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July 18, 2017

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THE HUMAN RACE THEATRE COMPANY TO PRESENT *ERMA BOMBECK: AT WIT'S END*, APRIL 19 – MAY 13, 2018

(Dayton, OH) —The Human Race Theatre Company (HRTC) announces a special spring 2018 production of **Allison Engel** and **Margaret Engel**'s *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* in the 54-seat performance space at its Caryl D. Philips Creativity Center. Dayton's own Erma Bombeck takes center stage in this touching one-woman comedy titled after her long-running newspaper column and directed by **Heather N. Powell**. Human Race Resident Artist **Jennifer Joplin** stars as the literary icon whose candid commentary on life as a woman, spouse and mother made her the champion of suburban housewives everywhere and her newspaper columns a mainstay on kitchen refrigerators for over thirty years. Full of personal anecdotes and sprinkled with plenty of Bombeck's famous one-liners, it's a charming biography that proves "if you can't make it better, you can laugh at it."

"I'm thrilled this funny and poignant play is coming to Dayton, Erma's hometown," said **Teri Rizvi**, founder and director of the Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop at the University of Dayton. "Her wit and wisdom have stood the test of time — and remind us that the foibles of family life will always make us laugh."

Special preview performances of *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* for the Bombeck Writers' Workshop are Thursday, April 19 – Sunday, April 22. The public preview performance is Thursday, April 26. Opening night is Friday, April 27.

Director **Powell** helmed HRTC's 2015 production of *Steel Magnolias* at the Loft Theatre, as well as the company's touring productions of *Change* and *A Dickens of a Time*. **Joplin** is a Wright State University graduate who has appeared in dozens of productions at HRTC and throughout Cincinnati.

PERFORMANCE AND SPECIAL EVENT INFORMATION

Tickets for the April 26 – May 13 performances of *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* are currently only available to 2017-2018 Eichelberger Loft Season subscribers and will go on sale to the general public for \$25 starting November 21. Seating is general admission.

All performances are in The Human Race's Caryl D. Philips Creativity Center, located at 116 North Jefferson Street, 2nd floor, in downtown Dayton, Ohio. Show times for *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* are 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons.

More information on *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* is available at www.humanracetheatre.org.

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2017-2018 marks the 31st season for The Human Race Theatre Company, "Dayton's Official Professional Theatre Company." Founded in 1986, The Human Race moved into the Metropolitan Arts Center in 1991, taking up residence in its current home, the 212-seat Loft Theatre. In addition to the Eichelberger Loft Season, The Human Race produces new works development 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 and a summer youth program. Human Race organizational support is provided by the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District, Culture Works, 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 2017-2018 Sustainability Sponsors are the ELM Foundation, Anne F. Johnson, Steve and Lou Mason, and Morris Home. The 2017-2018 Loft season sponsor is the Jack W. and Sally D. Eichelberger Foundation of the Dayton Foundation, with additional support from Premier Health.