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FOLKLORE
T H E A T R E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2009

Contact: M. Kaye Christman, Managing Director

(920) 854-6117

aft@folkloretheatre.com

American Folklore Theatre Announces 2009 Season

Summer Season to Feature ***Cheeseheads, the Musical; Sunsets & S'mores;*** and ***Muskie Love***

Critically acclaimed American Folklore Theatre in Door County has announced its 2009 summer season, which will run from June 17 until August 29. This summer, AFT's stage in the pines of Peninsula State Park will host three original shows: a world premiere musical (***Cheeseheads, the Musical***), a new birthday concert for Peninsula State Park (***Sunsets & S'mores***), and a revival of an AFT audience favorite (***Muskie Love***).

Cheeseheads, the Musical tells the story of—nope, not the Packers!—a group of workers at Schnaybel's Famous Cheese Factory in Sheboygan who buy lottery tickets to help take their minds off the difficulties they face at work. The factory's founder has passed away, and tough economic times have sparked rumors that the factory may be shut down. Life goes on for these lovable characters as they dream about the magic they could make with their lottery money if they won.

Cheeseheads was written by AFT's veteran team of Dave Hudson and Paul Libman, authors of ***A Cabin with a View, Muskie Love,*** and ***Main-Travelled Roads*** and winners of the prestigious Richard Rodgers Award for Musical Theatre. ***Cheeseheads, the Musical*** is a touching and joyful Wisconsin gouda luck fable, sure to delight families and fans of all ages. It will play on Mondays and Thursdays at 8 p.m., Wednesdays at 6 p.m., and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m.

Also this summer, the only thing better than singing songs with family and friends around the campfire will be singing campfire songs with the AFT family. Peninsula State Park turns 100 years old this year, and with ***Sunsets & S'mores***, AFT will help one of Door County's best-loved landmarks celebrate. Sparkling folksongs, amusing cast member reflections, hilarious camping tales, and a very funny song about a skunk encounter combine in

this summer-long birthday party.

Coauthored by Doc Heide and Lee Becker (authors of the blockbusters ***Belgians in Heaven*** and ***Packer Fans from Outer Space***) and new AFT music director Matt Zembrowski, ***Sunsets & S'mores*** will be sure to delight both old and new fans. ***Sunsets & S'mores*** will play on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 6 p.m.

Rounding out the season's lineup will be AFT fan favorite ***Muskie Love***, also coauthored by Dave Hudson and Paul Libman and previously seen on the AFT stage in 2005 and 2006. ***Muskie Love*** tells the tale of Ben and Bea, rival fishing guides who are both single—and intend to stay that way. Through the playful scheming of Bea's Uncle Roy (helped along by his daughter, Sarah, and her boyfriend, Claude), Ben and Bea are soon lured into a romantic trap. Despite their sworn hatred of each other, the couple find themselves inexplicably drawn together. Throw in a feckless Fish and Game Warden, DNR Doug, an ever-present Wisconsin love of the Packers, a few jokes from Roy, and a wonderful blend of tuneful songs, and you've got ***Muskie Love***, a sure crowd-pleaser. This laugh-a-minute fish tale is a comic, contemporary take on Shakespeare's ***Much Ado About Nothing***, set on the shores of Green Bay. ***Muskie Love*** will play on Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. and Fridays at 8 p.m.

This year's cast will feature AFT veterans Doug Mancheski, Lee Becker, Doc Heide, Jeff Herbst, Chase Stoeger, Molly Rhode, Emily Myre and Dan Klarer, as well as newcomers Music Director Matt Zembrowski and Door County folksinger Katie Dahl.

Tickets will cost \$18 for adults, \$8 for teens, and \$5 for children. All prices include sales tax. Tickets will go on sale April 15 in the AFT box office at the Green Gables shops in north Ephraim, via phone at (920) 854-6117, and online at www.FolkloreTheatre.com. All summer performances take place under the stars in the stunning amphitheatre at Peninsula State Park.

Audience members should also stay tuned for information about AFT's fall production of another world premiere, ***Guys & Does***, a deer hunting musical by Heide and Becker, which will play at Ephraim Village Hall from September 4 through October 24.

American Folklore Theatre is a non-profit professional theatre organization that produces original musical theatre in repertory from June through August. AFT continues its performances into the fall with shows in local town halls in September and October. American Folklore Theatre is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG) and Theatre Wisconsin, organizations that assist non-profit theatre groups.