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MONTANA REPERTORY THEATRE
 PROFESSIONAL THEATRE-IN-RESIDENCE • UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

PRESS PACK

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH
2017 TOUR

Raised in the Saddle

The Phantasmagorical Journey of a Future Rodeo Queen

BY JAY KETTERING



PRESS PACK CONTENTS:

Below is a list of what is included in this press pack and suggestions on what to do with this material. **Please remember that media agencies need to receive materials as far in advance as possible.**

Press Release: Please give these to your local newspapers as a starting point for a print story on the production. You may enhance these in any way you feel is appropriate. These could also be used for newsletters, TV community calendars, etc.

Press photos: See website: <http://montanarep.org/raised-in-the-saddle-2017/>

30-second radio ad copy: (Includes 10-second tag time at the end for local information)
If you would like a pre-recorded radio spot MP3, contact Teresa two weeks in advance. If you have no funding to purchase radio ads, try asking a local business to donate some of their yearly radio contract to your agency or school.

Copy for a 15-second PSA: If you are not fortunate enough to run radio ads, you can always get your local radio and TV stations to run short **free** PSAs for you. You need to fill in the blanks, of course, with your local information.

Posters: The poster artwork is available for you to download. Make as many copies as you need. There is white space at the bottom on which to add in local information.

Company bios and general information about Montana Rep: This is not only to acquaint you with the cast/crew before their arrival, but also to give you extra information for any longer news articles or interviews.

Programs: (for your performance's audience members) These will arrive with the Stage Manager the day of the show. Programs will not be handed out at in-school performances.



MONTANA REP is funded in part by grants from the Montana Arts Council (an agency of state government), The Dramatists Guild, and The Shubert Foundation, with support from the Montana State Legislature, the University of Montana, the Montana Cultural Trust, NorthWestern Energy, Dr. Cathy Capps, Dr. Sandy Sheppard, Jay Kettering & Gwen McKenna, and Jean Morrison.

Raised in the Saddle



PRESS RELEASE:

PAGE 1 OF 2

Tickets are now on sale for *Raised in the Saddle!*

The University of Montana's Montana Repertory Theatre proudly presents its Fall Educational Outreach Tour of ***Raised In The Saddle*** by Jay Kettering. Told in under 55 minutes, this comedy rolls across the Big Sky state via steam locomotive, following teenage cowgirl Alice Greenough as she encounters a who's-who list of famous Montanans.

With a company of only two actors, the play features puppetry, shadow play, and theatrical effects.

Coming to _____ on _____ at _____.
CITY DAY and DATE LOCATION

It's the summer of 1919, and Alice Greenough, a teenage spitfire raised near Red Lodge, Montana, is on her way to her first rodeo competition in Forsyth. Her dad always kids that "she has more nerve than brains." Maybe that's because her idea of fun is riding buckin' broncs named Whirlwind, Lightning, and Bone Crusher. But before she even reaches her destination, this ride on the rails opens her mind to a bigger world than she ever imagined.

Alice, who wears her smile like her hat—big and wide—can't help talking to strangers on the train, whether it's a charming but ruthless copper king, a dedicated suffragette, or the yarn-spinning artist known as the Michelangelo of the West. A Helena ranch hand with movie-star looks turns her head, but it might be a scruffy powder monkey from the copper mines who steals her heart.

In the meantime, this bronc-buster who tames tornados doesn't flinch when a stick-up man holds a gun to her head, but the spooky predictions of a mysterious fortune-teller could rattle her to the bone.

Hear the whistle blowing?

Jay Kettering fell in love with theatrical writing the first time he heard an actor speak his words and understood that the words he had written no longer belonged to him. Surprisingly, it was a great feeling. Jay earned his BA in English/creative writing at the University of Montana in 1982 and is currently a working writer living in Missoula. *Raised in the Saddle* is his latest commissioned play for Montana Repertory Theatre's Educational Outreach; previous productions included *Writing Wild: The Adventures of Jack London* and *An Unladylike Battle for Survival in the Sunnyside Library*. Montana Public Radio produced Jay's radio comedy trilogy, *Notes from the Huntley Project*, the first episode of which, *My Dad and Pre-Socratic Thought*, won Best Audio Play at the 2016 Moondance International Film Festival. Jay's one-act play, *Flotsam, Jetsam and Bill*, premiered at the Theatre of Western Springs in suburban Chicago in 2015. Constant inspiration comes from his local writing group, the Zoola Writers. To help pay the bills, he drives for Uber, so give him a call and he'll give you a ride and tell you a story.

