

Until we are able to 'get on the bus' again....

history theatre AT HOME

"While the theater is dark, our artistic process is robust. Our mission to create new work continues as we invest in telling real stories that matter."



Diesel Heart (working title)

Member Fee: \$6 Non-Member Fee: \$9

Streaming Fri, Sep 4- Thu, Sep 10, 2020

A Link and password will be sent on Thu, Sep 3

Written by Brian Grandison

In collaboration with Melvin Carter Jr.

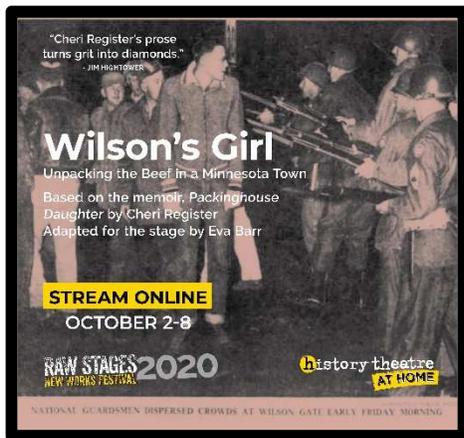
Directed by H. Adam Harris

Melvin Carter Jr. is a true son of St. Paul, as was his father and hero, Melvin Carter Sr. Melvin grew up in the Rondo neighborhood in the 1950s and '60s. He experienced firsthand the decimation of the radiant, vibrant Rondo community for the construction of Interstate 94.

As a student, Melvin struggled in the classroom and also on the streets. As a young man, he enlisted in the US Navy and was stationed in Morocco where he used his skill inside the boxing ring to win matches and earn self-respect. After his return home, he joined the St. Paul Police Department as an affirmative action hire where he continued to fight crime and battle racism on the streets and within the Department.

Still, his stories and perspective on life is joy-filled and passionate. From his father's example, he became a steady and constant presence in the community, in the city that spawned and nurtured him. From his mother he inherited a spirit that doesn't back down or walk away from the fight to seek justice.

In these days of local, national and international strife, as we find ourselves again saturated with racism's social toxin, spending time learning and laughing from this son of St. Paul is a tonic at the end of a long evening.



Wilson's Girl: Unpacking the Beef in a Minnesota Town

Member Fee: \$6 Non-Member Fee: \$9

Streaming Fri, Oct 2- Thu, Oct 8, 2020

A Link and password will be sent on Thu, Oct. 1

Based on the memoir, *Packinghouse Daughter* by Cheri Register

Adapted for the stage by Eva Barr

Directed by Laura Leffler

An emotionally charged recounting of the turmoil in Albert Lea during the 1959 Wilson's meatpacking strike as seen through the eyes of a teenager.

Eva Barr adapts Cheri Register's 2001 memoir about coming of age in Albert Lea, MN during the 1959 Wilson's meatpacking plant strike. The play spans the inciting moments of the strike to the violence and divisiveness that resulted, but it is Register's personal awakening to the meaning of class in her life as the daughter of a blue-collar worker that provides the universal hook.

In November, 1959, a worker on the sausage line at the Wilson plant in Albert Lea, MN, refused to stay and work overtime. His move catalyzed events that would lead to a national strike and to rifts between people in Albert Lea that still exist today. The script includes contemporary teenage inquiry to explore some of the social and economic divides that continue to confound rural America. As Register's grandfather might have put it, class is one of those "disquieting" subjects that applies to us all.

Barr says, "I chose to adapt *Packinghouse Daughter* for the stage for a number of reasons: because Cheri Register's voice is so clear and compelling that it's a treat to work with her words; because she grew up in my hometown where incredible things happen every day; because it documents a sadly bygone era in Albert Lea's history; because some people won't pick up a book, but they might sit in an audience; because the subject-matter, meatpacking and growing up, will be relevant as long as we eat meat and grow up; because the book takes on essential questions of being 'American,' of being human, and takes us to places we might not go on our own."

