FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RANDAL MYLER AND DAN WHEETMAN BRING THE MUSIC FROM FAMED RECORDING STUDIOS TO LONE TREE WITH MUSCLE SHOALS: I’LL TAKE YOU THERE

LONE TREE, CO – The Lone Tree Arts Center Main Stage will be filled with music and stories behind the music when the world premiere of Muscle Shoals: I’ll Take You There comes to town February 1-12. Director Randal Myler, an LTAC favorite, spent weeks in that magical, musical part of Alabama with music director Dan Wheetman. Both had an all-access pass to the studios and session musicians that made songs like Wilson Pickett’s “Mustang Sally,” The Rolling Stones’ “Brown Sugar,” Aretha Franklin’s “I Never Loved A Man (The Way That I Love You),” Paul Simon’s “Kodachrome,” Bob Seger’s “Old Time Rock and Roll,” and The Staple Singers’ “I’ll Take You There,” among others, huge hits. Featuring large video projections that accompany the stories and the music, audiences at Muscle Shoals: I’ll Take You There will take a journey celebrating the incredible music and musicians of the famed Alabama region.

Muscle Shoals: I’ll Take You There was workshopped at the University of Northern Alabama last summer during the W.C. Handy Music Festival. Most of the cast returns for the world premiere, including Felicia P. Fields, best known for her Tony Award nomination and many other awards for originating the role of Sofia in the original Broadway production of The Color Purple, produced by Oprah Winfrey; Kenita R. Miller, who also appeared in the original Broadway production of The Color Purple as Celie, as well as Xanadu on Broadway; Myk Watford, who appeared Off- Broadway and in the touring production of Myler’s Hank Williams: Lost Highway; and Charlton James, professor of theatre at UNA and member of their summer acting company. Lannie Counts, a Las Vegas-based vocalist and member of the legendary Santa Fe and the Fat City Horns joins this production. Band members are Will Barrow on keyboard, Tennessee Campbell on drums, Steve Forrest on bass, and David Miles Keenan on guitar.
Randal Myler is one of Lone Tree’s favorite directors, leading the highly successful runs of *It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, *The Explorers Club*, *Big River*, *Sylvia*, *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, and the 2012 and 2015 *John Denver Holiday Concert*. He received a Tony Award nomination (Best Musical/Best Book of a Musical) and a Drama Desk nomination (Best Musical Revue) for *It Ain’t Nothin’ But the Blues*, which he staged at both NYC’s Lincoln Center and Broadway’s Ambassador Theatre. *Love, Janis*, Randy’s musical biography of Janis Joplin, reached over 700 performances at the former Village Gate, while his highly-successful musical *Hank Williams: Lost Highway* has been performed both Off-Broadway (garnering him a Best Director nomination from the Outer Critic’s Circle) and throughout the US, as has his coal mining musical (co-written with Dan Wheetman), *Fire On The Mountain*, which received five Joseph Jefferson Awards in Chicago.

Dan Wheetman has been collaborating with Randal Myler for over 25 years. He returns to LTAC after leading the musicians in *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, and the 2012 and 2015 *John Denver Holiday Concert*. He has appeared in productions across the U.S. as an actor and musician. He has written several plays with Myler, including *It Ain’t Nothin’ But the Blues*, *Appalachian Strings*, *Fire On The Mountain*, *Mama Hated Diesels*, and *Lowdown Dirty Blues*. He has garnered several LA Critics’ Circle awards for Musical Direction and a Tony nomination as a writer for *It Ain’t Nothin’ But the Blues* at Lincoln Center in New York. Along with his theater work, Dan has recorded several solo albums and plays in a very eclectic band, Marley’s Ghost.

2016 Henry Award-winner Michael R. Duran returns to the Lone Tree Arts Center as scenic designer. Brian Freeland is projection designer, Lyle Raper is the stage manager, and Jen Kiser is the lighting designer.

**Dates & Tickets**

Preview Performance: February 1.

Evening Performances: February 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Matinee Performances: February 4, 8, 11, and 12.

Tickets range from $33-$55. Tickets may be purchased by calling 720-509-1000, Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm or at www.LoneTreeArtsCenter.org.

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