



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 17, 2016

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## **LEWIS BLACK'S *ONE SLIGHT HITCH* IS A WEDDING DAY DREAM TURNED DISASTER AT THE HUMAN RACE THEATRE COMPANY**

**Comedian/playwright Black's romantic farce is a nightmare for any father of the bride at  
The Loft Theatre, April 7 – 24, 2016.**

(Dayton, OH) — Spring has sprung and while love is in the air at The Human Race, April showers loom for the characters of the theatre company's latest production, *One Slight Hitch*. Life in suburban Cincinnati is good for Doc and Delia Coleman on the morning they're about to throw their eldest daughter the perfect wedding they never had, that is until her vagabond ex-boyfriend arrives on their doorstep and turns their best laid plans into total chaos. The result is a zany, door-slamming comedy about stressed-out parents, less-than-helpful siblings and interruptions galore from the mind of comedian **Lewis Black**. Will their daughter make it down the aisle or will the day end up a perfect disaster? The production at The Human Race's downtown Dayton home at The Loft Theatre is directed by **Margarett Perry** and features actors **Brian Dykstra** and **Rita Rehn**, with **Dana Berger**, **Alex Curtis**, **Cecily Dowd**, **Kyle Nunn** and **Alex Sunderhaus**. The preview performance of *One Slight Hitch* is Thursday, April 7. Opening night is Friday, April 8. The production runs through April 24.

For years, **Lewis Black** has been a nationally recognized comedian and social critic thanks largely to his regular "Back in Black" segments on *The Daily Show* and multiple Comedy Central specials. But years before he was a successful stand up, Black aspired to be a playwright, first studying at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill before earning an MFA degree at the Yale School of Drama. He served as the associate artistic director and playwright-in-residence of New York City's West Bank Café Downstairs Theatre Bar, where he developed hundreds of one-act plays in the 1980s. **Black**'s stand-up comedy began as an opening act for the plays. His full-length plays include *The Laundry Hour*, *The Czar of Rock and Roll*, *Nightfall* and *The Deal*. His comedy CDs have earned him two Grammy Awards, and as an author, three of his books, *Nothing's Sacred*, *Me of Little Faith*, and *I'm Dreaming of a Black Christmas* are *New York Times* best sellers. On film, **Black** has starred in such movies as *Accepted*, *Unaccompanied Minors* and *Man of the Year*, but is now probably best known as the voice of "Anger" in Disney/Pixar's hit animated film, *Inside Out*.

**Black** wrote *One Slight Hitch* in the early 1980s, inspired by his breakup with a girlfriend who married quickly after their separation. Confused and upset over her nuptials, he turned his pain into a comedy that had some initial success with readings at various regional theatres and festivals. It was even optioned for Broadway before interest in the script faded for the better part of 30 years. Now a published work, **Black** attributes the play's newfound success to his celebrity

status as the “King of Rant,” but cautions that it is very different than his stand-up persona. “If my name weren’t on it,” he says, “nobody would know that I wrote this play.”

Director **Margarett Perry** returns to The Loft Theatre after having helmed The Human Race Theatre Company’s March 2015 production of *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* in the Victoria Theatre. The Resident Director at Ithaca, New York’s Kitchen Theatre, **Perry** has developed and directed new works Off-Broadway and in regional theatres across the country. Her other shows for The Human Race include *Other Desert Cities*, *God of Carnage*, *Painting Churches*, *The Retreat from Moscow* and the world premiere of Michael Slade’s *Under a Red Moon*. *One Slight Hitch*, however, holds a special place in heart as it allows her the opportunity to finally direct a play by one of her oldest, dearest friends, **Lewis Black**, and to bring her long-time collaborator, **Brian Dykstra**, along for the ride. “Brian and I have known Lew for years,” says **Perry**. “We met him when we were doing a play of Brian’s at the West Bank Café Downstairs Theatre Bar and Lew opened for our show every night with a 20 minute set. I had just moved to New York City. Lew was just getting started as a comedian, but we knew he was something special. When we first found out that this comedian would be opening for our show, we thought, ‘What?! How is that going to work?’ Obviously, it rocked.” Bound by a common sense of humor, the trio’s friendship has never wavered. She fondly recalls seeing **Black** perform on numerous occasions throughout the years and of more relaxed times at the West Bank Café’s weekend midnight comedy shows. “I have an enormous amount of respect for both Brian and Lew and so I’m really looking forward to working with both of them and sharing their talents with Dayton audiences,” beams **Perry**. “I’m getting nostalgic, but it’s just magical that all these years later we are working on Lew’s play in Dayton at The Human Race.” The director wants to let everyone in on one pleasant surprise, “You may not see it from his performances on *The Daily Show*, but Lew has a big heart. So naturally, *One Slight Hitch* is a funny, smart play with a big heart.”

