

# Inside the Race

Spring/Summer 2007

The Human Race Theatre Company

## WORLD PREMIERE LEADS OFF BIG 2007-08 SEASON

*New Stephen Schwartz Musical to Debut in Dayton*

The 2007-2008 Loft Series begins with a huge coup for Dayton – The World Premiere from one of the foremost composers in all of musical theatre, Stephen Schwartz. The composer of such mega-hits as *Wicked*, *Children of Eden*, *Godspell* and *Pippin* has created the music and lyrics for *SNAPSHOTS*. The book by David Stern is about a couple who, on the verge of separation, discover an attic scrapbook that takes them back over the 30 years of their relationship and leads them to rediscover themselves and each other. The score features some songs from Schwartz' big hits, some new songs, and some that put new lyrics to old tunes. The Loft Theatre will be one of three in the country to participate in a simultaneous World Premiere.

*SNAPSHOTS* sets off a big year in The Loft. An off-Broadway hit for noted author Cormac McCarthy (*All the Pretty Horses*), *THE SUNSET LIMITED* is next, part of Loft Series 2. *THE SUNSET LIMITED* begins when a professor throws himself in front of the title train, but is pulled out of harm's way by an ex-convict. The faith-driven rescuer brings the skeptical professor home, where they engage in a discussion of truth, fiction, and belief, seeking answers to age-old questions and finding that all is not black and white.

Thought levels go from the sublime to the ridiculous, as The Loft Series 1 presents *A TUNA CHRISTMAS*, a holiday romp as two actors portray 22 citizens of Tuna, the second smallest town in Texas, accompanied by some of the strangest Christmas trees ever concocted. The guffaws and knee-slappers run rampant in this production, which The Human Race Theatre produced in 1997 and which will be re-conceived for this new run during the holidays.

*continued on page 2*

## HOW TO GET SEATS FOR 2007-08

- 1 Call Ticket Center Stage (937) 228-3630 (new/renew)
  - 2 Call Ticket Center Stage (888) 228-3630 (new/renew)
  - 3 Go to [www.ticketcenterstage.com](http://www.ticketcenterstage.com) (new/renew)
  - 4 Send in subscription renewal form (renew by April 16)
- Or Wait for Individual Show Tickets This Summer

## 2007-2008 SEASON SCHEDULE

### SNAPSHOTS

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

Book by David Stern

September 20 – October 7, 2007

Series 1 and 2

### THE SUNSET LIMITED

By Cormac McCarthy

October 25 – November 11, 2007

Series 2

### A TUNA CHRISTMAS

By Jaston Williams, Joe Sears and Ed Howard

December 6 – December 22, 2007

Series 1

### ROMEO AND JULIET

By William Shakespeare

January 31 – February 17, 2008

Series 2

### RABBIT HOLE

By David Lindsay-Abaire

March 13 – March 30, 2008

Series 1

continued from page 1

Next, it's back to the sublime and back to Loft Series 2, as the greatest love story of all time warms up the winter chill. Shakespeare's *ROMEO AND JULIET* will be directed by Brian Crowe, who received accolades for his direction of *The Tempest* at The Loft last year. Juliet will be on the balcony, the Montagues and Capulets will be fighting in the streets, and Romeo will be checking for light breaking through yonder window in time for Valentine's Day.

The season wraps up with the Series 1 presentation of *RABBIT HOLE*, comedic playwright David Lindsey-Abaire's powerful move to drama. *RABBIT HOLE*'s off-Broadway production reaped five 2006 Tony nominations and was praised for its ability to find hope as a family struggles to cope with the accidental death of a child.

With a schedule like that, it's a good idea to make sure you get a great seat with a season subscription.

## TWO GREAT SHOWS LEFT FOR 2006-07

### Painting Churches

The Churches of *Painting Churches*, the next presentation of The Human Race, have neither steeples nor naves, and they're in the process of abandoning their sanctuary. Tina Howe's play tells the tale not of a Church, but the Churches, a family in flux. Gardner Church, a famous poet, is struggling to maintain his memory as daughter Mags, a rising artist, arrives to help her parents move out of their home and, she hopes, to finally get a chance to paint a family portrait. The result is comic, dramatic, touching, heartbreaking and heartwarming...what *Time* called "a radiant, loving and zestfully humorous play."

*Painting Churches* will be directed by Margaret Perry, who last was at the helm in The Loft for *The Retreat from Moscow* in 2005. Gardner will be played by Evan Thompson, who won a Guest Artist DayTony for his performance in The Human Race's 2005 production of *Copenhagen*. Jessma Evans of New York, who will play Mags, is a newcomer to the Dayton stage. Also new to Dayton is Kathleen Butler, who will appear as Gardner's wife and Mags' mother, Fanny – new to Dayton but not to the stage. Butler's career began right out of college in 1962 and she has appeared in dozens of plays, movies (notably *A League of Their Own*, as the elder Kit), and TV shows since, despite a 17-year hiatus to raise her own daughters.

