

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Hanover Theatre Expands Adopt-A-School Partnership



Judith Franklin as Martha Reeves (center) & Cast MOTOWN THE MUSICAL First National Tour (c) Joan Marcus, 2017

Worcester, Mass. (May 8, 2017) This month, The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts officially expands its annual Adopt-A-School program to include a second Worcester Public School. For this partnership, the theatre is working with Burncoat High School to integrate the history, themes and sociological impacts of *Motown The Musical* across their curriculum. In the coming weeks, cast members from *Motown The Musical* will visit the school and see the work the students have done in preparation for the show. Select students will also learn choreography from the show and perform in the aisles during the finale. During the school visit, cast members from *Motown The Musical* will rehearse the choreography with the participating students. In addition, all 1,000 Burncoat students come to the show on Wednesday, May 24th at 7:30 p.m. and participate in a talk-back with the cast after the show.

Dance department teacher Kellie Shea comments, "Burncoat High School is thrilled to be to be a part of the Adopt-A-School program with The Hanover Theatre and *Motown The Musical*. We are the arts magnet school in the city, so this is the perfect partnership! We cannot wait to see our students pour themselves into this production." In 2013, the theatre partnered with South High School to bring this program to life. Since then, South High students have benefitted from curriculum enrichment from four shows including "Memphis the Musical", "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", "Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas" and "Kinky Boots". "With the success of our Adopt-A-School program over the last four years with South High School, we were eager to add another Worcester Public School to the program. The rich historical elements in *Motown The Musical* offered us the perfect opportunity to expand our reach to Burncoat High School. We look forward to showcasing the wonderful work of the

staff and students at that school” says Meghan Montaner, director of education for The Hanover Theatre.

Motown The Musical is the true, American dream story of Motown founder Berry Gordy’s journey from the featherweight boxer to the heavyweight music mogul who launched the careers of Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Marvin Gaye and so many more. Featuring more than 40 classic hits such as “My Girl” and “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough,” *Motown The Musical* tells the story behind the hits as Diana, Smokey, Berry and the whole Motown family fight against the odds to create the soundtrack of change in America. Motown shattered barriers, shaped lives and made everyone move to the same beat. *Motown The Musical* runs from May 23-28, 2017.

About The Adopt-A-School Program

The Adopt-A-School Program, made possible through the theatre’s [Access to the Arts Fund](#) and other generous donations, introduces high school students to live theatre through an intensive 6-week planning process. Early in the school year, faculty members work with education specialists from The Hanover Theatre to plan for their Broadway show experience. Over the course of three weeks, content and themes from the show are integrated into the school’s core curriculum. The Adopt-A-School Program has seen immense success over the past three years exposing hundreds of underserved students to their first Broadway show. Furthermore, the program was nationally recognized as a successful way to integrate the arts into core curriculum standards using Broadway shows at the 2014 Broadway League Spring Road Conference in New York City.

For more information about The Hanover Theatre’s Adopt-A-School Program, please contact Meghan Montaner, director of education, at Meghan@TheHanoverTheatre.org.

About The Hanover Theatre

The Hanover Theatre continues to draw over 180,000 patrons annually with world-class performances and headlining acts including Broadway hits (“Les Misérables,” “Jersey Boys”), comedians (Dave Chappelle, Jay Leno, Daniel Tosh), musical acts (Neil Young, Aretha Franklin, John Legend, Donny Osmond) and everything in between (“A Christmas Carol,” Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Alton Brown). POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the Top Theatres in the World. After eight seasons, the award-winning, historic theatre continues to establish its place as a world-class performing arts venue, acting as a catalyst for the economic development of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre’s acquisition of 551 Main Street houses new function space, offices, rental space for a restaurant on the ground floor and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory for the Performing Arts on the lower level.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts, a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, owns and operates The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts and Conservatory. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.