#### CAST AND DESIGN TEAM

**Perry** has assembled a seven-member cast, most of whom will be new to Loft Theatre audiences. New York City actor and playwright **Brian Dykstra** (*Lucky Guy* on Broadway, *The Body Politic* and *Call Me Waldo* Off-Broadway, *All the Way* at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis) is the harried father of the bride, “Doc.” **Rita Rehn** (*Nine* on Broadway, *Last Dance* and *Defiance* Off-Broadway) plays his wife, “Delia.” **Alex Curtis** (*The Grapes of Wrath* at Trinity Rep and *Yellowjackets* at Berkeley Rep) is “Ryan,” the ex-boyfriend with the worst timing. New York-based actress **Dana Berger** (*Elementary* on CBS, *Seminar* at Kitchen Theatre Company) is the bride, “Courtney,” and the oldest of three daughters. Cincinnati native **Alex Sunderhaus** (HRTC’s *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* at the Victoria Theatre and *August: Osage County*, HRTC’s collaboration with Wright State University) plays middle sister “Melanie.” Centerville High School junior **Cecily Dowd** (Muse Machine’s *Mary Poppins*) is teenage daughter “PB.” Cincinnati Conservatory of Music alum **Kyle Nunn** (HRTC’s *Miracle on South Division Street*) returns for his second comedy at The Loft as Courtney’s fiancé, “Harper,” a role for which he was hand-selected by **Lewis Black** himself.

Dayton area artist **Ray Zupp** takes his first turn as scenic designer at The Human Race, having created sets for a number of regional performing arts organizations. *One Slight Hitch* marks frequent Human Race costume designer **Janet G. Powell**'s twelfth production at The Loft. Resident Artist **John Rensel** is the lighting designer. **Todd Mack Reischman** (HRTC's *Seussical, Big River*), resident sound designer at Indiana Repertory Theatre, serves as the sound designer. **Kay Carver** is the production stage manager.

Biographies on the cast and creative team can be found on The Human Race Theatre Company's website.

The Human Race Theatre Company's production of *One Slight Hitch* is sponsored by India and John Clarke and the Theda and Tamblin Clark-Smith Family Foundation, Doug Annala and Sam Rinehart, Heidelberg Distributing Company, Burhill Leasing Corporation and Matthew J. Scarr, CPA LLC.

### **PERFORMANCE AND SPECIAL EVENT INFORMATION**

Tickets for the preview performance of *One Slight Hitch* on April 7 start at \$35 for adults, \$32 for seniors and \$17.50 for students. For all performances April 8 – 24, single ticket prices start at \$40 for adults, \$37 for seniors and \$20 for students. Prices vary depending on the day of the week and seating location. Group discounts are available for parties of 10 or more. The Human Race is offering a pair of discount ticket opportunities. Side-area seats are available at all performances for \$25 each, on sale two weeks prior to performance. The Sunday, April 10 7:00 p.m. performance is "Sawbuck Sunday", when any available seat can be purchased in person for just \$10 at The Loft Theatre box office two hours prior to the show. Discounts are subject to availability and some restrictions apply.

