

RIVERSIDE THEATRE

iowa city's resident professional theatre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK OPENS OCT. 22 AT RIVERSIDE THEATRE

October 9, 2009 – Iowa City, IA –

Riverside Theatre, Iowa City's resident professional theatre company, will present *The Diary of Anne Frank* October 22 – November 8. Tickets are available at the Riverside Theatre Box Office at (319) 338-7672 or online at www.riversidetheatre.org.

Directed by Mark Hunter, the production uses Wendy Kesselman's adaptation of the Pulitzer-Prize winning 1955 script by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett.

Kesselman's adaptation was written after a new version of the diary was published in 1995. Brett Janecek, the production dramaturg for *The Diary of Anne Frank* said "Kesselman sought to restore the political and Jewish elements that were avoided in the previous script. She stripped away melodramatic moments and added new production elements to engage the audience in the reality of the characters' lives and times." Kesselman's adaptation was warmly received when it was first produced on Broadway in 1997.

Director Mark Hunter said that using this newer adaptation restores a sense of complexity to the character of Anne. "In the original script, her character was reduced to just a bubbly, universal teenager. The historical truth is that Anne Frank was a prodigy—a keen observer and a nuanced thinker. Had she lived, I think she would have gone on to be a celebrated writer."

Anne is played by Natalie Kropf, a student at Cornell College. Riverside audiences will recognize Jody Hovland as Edith Frank, Tim Budd as Mr. Van Daan, Kristy Hartsgrove as Mrs. Van Daan, and Ron Clark as Mr. Dussel. Andrew Dawson, visiting from NYC, plays Otto Frank. Rounding out the cast are Lindsay Tornquist as Margot Frank, Kayla Prestel as Miep Gies, Alec Hynes as Peter Van Daan, and Billy Czerwionka as Mr. Kraler.

The Diary of Anne Frank also features scene design by Scott Olinger, lighting design by Hans Hinrichsen, and costumes by Jenny Nutting Kelchen.

This is a co-production with Cornell College. The play is supported in part by an award by the National Endowment for the Arts and a grant from the Iowa Arts Council.

Tickets range from \$12-\$26 with a \$12 student rush 20 minutes before the performance. Tickets can be ordered through the Riverside Theatre Box Office at 213 N. Gilbert St., (319) 338-7672 or online at www.riversidetheatre.org.

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Photo information:

Natalie Kropf and Andrew Dawson in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, at Riverside Theatre October 22-November 8. Photo by Bob Goodfellow.

Performance Calendar:

Thursday October 22 at 7:30 pm

Friday October 23 at 7:30 pm

Saturday October 24 at 7:30 pm

Sunday October 25 at 2:00 pm

Thursday October 29 at 7:30 pm

Friday October 30 at 7:30 pm

Saturday October 31 at 7:30 pm

Sunday November 1 at 2:00 pm

Thursday November 5 at 7:30 pm

Friday November 6 at 7:30 pm

Saturday November 7 at 7:30 pm

Sunday November 8 at 2:00 pm

Related Events

Thursday Theatre Talk October 15, 5:30

Talkback Sunday October 25 (post show)