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"Grace For President" Features Conversations about Women in Public Leadership



RALEIGH, N.C. (October 3, 2017) - During the upcoming run of "Grace for President" at the North Carolina Museum of History, Raleigh Little Theatre will host a series of conversations with local women leaders. The play is based on the book by Kelly S. DiPucchio, with illustrations by LeUyen Pham. The book, music, and lyrics for this production are by Joan Cushing.

"I believe this experience is particularly important for low-income girls and girls of color because we need to be proactive about encouraging them to envision themselves in leadership roles and seeing politics as a way to uplift our communities. It is important that we uplift and empower all girls," said Jessica Holmes, Wake County Commissioner. "As the youngest ever elected Commissioner in Wake County's history, I am thrilled that Raleigh Little Theatre is sharing Grace's campaign of courage, daring to stand out and independent thought with young girls across the Triangle. The musical is timely and sure to inspire anyone who attends."

First Lady Kristin Cooper will join RLT for opening night on Friday, October 13. After the production, Kristin will interview students from Magellan Charter School, Wiley Elementary, Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy and Thales Academy High School about their leadership experiences. On Saturday, October 14 after the 1pm performance Jessica Holmes will be interviewed by TaMya Bland, the actor who plays Grace, about her experiences in public leadership. The cast will also moderate a panel on Friday, October 20 featuring Mary-Ann Baldwin (Raleigh City Council; Executive Director, Holt Brothers Foundation / Vice President of Marketing and Business Development at Holt Brothers Inc.) and Billie Redmond (founder of TradeMark Properties; past chair of the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce) about leadership and public service.

All patrons are invited to come one hour prior to the show for a "Grace" inspired scavenger hunt in the Museum. For this purpose, the Museum will open up at 6:30pm before evening performances. "Grace for President" is presented in partnership with the North Carolina Museum of History and sponsored by [Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina](#). Opening night is sponsored by Read With Me, and additional performances are sponsored by Kurt Sokolowski and Jessica Holmes. The production runs October 13 - October 22 in the Daniels Auditorium at the [North Carolina Museum of History](#), 5 East Edenton Street, Raleigh. Tickets can be purchased by calling the box office [\(919\)-821-3111](tel:919-821-3111), Monday through Friday, noon to 5:00 p.m., or by visiting the theatre's website at www.raleighlittletheatre.org.

About Raleigh Little Theatre:

Founded in 1936, Raleigh Little Theatre (RLT) is one of the oldest, continuously operating, community theatres in the United States. RLT offers entertainment, education, and community programs year-round, reaching 40,000 people. As a community theatre, RLT engages hundreds of volunteers, under the guidance of professional staff, to achieve its mission and to bring quality live theatre to the Triangle area. Visit www.raleighlittletheatre.org for more information.

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About the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate:

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 400,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. For information about the N.C. Museum of History, call 919-807-7900 or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#).

About the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources:

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit www.ncdcr.gov.

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