

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Elizabeth Craven announces the debut of Heritage Music Theatre

An exciting new experience in musical theater!

Heritage Music Theatre is a company of professional actors, singers and musicians producing plays that entertain, celebrate and educate their audience with stories and songs drawn from the lives of the women and men who sowed the seeds of our American heritage and culture. **HMT** was newly established in spring of 2010 by theater producer Elizabeth Craven in direct response to the overwhelming public support afforded her two prior musical biographies, *Always, Patsy Cline* and *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*. The two plays, starring Mary Gannon Graham as Patsy Cline and Tahmus Rounds as Hank, played to a combined audience of more than 13,000, proving a hunger in NorCal audiences for authentic American stories presented in the dynamic medium of musical storytelling. With this flood of support, Ms Craven gathered some of the brightest theatrical talent to be found and formed the **Heritage Music Theatre**.

The History: Before spending more than two decades developing theater in northern California, Artistic Director Elizabeth Craven began her theatrical career in Knoxville, Tennessee as a part of The Play Group, an acclaimed regional theater company that created original plays about the grassroots political and social issues of working people. These works derived inspiration from the rich storytelling traditions of the rural south. HMT recalls those same oral traditions along with those of our common musical heritage.

The company's repertoire consists of previously published and original plays by or about individuals who have shaped the American musical landscape. We invite scripts that celebrate the diverse heritage bequeathed America from immigrant and native peoples around the world. The company performs at Cinnabar Theater in Petaluma, California and at the Dorothy Spreckels Performing Arts Center in Rohnert Park, California. We will soon be available for touring statewide and regionally. Booking requires advanced notice. Fees reflect the size of the venue and the length of the residency or engagement.

HMT's Debut Season:

- **Hank Williams: Lost Highway** by Randal Myar & Mark Harelik
Starring stage and screen actor, Tahmus Rounds as the seminal country artist.
November 19, 20 and 21, 2010 at Spreckels Performing Arts Center. A co-production with Cinnabar Theater
- **Woody Guthrie's American Song** by Peter Glazer
Starring Brent Lindsay, Jim Peterson, Shannon Rider and Mary Gannon Graham
Dec 31, 2010 - Jan 23, 2011 at Cinnabar Theater in Petaluma. A co-production with Cinnabar Theater
Feb 16, 17, & 18, 2011 at Spreckels Performing Arts Center in Rohnert Park

- **Love, Janis** - Conceived and adapted by Randal Myler

Janis Joplin, the icon of 1960's rock music, is revisited in both music and words. *Love, Janis* explores the performer not only through her legendary songs, but also in the poignant and honest letters she wrote home to her family.

March 25 - April 10, 2011 (subject to publisher licensing approval)

- **Some Sweet Day** - Songs by Si Kahn, Book by Mac Pirkle and Don Jones

The moving and inspirational tale of four young tenant farmers and their leader, Sarah Jane, who work to unite the counties' farm workers. They triumphantly form the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, the first interracial labor union in America.

Dates, TBD (subject to publisher licensing approval)

For More Information: Please see the attached release for *Hank Williams: Lost Highway* or go to the HMT website at www.heritagemusictheatre.com You may also call publicist Sheri Lee Miller at 707.483.7649 or e-mail her at sherileemiller@sbcglobal.net