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TRINITY REP TO RECEIVE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS GRANT FOR *RAGTIME*

PROVIDENCE, RI: National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than \$25 million in grants as part of the NEA's first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2018. Included in this announcement is an **Art Works grant of \$15,000 to Trinity Rep** for its production of *Ragtime*, based on the novel by E.L. Doctorow with music and lyrics by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens. The Art Works category is the NEA's largest funding category and supports projects that focus on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and/or the strengthening of communities through the arts.

"It is energizing to see the impact that the arts are making throughout the United States. These NEA-supported projects, such as this one to Trinity Rep, are good examples of how the arts build stronger and more vibrant communities, improve well-being, prepare our children to succeed, and increase the quality of our lives," said NEA Chairman **Jane Chu**. "At the National Endowment for the Arts, we believe that all people should have access to the joy, opportunities and connections the arts bring."

"Trinity Rep is very thankful for the continued support of the National Endowment for the Arts in providing access for the citizens of this region to a truly great American musical and story," said Executive Director **Tom Parrish**. "Former Rhode Island Senator Claiborne Pell's legacy and vision for a stronger democracy live on through this grant. *Ragtime* is going to be a fantastic production, and we cannot wait for audiences to experience this Tony Award-winning musical in Trinity Rep's signature style."

ABOUT THE SHOW:

Based on the celebrated novel by E.L. Doctorow with music and lyrics by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, the Tony Award-winning *Ragtime* reflects America at the turn of the 20th century – where optimism and possibility are as prevalent as burgeoning racial and social volatility. The lives of an upper-class white mother, a Jewish immigrant, and a bold African American musician from Harlem



intersect in ways that profoundly affect their families' fates. A passionate, vibrant, Tony Award-winning score heightens the tenderness and tension that infuses these characters' lives.

TRINITY REPERTORY COMPANY

Rhode Island's Tony Award-winning theater, Trinity Rep has created unparalleled professional theater for and with its community since its founding in 1963. Trinity Rep strives to facilitate human connection and has been a driving force behind the creativity that fuels and defines the region for more than 50 years.

Trinity Rep is committed to reinventing the public square and inspiring dialogue by creating emotionally-stimulating live productions that range from classical to contemporary and innovative education programs for all ages and abilities. Its annual production of *A Christmas Carol* has brought families together for 40 years and made memories for over a million audience members.

Subscriptions for the 2017-18 season are now on sale. The season includes *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller, *Skeleton Crew* by Dominique Morisseau, *Into the Breeches!* by George Brant, *Othello* by William Shakespeare, *Native Gardens* by Karen Zacarías, and *Ragtime* by Terrence McNally, music by Stephen Flaherty, lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, based on the novel by E.L. Doctorow. **For more information and to purchase tickets, call the box office at (401) 351-4242 or visit Trinity Rep's website at www.TrinityRep.com.**

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