



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EPIC ONLINE GAMERS BECOME HEROES IN THE HUMAN RACE THEATRE COMPANY'S STAGED READING OF *LEGENDALE*

New musical gets two-week workshop and reading, December 18, 2016 at the Loft Theatre before 2017 world premiere in Denmark.

(Dayton, OH) —This December, The Human Race Theatre Company continues its commitment to the development of new works with a two-week workshop and staged reading of *Legendale* as part of its Musical Theatre Workshops program. With music from **Andrea Daly**, book and lyrics by **Jeff Bienstock** from a story by **Bienstock** and **Daly**, *Legendale* is an original, contemporary comedy musical about the power of fantasy. Andy's favorite way to escape his miserable job and humdrum life is the online game "Legendale." He dreams of victory in the game's tournament, but is stuck competing as a lowly milkmaid. When the online world suddenly becomes very real, Andy and his avatar must both discover their inner warrior. *Legendale* blends romance, adventure and virtual reality, over a pop-infused score. **John Simpkins** is directing.

The December 18 staged reading takes place in the Loft Theatre at 3:00 p.m. An audience talkback with the writers follows the reading. Advance tickets to the reading are \$18 and are on sale now through Ticket Center Stage. Seating is general admission.

Daly and **Bienstock** began work on *Legendale* in 2013. That same year, they participated in a two-week residency at Goodspeed Musical's Writers Colony in East Haddam, Connecticut where an informal reading of the first act took place a year later. The show's first full-length reading was presented in New York City in November 2014. It has since been read as official selections at the 27th Annual National Alliance for Musical Theatre Festival of New Musical in 2015, the 2016 ASCAP/Dreamworks Workshop at The Wallis in Los Angeles and the 2016 ASCAP Foundation Musical Theatre Workshop in New York City. The Human Race's workshop and reading will serve as the creative team's final opportunity to fine tune the musical before its March 2017 world premiere at Fredericia Teater in Denmark. Select songs from *Legendale* are available for streaming at the National Alliance for Musical Theatre's website: www.namt.org/musicals/legendale.

"I'm so excited to bring *Legendale* to The Human Race for this workshop and reading," says President & Artistic Director Kevin Moore. "I've been enamored with it since I saw parts of it at the NAMT Festival of New Musicals last year." Having overseen the development of dozens of

new musicals at The Human Race, Moore sees *Legendale* as very special. “This is a unique kind of musical.” He explains, “It blends this virtual, online fantasy universe of characters with their real world counterparts. Each impacts the other and are equally important to a story about empowerment that is epic and intimate at the same time.” Moore views *Legendale* as the kind of work that will appeal to traditional musical lovers as well as a new audience of fans of online gamers and fantasy role playing. “There truly is something in it for everyone.”

The Creative Team

Andrea Daly (music, story) is a composer, songwriter and singer based in Brooklyn. Her multi-genre output spans pop, theatre and classical, with influences ranging from Regina Spektor to Stephen Schwartz to Aaron Copland. A Michigan native, Daly received her PhD in Composition from Stony Brook University in NY, where she was honored with the prestigious five-year Graduate Council Fellowship, the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and The Ackerman Award for Excellence in Music. Andrea is an alumna of both the Goodspeed Musicals Writers Colony in Connecticut and the Mercer Songwriters Project in Chicago. She has a publishing contract with Warner/Chappell Music.

Jeff Bienstock (book and lyrics, story) was born in Santa Monica, California and has a Masters in Composition from NYU. His first musical, *The Morning After/The Night Before*, was produced in the 2010 New York Fringe Festival and won an award for Outstanding Music and Lyrics. In 2012, Jeff received a Sloan Foundation Grant to co-create *The Bone Wars* for the Ensemble Studio Theatre. Jeff participated in the Johnny Mercer Songwriters Project, where he met future collaborator Andrea Daly. He is an alumnus of the BMI Musical Theatre workshop and his work has been performed at the Laurie Beechman, Ars Nova and elsewhere.

John Simpkins (director) is the artistic director of Sharon Playhouse in Sharon, Connecticut and Head of Musical Theater at The Pennsylvania State University. He directed the three-time Drama Desk nominated Off-Broadway production of *Bloodsong of Love: The Rock and Roll Spaghetti Western* as well as Off-Broadway productions of *The Bus*, *ReWrite*, *The Plant That Ate Dirty Socks*, *Things to Ruin* (which he co-conceived) and *The Black Suits*. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Miami University and a Master of Arts from New York University.

Resident Artist Scot Woolley serves as musical director. The cast includes Resident Artists Jamie Cordes, Scott Hunt, Katie Pees and Scott Stoney, and Leslie Goddard, Colin Hodgkin, Nathan Pecchia and Cody Westbrook. Kay Carver is the stage manager.

The workshop and reading of *Legendale* is sponsored by the Jesse and Caryl Philips Foundation, the New Works Fund and The Producers’ Circle.

Tickets and performance information on the *Legendale* reading are available at www.humanracetheatre.org/works/new-play-readings or by calling Ticket Center Stage at (937) 228-3630, and at the Schuster Center box office.

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Now celebrating its 30th anniversary, 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 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, an 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 2016-2017 Sustainability Sponsors are the ELM Foundation, Anne F. Johnson, Steve and Lou Mason, and Morris Home Furnishings. The 2016-2017 Loft season sponsor is the Jack W. and Sally D. Eichelberger Foundation of the Dayton Foundation, with additional support from Premier Health.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

The Human Race Theatre Company presents

A staged reading of *Legendale*

music by Andrea Daly

book and lyrics by Jeff Bienstock

story by Bienstock and Daly

directed by John Simpkins

December 18, 2016

3:00 p.m.

Performed at the Loft Theatre

Metropolitan Arts Center

126 North Main Street (between First and Second streets)

Dayton, Ohio 45402

Andy's favorite way to escape his miserable job and humdrum life is the online game "Legendale." He dreams of victory in the game's tournament, but is stuck competing as a lowly milkmaid. When the online world suddenly becomes very real, Andy and his avatar must both discover their inner warrior. *Legendale* blends romance, adventure and virtual reality, over a pop-infused score.

For tickets:

Ticket Center Stage box office phone: (937) 228-3630 or (888) 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 or www.ticketcenterstage.com

Ticket prices: \$18 in advance; \$24 at the door (general admission)