role of Virginia and proud to introduce Twin Cities actresses Fernanda Badeo and Colleen Barrett, both making their debut appearances on the Commonweal stage.

Commonweal Production Manager Thomas White serves as the production stage manager and leads the creative team consisting of designers Justin Hooper (set), Dietrich Poppen (lights), Amy Rohrberg (costumes), Daniel Stock (sound engineer) and Brandt Roberts (props designer).

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, Mayo Clinic Community Contribution Program 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, July 5th. For ticket reservations or information about any Commonweal events or programs, call (800) 657-7025 or (507) 467-2525 or visit www.CommonwealTheatre.org.

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