All performances are at the Metropolitan Art Center's Loft Theatre, located at 126 North Main Street in downtown Dayton, Ohio. Show times for *One Slight Hitch* are 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday through Saturday evenings. Performances on Sunday and Tuesday evenings begin at 7:00 p.m. and at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday matinees.

**Tickets and performance information on *One Slight Hitch* are available at [www.humanracetheatre.org](http://www.humanracetheatre.org) or by calling Ticket Center Stage at (937) 228-3630, and at the Schuster Center box office.**

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*The Human Race Theatre Company was founded in 1986 and moved into the Metropolitan Arts Center in 1991, taking up residence at the 212-seat Loft Theatre. In addition to the Eichelberger Loft Season, The Human Race produces a summer Festival of New Works and special event programming. Under the direction of President and Artistic Director Kevin Moore, the company also maintains education and outreach programs for children, teens and adults, as well as artist residencies in area schools, the Muse Machine In-School Tour, and a summer youth program. Human Race organizational support is provided by Culture Works, the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District, the Shubert Foundation, the Erma R. Catterton Trust Fund, the Jesse &*

*Caryl Philips Foundation, the Virginia W. Kettering Foundation and the Ohio Arts Council, which helped fund this organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The 2015-2016 Sustainability Sponsors are the ELM Foundation, Anne F. Johnson and Steve and Lou Mason. The 2015-2016 Loft season sponsor is the Jack W. and Sally D. Eichelberger Foundation of the Dayton Foundation, with additional support from Premier Health and Morris Home Furnishings.*

**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

The Human Race Theatre Company presents

***One Slight Hitch***

by Lewis Black

directed by Margaret Perry

April 7 – 24, 2016

Performed at The Loft Theatre

Metropolitan Arts Center

126 North Main Street (between First and Second streets)

Dayton, Ohio 45402

Life in suburban Cincinnati is good for Doc and Delia Coleman on the morning they're about to throw their eldest daughter the perfect wedding they never had, that is until her vagabond ex-boyfriend arrives on their doorstep and turns their best laid plans into total chaos. The result is a zany, door-slamming comedy about stressed-out parents, less-than-helpful siblings and interruptions galore from the mind of comedian Lewis Black. Will their daughter make it down the aisle or will the day end up a perfect disaster?

**For tickets:**

Ticket Center Stage box office phone: (937) 228-3630

Box office hours: Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; and two hours prior to each performance

Online: [www.humanracetheatre.org](http://www.humanracetheatre.org) or [www.ticketcenterstage.com](http://www.ticketcenterstage.com)

**Ticket prices start at:** \$35 – \$50 for adults, \$32 – \$46 for seniors and \$17.50 – \$25.00 for students. Prices vary depending on performance date.

**Discounts:** Select side-area seats available for \$25 at all performances; “Sawbuck Sunday” April 10 at 7:00 p.m. – \$10 seats available for walk up sales only

**Group sales:** Contact Betty Gould at (937) 461-8295 or [Betty.Gould@victoriatheatre.com](mailto:Betty.Gould@victoriatheatre.com)

***One Slight Hitch* performance dates:**

Wednesday, April 6 8:00 p.m. Pay-What-You-CAN open rehearsal

Thursday, April 7 8:00 p.m. “Inside Track” pre-show discussion/Preview performance

Friday, April 8 8:00 p.m. Opening night with post-show party at Uno Pizzeria & Grill

Saturday, April 9 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 10 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 10 7:00 p.m. “Sawbuck Sunday” – \$10 tickets at the door

Tuesday, April 12 7:00 p.m. Lite Fare at The Loft pre-show lobby dining

Wednesday, April 13 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 14 8:00 p.m.

Friday, April 15 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 16 8:00 p.m. Audio Described/Sign Interpreted performance (reserve by April 1)

Sunday, April 17 2:00 p.m. “While We’re on the Subject” post-show talk-back

Tuesday, April 19 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 20 8:00 p.m.  
Thursday, April 21 8:00 p.m.  
Friday, April 22 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, April 23 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday, April 24 2:00 p.m. Closing performance