

PRESS RELEASE



CACHE VALLEY  
**CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

Ellen Eccles Theatre • Bullen Center • Thatcher-Young Mansion

LOST IN YONKERS, ON THE ROAD AGAIN

# LOST IN YONKERS

---

“If Broadway ever erects a monument to the patron saint of laughter,  
Neil Simon would have to be it.”

- *Time Magazine*

-

“The best play Simon ever wrote.”

- *N.Y. Post*

LOGAN, UT- The Montana Repertory Theatre Company, one of the top touring theater companies for dramatic plays in the country, makes their way to the Ellen Eccles Theatre. The Montana Repertory Theatre Company returns to Logan touring the award-winning *Lost in Yonkers* on January 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Lost in Yonkers* was written by America’s best-loved playwright, Neil Simon. This acclaimed production has reached critical and popular success, winning Simon his first Pulitzer Prize. Many critics consider it to be his best work and the pinnacle of his career.

“It is a wonderful opportunity to have this professional company return to our stage and tell the story of *Lost in Yonkers*,” said Wally Bloss, executive director of the Cache Valley Center for the. “Neil Simon sheds light and a little laughter on some of the tough situations life tosses into the mix.”

The Montana Repertory Theatre Company was established as a professional touring company in 1967 to provide professional theatre to the neighboring Western states at an affordable cost. The Montana Rep is one of the oldest and most respected touring companies in the country. Since

1968 the Montana Repertory Theatre Company has been touring, assembling principal actors, directors, and designers with prestigious credits including Broadway, Off-Broadway, national tours of Broadway shows, and major regional theatre credits.

When Neil Simon's *Lost in Yonkers* won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1991 it marked a milestone in a career of milestones. With work spanning half a century, highlighted by more Academy Award and Tony nominations than any other writer and translations of his plays in dozens of languages, Mr. Simon is arguably the world's most successful playwright. Through over 30 Broadway productions, Simon has presented situations as compelling as they are hilarious and characters as human as they are heroic. Whether a Mississippi boot camp in *Biloxi Blues* or an Upper Westside apartment in *The Odd Couple*, Simon's gift is his ability to invite audiences into the most intimate of settings while making them feel right at home.

*Lost in Yonkers* exemplifies this tradition. Set above a candy store New York, *Yonkers* is the story of two young brothers who come to live with their strict German grandmother during World War II. While awaiting the return of their father, the boys wrestle to contain their fiery wit as a host of relatives (one more eccentric than the next) enter their lives. A mobster uncle, a love-sick childlike aunt, an overbearing, hard-as-steel grandmother; the boys find themselves nose to nose with a family as sweet and hard as the candy they peddle downstairs.

*Lost in Yonkers* is Simon at his best - riding the line between comedy and drama. It is a play about family. What holds them together? What pulls them apart? What are the inescapable bonds that bring children home after life has conspired to push them away? Questions which, in Simon's hands, become the center of a highly entertaining and moving evening of theatre. Though technically labeled a comedy, the play strikes a poignant balance between comedy and drama.

Montana Rep is excited to bring *Lost in Yonkers* to audiences as part of their 2007 national tour. In the tradition of the *Streetcar named Desire* in 2004 and the highly-successful *Steel Magnolias* in 2005, the Montana Repertory Theatre specializes in bringing new life to classics of the American Stage. It is their mission to tell the great stories, reawakening that which we thought we knew by bringing new vitality and vision to time-honored material.

*Lost in Yonkers* is directed by Kara-Lynn Vaeni. Ms. Vaeni is a recipient of both the Kaufmann Prize in Directing and a Presidential Public Service fellowship. She has served as the artistic director of the Yale Summer Cabaret and resident assistant director at the Eugene O'Neill Summer Playwrights Conference. Ms. Vaeni is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama.

Montana Rep is funded in part by a grant from the Montana Arts Council (an agency of state government) and the National Endowment for the Arts, with support from the Montana State Legislature, The University of Montana, and the Montana Cultural Trust. Funding for this program at the Cache Valley Center for the Arts is provided by ...

For more information on this concert featuring or other upcoming events, call (435)752-0026. Tickets for *Lost in Yonkers* are \$31, \$27, \$25, and \$19 and may be purchased online at [www.CenterForTheArts.us](http://www.CenterForTheArts.us) or at the CVCA Ticket Office Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The Center is found in historic downtown at 43 South Main in Logan, just 70 miles north of Salt Lake City.

The Ellen Eccles Theatre, Bullen Center and Thatcher-Young Mansion are owned by the City of Logan and managed by the Cache Valley Center for the Arts, a nonprofit organization that operates the performing arts complex.

---

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Amanda Castillo, Marketing Director

Cache Valley Center for the Arts

(435) 753-6518 Ext. 15

Email: [ACastillo@CenterForTheArts.us](mailto:ACastillo@CenterForTheArts.us)

Website: [www.CenterForTheArts.us](http://www.CenterForTheArts.us)