
606 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

www.lagunaplayhouse.com

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**THE LAGUNA PLAYHOUSE YOUTH THEATRE PRESENTS
THE WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL *LOOKING FOR HOME,*
*A STORY ABOUT THE ORPHAN TRAINS***

LAGUNA BEACH, CA, OCTOBER 20, 2011 - The Laguna Playhouse Youth Theatre is pleased to present the World Premiere musical *Looking for Home, A Story About the Orphan Trains*, a touching, musically rich entry written by Mary Murfitt, also author of the book by the same title, November 4 – 13 at the Laguna Playhouse.

Looking For Home is a new musical that examines the historical railroad transporting of orphaned children from the streets of New York City to the Great Plains. These "orphan trains" ran from 1856 to 1930 and it's estimated that over 200,000 children were relocated or "placed out" by the Children's Aid Society or similar organizations.

This World Premiere beautifully follows the true story of 11 year old Anna Hoffman and her siblings who were successfully "placed" in a small town in Kansas in 1923. This is a heartwarming story about courage and the healing powers that make a family...home.

Directed by Donna Inglima with music and lyrics also by Mary Murfitt, audiences will be thrilled by an educational and rich theatrical experience with musical direction set by Diane King Vann and choreography by K.C. Gussler.

Director Inglima offers, "It is a new traditional musical theatre piece with depth and characters that tell a real story about American history. It is an honor to bring Mary Murfitt's new musical to The Laguna Playhouse."

Performances are Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Single tickets are \$18 to \$20. The show is suitable for ages 5 and up. To purchase tickets, call (949) 497-2787, or visit www.LagunaPlayhouse.com.

ABOUT LAGUNA PLAYHOUSE

949-497-2787 ext. 1 (group tickets ext. 229)
www.lagunaplayhouse.com

Box Office Hours:

Tuesday – Sunday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(open until 8 pm on performance days)

Physical Address:

606 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Founded in 1920 and celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2011-2012, The Laguna Playhouse is one of the oldest continuously-operating theatres on the West Coast. In January 2011, The Laguna Playhouse was honored at the Laguna Spirit Awards and received The Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce Premiere Business of the Year award.

More than 100,000 theatergoers annually attend performances at the Laguna Playhouse. Its continued artistic excellence, audience popularity and critical acclaim have helped make The Playhouse one of Southern California's most important nonprofit theatre companies. The Playhouse has produced national tours of *The Belle of Amherst* (with Julie Harris) and *Copenhagen*, and has presented many world, national and regional premieres.

Over the years, the Laguna Playhouse has garnered numerous awards from LA Drama Critics Circle, NAACP, Backstage, OC Weekly, and many more, and was named Best Arts Organization by ArtsOC. Notable performers that have performed at The Laguna Playhouse include Bette Davis, Harrison Ford, Charles Durning, Marlo Thomas, Roddy McDowell, Rita Rudner, Cloris Leachman, and Sally Struthers.

The Laguna Playhouse is noted for its Youth Theater Education and Outreach programs. In 1989, its Youth Theater was recognized as "Outstanding Children's Theatre" by the American Alliance for Theatre and Education. The theater's touring production, TheatreReach, brings books to life on stage for elementary school children throughout southern California.

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