Raised in the Saddle



PRESS RELEASE: (continued)

PAGE 2 OF 2

Tickets are now on sale for *Raised in the Saddle!*

Established in 1967, Montana Repertory Theatre has become one of the most respected professional touring companies in the country today. Recent productions include the highly acclaimed *Barefoot in the Park*; *All My Sons*; *The Great Gatsby*; *To Kill a Mockingbird*; *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; *Doubt, a parable*; and *Biloxi Blues*. Montana Repertory Theatre has operated under the artistic direction of Greg Johnson, a member of the Performance & Practice faculty in the University of Montana's School of Theatre & Dance, for the past twenty-seven years.

Tickets for ***Raised in the Saddle*** are available at _____
OUTLET

or by calling _____ . Prices range from \$ _____ to \$ _____
PHONE

Performances are at _____ in _____
TIME / DAY / DATE PLACE

This Montana Repertory Theatre performance is sponsored by _____
SPONSOR

Montana Repertory Theatre is funded in part by grants from the Montana Arts Council (an agency of state government), The Dramatists Guild, and The Shubert Foundation, with support from the Montana State Legislature, the University of Montana, the Montana Cultural Trust, NorthWestern Energy, Dr. Cathy Capps, Dr. Sandy Sheppard, Jay Kettering & Gwen McKenna, and Jean Morrison.

(Add local funding information if desired).

Raised in the Saddle



RADIO COPY

If you would like a pre-recorded radio ad MP3, please let Teresa know two weeks in advance. (406) 243-2854 / teresa.waldorf@umontana.edu

30-SECOND RADIO SPOT:

(20 seconds of copy and 10 seconds of tag time at the end.)

The University of Montana's Montana Repertory Theatre proudly presents its Fall Educational Outreach Tour of ***Raised in the Saddle***. Written by playwright Jay Kettering, this funny and engaging comedy rolls across the Big Sky state via steam locomotive, following teenage cowgirl Alice Greenough as she encounters a who's-who list of famous Montanans.

TAG: Please add your local information at the end of this spot ... location, dates, times, and ticket information.

15-SECOND RADIO SPOT (PSA):

Don't miss Montana Repertory Theatre's Educational Outreach touring production of ***Raised in the Saddle***.

Told in under 55 minutes, this comedy rolls across the Big Sky state via steam locomotive, following teenage cowgirl Alice Greenough as she encounters a who's-who list of famous Montanans.

Playing at _____
LOCATION

on _____ at _____
DATE TIME

Call _____ for local ticket information.
PHONE

Sponsored by _____
SPONSOR'S NAME

MONTANA REP ... bringing you great theatre from the Heart of the Rockies.

Raised in the Saddle



MEET THE COMPANY

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

GREG JOHNSON has served as artistic director of Montana Rep since 1990. He brought with him a commitment to excellence developed during years of experience in the New York theatre, where he worked with the best directors, choreographers, actors, designers, and playwrights in the country. From Neil Simon and Gene Saks to Hugh Leonard, Elizabeth Ashley, Beth Henley, Christine Baranski, Andie MacDowell, Barnard Hughes, and Melvin Bernhardt, Greg has been privileged to work with the finest. He brings energy and expertise to every aspect of his involvement with Montana Rep.

Greg's Broadway credits include *Biloxi Blues*; *Crimes of the Heart*; *Is There Life After High School?*; *Da*; and *Hide and Seek*. National tours include the Broadway productions of *Steel Magnolias*, *Crimes of the Heart*, and *Biloxi Blues*. Greg spent nineteen years working in professional theatre in New York City as an actor, stage manager, and director before coming to Montana to head Montana Rep.

