

HENNEPIN THEATRE TRUST

STATE ★ ORPHEUM ★ PANTAGES



*H*ennepin Theatre Trust is especially pleased to welcome you to the Orpheum Theatre for the Minnesota debut of *Billy Elliot The Musical*, winner of ten 2009 Tony Awards including Best Musical. Based on the international smash-hit film, this electrifying new production follows one boy's journey as he stumbles out of the boxing ring and into a ballet class and discovers his dream to dance. We are delighted to share this smash hit musical with you.

Billy Elliot is the story of an adolescent who discovers he has a talent and passion for ballet, and pursues it despite the vehement objections of his father and the derision of his community, a coal-mining village in Northern England. However, the life-affirming decision made by Billy to follow his dreams ends up inspiring his family and the entire town. The arts have a transformative power, and in July, the U.S. House of Representatives recognized this by passing a resolution naming the second week of September as "Arts in Education Week" to recognize the immense role arts education has in producing engaged, successful and career-ready students. The resolution states, "Arts education, comprising a rich array of disciplines including dance, music, theatre, media arts, literature, design and visual arts, is a core academic subject and an essential element of a complete and balanced education for all students."

In every community there are young people like Billy who need support to pursue their dreams (In fact, 20 of the *Billy Elliot* cast members are children!), which is why Hennepin Theatre Trust is proud to be a leader in promoting arts education in Minnesota. Through our community and educational initiatives, we strive to encourage and honor the next generation of those who will carry performing arts into the future. For example, this year our *SpotLight Musical Theatre Program* for high schools will serve a record 45 schools around the state with nearly 4,000 participants and our *Critical View* student reviewer program will enable dozens of urban students to interact with local theatre professionals and attend Broadway productions free of charge.

During this season of giving, won't you assist us by making a financial contribution? Your support makes a difference in the future of performing arts on Hennepin Avenue and throughout our state and is fully tax deductible. For more information on the important work that we do, please visit our website at www.hennepintheatretrust.org. Thanks again for joining us at the theatre during this busy time of the year and best wishes for a safe and enjoyable holiday season. Enjoy the show!

Yours truly,

Thomas L. Hoch
President/CEO

Hennepin Theatre Trust, owner of the historic State, Orpheum and Pantages Theatres is a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the vibrant cultural atmosphere of the Twin Cities.

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Welcome to the State Theatre for *A Bronx Tale*. Written by and starring Academy Award-nominated actor Chazz Palminteri, this funny and touching memoir vividly depicts his rough childhood in the '60s-era Bronx with Palminteri masterfully playing himself as well as all the memorable people he encountered. It has been praised by critics around the country, with the New York Times calling it "a rejuvenating act of faith in the powers of acting and storytelling." On behalf of Hennepin Theatre Trust, I'm delighted to share this story with you about the temptations of youth and the joys and lessons that come with it.

Our 2008/09 season draws to a close this month with *A Chorus Line*, so we'd like to usher in the exciting new Broadway lineup we're bringing to the Trust's Orpheum Theatre in 2009/10. Our upcoming season features six Minnesota debuts, further establishing Minneapolis as the place to see the latest Tony Award-winning and groundbreaking Broadway shows. The season kicks off Sept. 3-20, 2009 with Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's *Mary Poppins* starring original Broadway cast members Ashley Brown as Mary Poppins and Gavin Lee as Bert, and continues with *101 Dalmatians The Musical* and *In The Heights*, the 2008 Tony Award-winner for Best Musical. The new year will bring *Dreamgirls*, the Mel Brooks musical *Young Frankenstein* and *Dirty Dancing*, the classic story on stage. The season also includes two special additions as the perennially popular *Mamma Mia!* and *Avenue Q*, winner of 2004 Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Book and Best Score, both return to Minneapolis.

The best way to secure tickets is to become a Season Ticket Holder. Not only are your seats reserved for the season's hottest shows but you enjoy many benefits including the opportunity to purchase additional tickets to season shows before they go on sale to the general public, free ticket exchange and replacement services, special offers from Hennepin Theatre Trust's restaurant partners and more! Season Ticket Select Seating packages, with premier locations, are also available. Special ticketing benefits are available to Trust Donors as well. To learn more about becoming a Season Ticket Holder or Donor, visit our website at www.hennepintheatretrust.org.