"I seldom go out of town," says the New York resident, "unless it's something I really want to do." Butler says she told her agent to let her read the play before she decided to audition, and she immediately wanted to be in it. One of the highlights of Butler's career is a long-standing professional relationship with famed playwright Edward Albee, so she really knows writing, and of Howe she says, "Boy, can she write!... I think it will really resonate with audiences."



***PAINTING CHURCHES*** cast (l to r)  
Kathleen Butler (Fanny)  
Jessma Evans (Mags)  
Evan Thompson (Gardner)

### Take Me Out

The title of Richard Greenberg's 2003 Tony-winning drama takes on many meanings in this tale of baseball and the men who play it, which will be coming to The Loft as a special add-on presentation June 14-24.

It's not a big deal to New York Empire's star centerfielder Darren Lemming when he matter-of-factly announces he's gay – he'd much rather play baseball than deal with sex. It is a big deal to some of his teammates and friends, though, especially a rookie pitcher who could already barely cope with working with men of other races and nationalities. What ensues is searing drama, brilliantly written and full of surprise twists. On the way, the play delves into what the game is, or should be, all about – including an exhortation on baseball and democracy that elevates both beyond their already high standing.

*Take Me Out* is not a series production – which means the best seats are available for many shows. Be aware, though, that while *Take Me Out* will be loved by baseball fans, it contains strong language and male nudity, and isn't appropriate for anyone under the age of 17.

The cast for The Human Race production of *Take Me Out* hasn't been selected yet – but you can be assured it will continue the same high standards of artistic quality you've come to expect from The Race.

# THE HUMAN RACE IS COMING OF AGE

COME HELP US CELEBRATE

April 28 is The Human Race Theatre Company's 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday – 21 Years Since *Count Dracula* flew in from Transylvania to get the Dayton theatre community's blood flowing – and we're going to be celebrating from morning 'til night. Put on your running shoes, and then your dancing shoes, and come join in!!



Boogie oogie oogie

And all that

Relive the memories at the Ponitz Center's Great Hall at Sinclair Community College beginning at 7pm on April 28 and continuing on into the night!

We'll have your favorite libations (it's okay, we'll be 21 then), delicious food, music for dancing through the decades, a piano lounge, live performances of any and all kinds, even a silent auction loaded with goodies.

The dress for this great gathering will be "theatre chic," and if you don't know what that means, that's okay, because neither does anyone else – so go with what moves you, as long as it's fun and festive and you don't forget your dancing shoes.

If you'd like more information on all that's in store, check [www.humanracetheatre.org](http://www.humanracetheatre.org) and click the Mirror Ball link. There's a link to an invitation waiting for you there. If you've got questions about the fun and festivities, just give us a call at (937) 461-3823.

Join the Race!



Start the big day in your running shoes, ready to zip around the scenic course, beginning and ending at RiverScape.

We've moved up our annual 5K Run/Walk to our birthday, so make sure you have enough energy left for all that boogie oogie oogie stuff at the Mirror Ball that night.

Just for taking part, you'll get a T-shirt, goodie bag, theatre tickets, and refreshments. And if you're feeling not merely an urge to participate, but to compete, there are medals awarded, with dozens of chances to win, in age groups from 10 and under to 65 and older.

You may register early at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) or by downloading and mailing the form at [www.humanracetheatre.org](http://www.humanracetheatre.org) and save a few bucks - \$15 for adults, \$10 for 17 and under. Or register race day from 7:30-8:30am at The Loft, 126 North Main Street, \$20 adults, \$15 17 and under.

Call Tara Lail at 461-3823, ext. 3113 with questions...and remember – running shoes in the morning, dancing shoes at night.

## ENCORE!

Your precious gift

- Phone call to The Dayton Foundation to investigate your options...\$0.00
- Call to insurance agent to update beneficiaries...\$0.00
- Discussing a new provision in your will with your attorney...okay, not \$0.00, but always a pleasant chat
- Your legacy gift, no matter how big or small, to ensure the future of The Human Race...**PRICELESS**

Contact Karen Callahan at 461-3823, ext. 3114 for more information on our legacy program, and learn how easily you can become a member of our Encore Society, a group of loyal patrons committed to supporting our efforts into the future through their planned gifts.

**THE HUMAN RACE THEATRE COMPANY**  
**126 N. Main St., Suite 300**  
**Dayton, OH 45402**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## AUDITION WORKSHOP

New York Film Academy Acting, Voice/Speech, Movement and Audition Technique teacher Glenn Kalison – Mitch in *The Human Race* production of *Tuesdays with Morrie*, which is coming to the Victoria Theatre in May - will hold Audition Workshops for teens 16+ and adults Mondays May 7 & 14 from 6-8pm. Fee for both sessions is \$50.00. Contact Marilyn Klaben at [mlk131@aol.com](mailto:mlk131@aol.com) or 461-3823 ext. 3132 to sign up. Space is limited, so do so soon!

## BROADWAY BIRTHDAY BASH

Celebrate your child's birthday at The Human Race!

Broadway Birthday Bash is a chance for children ages 4-8 to sing, dance and play theatre games with their friends – AND create a Broadway show!

Contact Katie Pees at 461-3823, ext. 3116 for more information.

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