**Members Register Online at
www.learningisforever.net**



Sweet Land, the musical

Member Fee: \$6, Non-Member Fee: \$9

Streaming October 9-22, 2020

Link will be emailed on October 8.

Book by Perrin Post and Laurie Flanigan Hegge

Lyrics by Laurie Flanigan Hegge | Music by Dina Maccabee

From the film Sweet Land by Ali Selim and the short story "A Gravestone Made of Wheat" by Will Weaver

Directed by Perrin Post | Choreography by Joe Chvala | Musical Arrangements by Robert Elhai

In this "beautiful story of love, community, and connection to the land" (Cherry and Spoon), Inge Altenberg journeys to America to marry a bachelor farmer, sight unseen. But in the wake of WWI, Inge's German heritage turns her neighbors against the match. Don't miss what Talkin' Broadway called "a thoroughly human story of enduring love...one of the finest original works to appear on any Twin Cities stage over the past several seasons."



The Boy Wonder: Stassen Musical

Member Fee: \$6 Non-Member Fee: \$9

Streaming Fri, Oct 30- Thu, Nov 5, 2020

A Link and password will be sent on Thu, Oct 29

Book, music, and lyrics by Keith Hovis

Directed by Ron Peluso

Musical direction by Brian Pekol

How do you define a legacy?

In 1938, Harold Stassen was dubbed Boy Wonder and the future of the Republic party after being elected the Governor of Minnesota at age 31. By 1992, Stassen's political career ended as a perennial candidate who sought, and lost, his bid for the Republican presidential nomination a record nine-times.

What came in-between is the story of a war hero who helped create the United Nations and served as a key player in the Eisenhower administration. But also the story of a man who routinely fought to redefine a party that was not ready for change, defying those he needed most to make it to the White House. From writer/composer Keith Hovis comes a new musical that explores the life of a man who was supposed to be President. Until he wasn't.



The Betty Crocker Musical

Member Fee: \$6 Non-Member Fee: \$9

Streaming Fri, Nov 20 - Thu, Nov 26, 2020

A Link and password will be sent on Thu, Nov 19

Book and lyrics by Cristina Luzarraga

Music by Denise Prosek

Directed by Austene Van

Musical direction by Jason Hansen

Dramaturgy by Susan Marks

This new musical explores the ever-changing roles of women over the last century through the lens of Betty Crocker, America's First Lady of Food. "Born" in 1921 to the company that would become General Mills, Betty was a marketing invention--not a real person--but she came to represent far more than just flour. In 1945, Fortune Magazine named Betty Crocker the 2nd most popular woman in America. Originally depicted as white, blue-eyed, and middle-aged, Betty morphed over time as society grappled with questions of race and gender. At once a radio personality, a letter-writing confidante, a cheerleader and a scold, Betty taught a nation how to "add an egg" and much, much more.

LIFE Registration–History Theatre Offerings



- \$25 Annual LIFE Membership (Aug 2020 - July 2021)
- \$6 Member – Diesel Heart
- \$9 Non-Member – Diesel Heart
- \$6 Member – Wilson’s Girl: Unpacking the Beef in a Minnesota Town
- \$9 Non-Member – Wilson’s Girl: Unpacking the Beef in a Minnesota Town
- \$6 Member – Sweet Land, the musical
- \$9 Non-Member – Sweet Land, the musical
- \$6 Member – The Boy Wonder: Stassen Musical
- \$9 Non-Member – The Boy Wonder: Stassen Musical
- \$6 Member – The Betty Crocker Musical
- \$9 Non-Member – The Betty Crocker Musical

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Check payment to RCTC LIFE Required – No Credit Cards Accepted. (If you are a LIFE Member, **you can register online with a credit card** at www.learningisforever.net. If you are **new** member to LIFE and would like to register online, please email Jamie at Jamie.schroeder@rctc.edu for login information.) Send this form/your check to RCTC LIFE, 851 30th Ave SE-Box 50, Rochester, MN 55904

Name _____

Email Address _____

Day Phone Number _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____