Thanks to all of our patrons for their ongoing support and for making us a part of your theatregoing experience. I can't wait to introduce audiences of every age to our fabulous productions in 2009/10. Enjoy *A Bronx Tale* and please join us for the year ahead!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas L. Hoch". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Thomas L. Hoch
President/Chief Executive Officer

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On behalf of Hennepin Theatre Trust, welcome to the North American premiere of *The 101 Dalmatians Musical* at the Orpheum Theatre. This grand historic theatre, first known as the Hennepin, originally opened to present live vaudeville acts. The best seats in the house sold for 47 cents and children's tickets were nine cents.

In the mid-1990s after decades of neglect, the Orpheum was renovated and revived. The theatre was redone in deep Victorian colors, the art deco marquee was restored and reinstalled and the stage was extended almost 20 feet in order to accommodate the most elaborate new Broadway productions. If you look up at the mural on the ceiling above the stage, you will see artwork that was added after the discovery of a black and white photo of the original theatre.

The Orpheum is an integral part of the Hennepin Theatre District and has been at the center of the revival of Hennepin Avenue. From popular musical acts at the State Theatre to new works at the Pantages to the much anticipated new home for dance at the Shubert Theatre set to reopen in 2012, there is a show for everyone in downtown Minneapolis.

This production of *101 Dalmatians* is based on the original 1957 novel by Dodie Smith and features 15 adult Dalmatians, many of which were rescued from animal shelters around the country. Rescue and shelter animals are especially important to me as a Board Member of the Animal Humane Society. These companion animals bring an incredible amount of unconditional love to the lives of so many people and I am thrilled that many rescue dogs are part of this production.

Thank you for joining us today at the Orpheum Theatre. I am honored to represent this historic treasure, which continues to be such a vital part of our downtown. Enjoy the show!

Yours truly,

Lisa Goodman

Minneapolis City Council Member
Ward 7

HENNEPIN THEATRE TRUST

HENNEPIN THEATRE DISTRICT • MINNEAPOLIS

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Hennepin Theatre Trust as a Playbill guest writer, I want to welcome you to the State Theatre for *Frost/Nixon*. This Tony Award-nominated historical and political drama written by Peter Morgan, the award-winning author of "The Queen" and "The Last King of Scotland," recreates the story behind how David Frost, the celebrity British talk show host, induced former U.S. President Richard Nixon to apologize for Watergate on international television. More than 45 million viewers caught the first of four 90-minute broadcasts in what was called the most watched news interview in broadcast history. This show is a unique experience for people of all ages. I remember how Watergate dominated the news and garnered as much interest as the recent presidential election. This episode shook the core of our country, so Frost's ability to get President Nixon to show a human side was very dramatic and helped the country move forward.



Blockbuster musicals like *Wicked* and plays like *Frost/Nixon* are an important component to bringing citizens and visitors to Hennepin Avenue for a variety of entertainment choices. Last year, I enjoyed many of Hennepin Theatre Trust's presentations—from the eloquence of Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough to the beautiful photographs of National Geographic's Sam Abell to the utter wackiness of Monty Python's *Spamalot*. Just as *Frost/Nixon* is an important part of American history, the State, Orpheum and Pantages Theatres are vital components of Minneapolis's history. The City of Minneapolis is very proud of our role in re-establishing a vibrant theatre district in our downtown area. We all benefit from the theatergoers who fill our restaurants, parking ramps and hotels. Local workers are also employed by the theatres, working directly with the operation and production of the shows. Our theatre district adds economic value, variety and diversity to our successful downtown. Minneapolis regularly touts our cultural vitality and Hennepin Theatre Trust's historic venues are an integral part of our pride.

Thank you for joining Hennepin Theatre Trust for *Frost/Nixon*, kicking off an exciting new year of performances at the State, Orpheum and Pantages Theatres. Enjoy the show!

Yours truly,

Barbara A. Johnson
President, Minneapolis City Council

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