ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL DEBATES IN SPORTS HISTORY COMES TO LIFE IN BANNED FROM BASEBALL

The Human Race kicks off its 32nd Season with the World Premiere of Patricia O’Hara’s Banned from Baseball, September 6 – 23, 2018 at the Loft Theatre.

“We are thrilled to be selected to premiere this exciting new play,” said Kevin Moore, President and Artistic Director. “This story hits home to so many in our region, and we are honored to be the ones to tell the story. Telling great stories that touch our lives is a big part of our mission.”

(Dayton, OH)—Like clockwork each Fall, the discussions around the Baseball Hall of Fame inductees begin. At the same time, the petitions to reconsider Pete Rose for the Hall of Fame resurface. It’s one of the most hotly debated topics in sports history. This September, The Human Race Theatre Company takes us back to 1989, when the battle for the soul of Major League Baseball hit its peak as Commissioner Bart Giamatti and Pete Rose, the reigning Hit King, lock horns in the world premiere performance of Banned from Baseball, by Patricia O’Hara.

New York director Margarett Perry makes her tenth return to the Loft stage to helm this world premiere production. Perry’s last show at the Loft was the comedic hit, The House, which she recently directed in Scotland.

CAST AND DESIGN TEAM

The cast of five includes four Human Race veterans as well as a new face to local audiences.

Brian Dykstra, who appeared on Broadway with Tom Hanks in Lucky Guy and was last seen on the Loft stage in Lewis Black’s One Slight Hitch, plays Pete Rose. Chicago actor Doug MacKechnie makes his Human Race debut as Bart Giamatti. Scott Hunt, no stranger to the Loft stage (HRTC’s The Glass Menagerie, Sweeney Todd, and 26 Pebbles), will play Fay Vincent. Marc Moritz, (HRTC’s Mystery of Edwin Drood, Broadway’s Sondheim/Prince musical, Merrily We Roll Along) plays the role of Reuven Katz, and K.L. Storer (HRTC’s Caroline, or Change, Fiddler on the Roof) returns to The Race for the fourth time and will play the role of John Dowd.
Special Recorded Performance

“The script calls for voiceovers by an unnamed Sportscaster,” said Moore who reached out to Marty Brenneman, the radio voice of the Cincinnati Reds, “After reading the script, Brenneman eagerly agreed to lend the support of his unique voice to the project.”

Patricia O’Hara (Playwright) is a writer and Professor of English Literature at Franklin & Marshall College, in Lancaster, PA. At Franklin & Marshall she teaches all manner and forms of Nineteenth-Century British Literature, creative writing, and her course that has proven to be perennially popular: Baseball in American Literature and Culture. Banned from Baseball is O’Hara’s first play.

Tamara L. Honesty (scenic designer) returns to the Human Race to design her 8th HRTC production. Janet Powell (costume designer), Resident Artists John Rensel (lighting designer) and Jay Brunner (sound designer) round out the design team. Jacquelyn Duncan is the production stage manager.

Biographies on the cast and creative team can be found on The Human Race Theatre Company’s website under Banned from Baseball.

The preview performance of Banned from Baseball is Thursday, September 6. Opening night is Friday, September 7.

The Human Race Theatre Company’s production of Banned from Baseball is sponsored by Marion’s Piazza, Beth and Alan Schaeffer, and John and Tamara Clough.

** Attached Publicity Photo credits for Banned from Baseball **

Cast and Playwright of Banned from Baseball.jpg:

Photo (LtoR): Marc Moritz, K.L. Storer, Doug MacKechnie, Patricia O’Hara (playwright), Brian Dykstra, and Scott Hunt

Publicity photos courtesy of Heather N. Powell

PERFORMANCE AND SPECIAL EVENT INFORMATION

Tickets for Banned from Baseball start at $14. Prices vary depending on the day of the week and seating location. Group discounts are available for parties of 10 or more. The Sunday, September 9 7:00 p.m. performance is “Sawbuck Sunday,” when any available seat can be purchased in person for just $10 at the Loft Theatre box office two hours prior to the show. Prior to the Tuesday, September 18 7:00 p.m. performance is “Beer, Here!”, which will begin at 5:30 p.m. Additional information and details for “Beer, Here!” can be found on our website and Facebook Events page. Discounts are subject to availability and some restrictions apply.

