### PRESS MATERIALS

**SPOTLIGHT EDUCATION**

A program of Hennepin Theatre Trust

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**[SCHOOL NAME] IS RECOGNIZED FOR MUSICAL THEATRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY HENNEPIN THEATRE TRUST’S SPOTLIGHT EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**Students will perform in the *Spotlight Showcase* in June at the State Theatre in Minneapolis**



**[CITY], MINNESOTA**—**[NAME OF SCHOOL]’s** production of *[PRODUCTION NAME]*was recognized for its accomplishments in musical theatre by **Hennepin Theatre Trust** as a participant in the Spotlight Education program. As the Trust’s premier education program, Spotlight Education supports and honors Minnesota high school students and programs focused on musical theatre. Laura Osnes, a Minnesota native, Broadway performer and former Spotlight Education participant, is the program’s 2017-2018 spokesperson.

**[NAME OF SCHOOL]** presented **[NAME OF MUSICAL, DATE OF MUSICAL]** and is receiving the following honor(s) for its achievements:

**[LIST OF HONORS BY CATEGORY AND/OR NAME OF STUDENT]**

High schools throughout Minnesota submit their fall or spring musical for production assessment by theatre professionals and educators on behalf of the Trust. These critiques provide detailed educational feedback for the students and directors in categories ranging from overall production to individual performances.

Spotlight Education provides valuable experiences for nearly 6,000 students in 93 schools throughout the state. These activities help foster essential life skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, problem-solving and self-expression, which students carry into their adult lives.

Through Spotlight Education, participating students receive professional training and guidance to enhance their artistic, technical and performing skills. This wide-ranging program has four key components:

* **Masterclasses** offer an array of training from local theatre professionals and Broadway performers.
* **Critical Review** teaches students all aspects of musical theatre so that they are able to write professional theatre and performance reviews.
* **Production assessments** connect high schools with theatre professionals and educators who offer feedback and guidance on the schools’ musical theatre productions throughout the year.
* ***Spotlight Showcase***, the culmination of the year-long program, invites all participating high schools to take center stage and perform before live audiences in one of the Trust’s historic theatres.

### The 13th annual ***Spotlight Showcase,*** takes place June 11-12, 2018 at the historic State Theatre (805 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis). Professionally produced, ithonors the hard work and talents of the state’s finest musical theatre students and programs with live performances. Students will rehearse with professional choreographers, musical directors and technicians.

### Four students will also be recognized for outstanding performance with the Spotlight Education Triple Threat Broadway Experience, presented by Sun Country Airlines, which represents excellence in dancing, singing and acting, as well as community leadership. The Triple Threat Broadway Experience is an all-expenses paid trip to New York City to meet with industry professionals, participate in workshops and attend Broadway shows.

Tickets for ***Spotlight Showcase*** will go on sale later this year.

For a complete list of participating schools and honors, please visit [HennepinTheatreTrust.org](http://www.hennepintheatretrust.org/spotlight-education)

*Spotlight Showcase* is made possible by Slumberland Furniture.

The Spotlight Education Triple Threat Broadway Experience is presented by Sun Country Airlines.

Follow Spotlight Education at:

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**HENNEPIN THEATRE TRUST** is a nonprofit organization that creates positive change through the arts by bringing together people, businesses and organizations in WeDo™, the West Downtown MPLS Cultural District. We serve the community through our historic theatres – the Orpheum, State and Pantages – and our unique arts, culture and education programs. Learn more at [HennepinTheatreTrust.org](http://www.hennepintheatretrust.org/).

**SLUMBERLAND FURNITURE** Founded in 1967 in Richfield, Minnesota, Slumberland began as a mattress specialty shop with products and prices designed to make people comfortable. Today, Slumberland Furniture offers living, dining and bedroom furniture from some of America’s top brands, in more than 125 stores across 12 states. Slumberland is committed to improving the life of each customer through community giving, a positive shopping experience, and affordable furniture options that make a house a home.

**SUN COUNTRY AIRLINES** is a Minneapolis/St. Paul- based commercial airline known for low fares, friendly service and an easy, convenient Terminal 2 experience at MSP International Airport. As Minnesota’s Hometown Airline, Sun Country caters to the frequent and infrequent traveler with a flexible loyalty program, Ufly Rewards, and with service to popular destinations across the U.S., Central America and the Caribbean. Members of Sun Country’s Ufly Rewards program can earn and redeem points on all Sun Country travel including flights, vacation packages, First Class upgrades, preferred seat selection and much more. Learn more at [suncountry.com](http://www.hennepintheatretrust.org/).

The *Spotlight Education* program is funded, in part, by the Minnesota State Arts Board through the arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