Since joining Montana Rep, Greg has directed *Broadway Bound*; *The Heidi Chronicles*; *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*; *Lend Me a Tenor*; *Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll*; *The Real Thing*; *Willi*; *The Voice of the Prairie*; and the national tours of *To Kill a Mockingbird*; *It's a Wonderful Life*; *Death of a Salesman*; *A Streetcar Named Desire*; *The Trip to Bountiful*; *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; *Leading Ladies*; *Doubt, a parable*; *Biloxi Blues*; *The Great Gatsby*; and *Barefoot in the Park*. In addition, he is responsible for development of the Missoula Colony: A Gathering of Artists in Support of the Writer's Craft at the University of Montana. Greg has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and, with the Rep, is a member of the Theatre Communications Group, a national network of regional theatres. He serves on the faculty of the University of Montana College of Visual and Performing Arts.

PLAYWRIGHT

JAY KETTERING fell in love with theatrical writing the first time he heard an actor speak his words and understood that the words he had written no longer belonged to him. Surprisingly, it was a great feeling. Jay earned his BA in English/creative writing at the University of Montana in 1982 and is currently a working writer living in Missoula. *Raised in the Saddle* is his latest commissioned play for Montana Repertory Theatre's Educational Outreach; previous productions included *Writing Wild: The Adventures of Jack London* and *An Unladylike Battle for Survival in the Sunnyside Library*. Montana Public Radio produced Jay's radio comedy trilogy, *Notes from the Huntley Project*, the first episode of which, *My Dad and Pre-Socratic Thought*, won Best Audio Play at the 2016 Moondance International Film Festival. Jay's one-act play, *Flotsam, Jetsam and Bill*, premiered at the Theatre of Western Springs in suburban Chicago in 2015. Constant inspiration comes from his local writing group, the Zoola Writers. To help pay the bills, he drives for Uber, so give him a call and he'll give you a ride and tell you a story.

DIRECTOR

After receiving his BA in Drama from the University of California: Irvine, **JOEL SHURA** worked in LA as an actor and professional improviser while performing with Orange County's premier clown troupe, Clownzilla. Wanting to pursue a career in education, he took the position of resident theatre director and acting instructor at a highly respected youth performing-arts school named SPACE in Ukiah, California. While there, he additionally worked as an adjunct faculty member at Mendocino College, teaching a wide array of theatre classes. Joel is currently working on his MFA in Directing at the University of Montana. Past notable directing credits include *Dracula*, *Legally Blonde*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, and *The Laramie Project*.

Raised in the Saddle



MEET THE COMPANY

TOUR ACTOR

ELIZABETH BENNETT is from McCall, Idaho. She is a recent BFA graduate from the University of Montana. She has toured twice nationally with Montana Repertory Theatre as the swing roles in *The Great Gatsby* and as Lydia Lubey in *All My Sons*. She appeared in her first Educational Outreach Tour in last year's *Brontë to the Future!* as Emily Brontë. She happily returns this year as Alice Greenough in *Raised in the Saddle*.

TOUR ACTOR

NATHAN SNOW is from Livingston, Montana, where he cultivated a love of theatre and the arts from a young age. A graduate of the University of Montana with a BFA in Acting, Nathan spent the summer of 2016 honing his comedic chops as a company member of the Brewery Follies in Virginia City, MT, before heading down to Memphis to work as a teaching artist and actor with Tennessee Shakespeare Company. His favorite recent roles include Conrad in *Stupid F@#\$ing Bird* with BetweenTheLines in Missoula, Mercutio in *The Romeo and Juliet Project* with Tennessee Shakespeare Company, and Johnny Cash in *Million Dollar Quartet* with Fort Peck Summer Theatre. Nathan is excited to share his love of theatre with his home state!

STAGE MANAGER

CAHILLANE SHINE joins Montana Rep's touring company for the second consecutive year, having previously company-managed the 2017 National Tour of *Barefoot in the Park* and played Sue Bayliss in the 2016 National Tour of *All My Sons*. She has been lucky enough to work with such regional theatres as Tennessee Shakespeare Co., Seattle Shakespeare Co., Shakespeare Walla Walla, Book-It Repertory, and Idaho Repertory. Cahillane is a Seattle, WA, native and a graduate of the University of Montana.

SCENIC DESIGNER/TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

KARL MITCHELL has been working for Montana Rep in multiple positions over the years, from carpenter to stage manager, for Montana Rep's Educational Outreach Tour. He is excited to be designing for the Educational Outreach Tour again, his first design being *ThePoeProject*. Karl has also worked as a theater technician for multiple theaters including Missoula Children's Theatre and the BayStreet Theater in Long Island, NY. He served as a technician who built and traveled with the United States exhibit for the 2011 Prague Quadrennial.