All performances are at the Metropolitan Art Center’s Loft Theatre, located at 126 North Main Street in downtown Dayton, Ohio. Show times for Banned from Baseball are 8:00 p.m. on
Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Performances on Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings begin at 7:00 p.m., and at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday matinees.

Tickets and performance information for Banned from Baseball are available at www.humanracetheatre.org or by calling Ticket Center Stage at (937) 228-3630, and at the Schuster Center box office.

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2018-2019 marks the 32nd season for The Human Race Theatre Company, “Dayton’s Official Professional Theatre Company.” Founded in 1986, The Human Race moved into the Metropolitan Arts Center in 1991, taking up residence in its current home, the 212-seat Loft Theatre. In addition to the Eichelberger Loft Season, The Human Race produces new works development and special event programming. Under the direction of President and Artistic Director Kevin Moore, the company also maintains outreach programs, as well as artist residencies in area schools and a summer youth program. Human Race organizational support is provided by the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District, Culture Works, the Shubert Foundation, the Erma R. Catterton Trust Fund, the Jesse & Caryl Philips Foundation, the Virginia W. Kettering Foundation and the Ohio Arts Council, which helped fund this organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The 2018-2019 Sustainability Sponsors are the ELM Foundation, Anne F. Johnson, Steve and Lou Mason, and Morris Home. The 2018-2019 Loft season sponsor is the Jack W. and Sally D. Eichelberger Foundation of the Dayton Foundation.
CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

The Human Race Theatre Company presents

**Banned from Baseball**
by Patricia O’Hara
directed Margaret Perry

September 6 – 23, 2018

Performed at the Loft Theatre
Metropolitan Arts Center
126 North Main Street (between First and Second streets)
Dayton, Ohio 45402

It’s 1989 and a battle for the soul of Major League Baseball is brewing between Commissioner Bart Giamatti and Pete Rose, the reigning Hit King and manager of the Cincinnati Reds. Rose is accused of betting on baseball—even on his own team—an allegation he denies despite the mounting evidence. The intellectual Giamatti wants Rose’s confession, while the larger-than-life Rose wants the Commissioner to believe his denials. This collision of wills comes to a head as they meet face to face. If the charge proves to be true, “Charlie Hustle” could be banned from the game—for life—leaving a black mark on the sport both men love and forever tarnishing a living legend.

**For tickets:**
Ticket Center Stage box office phone: (937) 228-3630
Box office hours: Mondays – Fridays, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.; and two hours prior to each performance
Online: www.humanracetheatre.org or www.ticketcenterstage.com

**Ticket prices start at:** $37 – $55 for adults, $34 – $48 for seniors and $19.50 – $27.00 for students. Prices vary depending on performance date.

**Discounts:** Select side-area seats available for $14 and $27 at all performances; “Sawbuck Sunday” November 5 at 7:00 p.m. – $10 seats available for walk up sales only

**Group sales:** contact Betty Gould at (937) 461-8295 or Betty.Gould@victoriatheatre.com

**Banned from Baseball performance dates:**
Wednesday, September 5 8:00 p.m.  Pay-What-You-CAN open rehearsal
Thursday, September 6 8:00 p.m.  “Inside Track” pre-show discussion/Preview performance
Friday, September 7 8:00 p.m.  Opening night with post-show lobby party
Saturday, September 8 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 9 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 9 7:00 p.m.  “Sawbuck Sunday” – $10 tickets at the door
Tuesday, September 11 7:00 p.m.  Lite Fare at the Loft pre-show lobby dining
Wednesday, September 12 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 13 8:00 p.m.
Friday, September 14 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 15 8:00 p.m.  Audio Described/Sign Interpreted performance (reserve by
August 28)
Sunday, September 16 2:00 p.m. “While We’re on the Subject” post-show talk-back
Tuesday, September 18 7:00 p.m. “Beer, Here!” Night begins at 5:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor rehearsal hall below the Loft theatre.
Wednesday, September 19 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 20 8:00 p.m.
Friday, September 21 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 22 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 23 2:00 p.m. Closing performance