COSTUME DESIGNER

LINDA GUILLIS is enrolled in the UM School of Theatre & Dance Master of Fine Arts program with a concentration in Costume Design. She holds a BA in English Literature, cum laude, from the University of Southern California. She has recently completed a career in local government as the Community Development Director for a Southern California city of 200,000 and is happy to be able to re-invent herself and make Montana her home. Linda's recent UM production assignments include Assistant Costume Designer for *Dracula* (Fall 2016) and Costume Designer for *Noises Off* (Spring 2017). *Raised in the Saddle* is her second design for Montana Repertory Theatre's Educational Outreach Tour: she designed the costumes and puppets for last year's production of *Brontë to the Future!*

LIGHTING/AUDIO DESIGNER

ADAM WOOD was born and raised in Great Falls, Montana. He currently lives in Missoula but still has fond memories from Great Falls and its surrounding small towns. He is going into his third year in the UM BFA Theatre Design & Technology Program focusing in lighting and audio. He has worked as the master electrician for *Thinner Than Water* and designed lighting for pieces in *Dance Up Close*, *Dance in Concert*, and *Dance New Works*. He is very happy to work with Montana Repertory Theatre, especially on a show that hits themes of his Montana roots.

PROPERTIES

SADIE FRAMNESS is from Whitefish, Montana, and currently calls Missoula her home. She is going into her third year at the University of Montana as a BA theatre major, where she is focusing in stage management. This is her first time as a properties designer and her first time working for the Educational Outreach Tour with Montana Rep. At the University of Montana's School of Theatre & Dance, she recently assistant stage managed *Legally Blonde the Musical* and stage managed *Thinner Than Water*.

Raised in the Saddle



MONTANA REP ESTABLISHED IN 1967

MONTANA REPERTORY THEATRE was established as a professional touring company in 1967 to provide professional theatre to our own and neighboring Western states at an affordable cost. Montana Rep is one of the oldest and most respected touring companies in the country. Our mission is to tell the great stories of our world to enlighten, develop, and celebrate the human spirit in an ever-expanding community.

Montana Rep delivers a theatrical experience in its entirety, bringing with it everything from lighting to sound design. Completely self-contained, the Rep offers presenters large and small—in facilities ranging from new performing-arts centers to high-school gyms—the opportunity to enjoy first-class theatre.

Mainstage productions are supplemented by audience talkbacks, professional theatre workshops, and a one-hour performance suitable for high schools.

THE PROFESSIONAL ENSEMBLE

Montana Rep is pleased to showcase the talents of principal actors, directors, and designers with prestigious credits and awards from the worlds of Broadway, national and international tours, film, and television. The company operates under an agreement with Actors' Equity Association and the University/Resident Theatre Association.

Montana Rep has been touring nationally since 1996, when we presented our first production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Following that highly successful tour and building on its success were *It's a Wonderful Life*; *The Diary of Anne Frank*; *Death of a Salesman*; *A Streetcar Named Desire*; *Steel Magnolias*; *The Trip to Bountiful*; *Lost in Yonkers*; *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; *Leading Ladies*; *Bus Stop*; *Doubt, a parable*; *Biloxi Blues*; *The Miracle Worker*; *The Great Gatsby*; *All My Sons*; and *Barefoot in the Park*.

Montana Rep is proud to present the very best of the American theatre tradition, as we continue examining the heart of the American character through the medium of live theatre.

A COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

As the professional theatre-in-residence at the University of Montana, Montana Rep offers theatre students unique educational opportunities. UM is one of very few universities in the nation to house a professional touring company, and the only one that incorporates students and faculty into that company. Students touring with Montana Rep work alongside seasoned actors, directors, designers, and technical crew members, gaining experience that other academic programs cannot offer.

To learn more about our theatre seasons and academic programs, please visit these websites:

MONTANA REPERTORY THEATRE

www.montanarep.org

salina.chatlain@umontana.edu

SCHOOL OF THEATRE & DANCE

www.umt.edu/theatredance

umtheatredance@umontana.edu

COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

www.umt.edu/umarts

THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

www.umt.edu



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