



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
Elisa Hale at (860) 873-8664, ext. 323  
[Elisa.Hale@goodspeed.org](mailto:Elisa.Hale@goodspeed.org)  
Dan McMahon at (860) 873-8664, ext. 324  
[Dan.McMahon@goodspeed.org](mailto:Dan.McMahon@goodspeed.org)

# GOODSPEED MUSICALS ANNOUNCES FIVE EXCITING PRODUCTIONS SET FOR 2019

*THE MUSIC MAN*

*BECAUSE OF WINN DIXIE*

*BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL*

at The Goodspeed



*MY NAME IS BEN*

*PASSING THROUGH*

at The Terris Theatre

*EAST HADDAM, CONN., SEPTEMBER 25, 2018:* Last night during an exclusive Member event, Michael Gennaro, Goodspeed's Executive Director, announced a trio of terrific titles on track for next season at The Goodspeed along with two tremendous new musicals set for The Terris Theatre. Gennaro explained, "2019 promises to be a fantastic year. We have something for everyone this year with diverse musicals at

The Goodspeed including a beloved classic, a heartwarming new musical and a dance-filled tale of triumph. In addition we are thrilled to share two new works at The Terris Theatre that celebrate extraordinary lives and truly inspiring stories. Our audiences expect the best from Goodspeed and we plan to give them exactly what they want: exciting, entertaining and uplifting stories along with plenty of song and dance."

Three productions planned for [The Goodspeed](#) in East Haddam, Conn.: Spring brings the All-American classic **Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*** which will run April 12 – June 16; followed by a heartwarming new musical ***Because of Winn Dixie*** featuring book and lyrics by **Nell Benjamin** and music by **Duncan Sheik** and based on the award-winning novel by **Kate DiCamillo** which will run from June 28 – September 1; closing the season will be The Goodspeed production of ***Billy Elliot The Musical*** featuring book and lyrics by **Lee Hall**, music by **Elton John** and originally directed by **Stephen Daldry** – this 10-time Tony Award-winner will run from September 13– November 24, 2019.

Nearby at [The Terris Theatre](#) in Chester, Conn.: ***My Name is Ben***, the true story of an ordinary man and his extraordinary life featuring book and lyrics by **Scott Gilmour** and music by **Claire McKenzie** will run May 17 – June 9; then the inspiring hit musical of Goodspeed's 2018 Festival of New Musicals, ***Passing Through*** featuring music and lyrics by **Brett Ryback** and book by **Eric Ulloa** which will run July 26 – August 18, 2019.

An exciting new dimension in Goodspeed's mission of developing musicals is the collaboration with Dundee Rep of Dundee Scotland on ***My Name is Ben***. While Goodspeed has collaborated with many international artists, this collaboration with Dundee Rep marks our first collaboration with a theatre outside of the United States and we believe is an important step in the growth of Goodspeed Musicals and its mission.

Goodspeed invites theatre fans from near and far to come and enjoy this wonderful array of productions at both theatres and experience all that this world-renowned maker of musical theatre and its neighboring shops, restaurants and attractions have to offer. Plan ahead and make it a Goodspeed day!

Season tickets for all three shows at The Goodspeed start at \$99 and a two show package for The Terris Theatre is just \$88. Advance season ticket packages are now on sale through the Box Office (860.873.8668), open daily from 10am – 5pm.

Single tickets go on public sale beginning February 17, 2019.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Michael Gennaro, Goodspeed Musicals is dedicated to the preservation, development and advancement of musical theatre and is the first theatre in the nation to receive two Tony Awards (for outstanding achievement). Goodspeed produces three musicals each season at The Goodspeed in East Haddam, Conn., and additional productions at The Terris Theatre in Chester, Conn., which was opened in 1984 for the development of new musicals. Goodspeed also maintains The Scherer Library of Musical Theatre and The Max Showalter Center for Education in Musical

Theatre. Goodspeed gratefully acknowledges the support of United Airlines, the official airline of Goodspeed Musicals; official audio sponsor Sennheiser; and official auto sponsor Hoffman Audi. Goodspeed is also grateful for the support of the National Endowment of the Arts and the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of the Arts.

## MORE ABOUT GOODSPEED'S 2019 PRODUCTIONS

### **AT THE GOODSPEED:**

The All-American classic **Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*** will run April 12 – June 16, 2019.

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Meredith Willson  
Story by Meredith Willson and **Franklin Lacey**

You got trouble in River City! Professor Harold Hill and Marian the Librarian march into their first appearance at Goodspeed in a rousing new production of this great American musical. When huckster Harold promises to save an Iowa town by selling the dream of a boys' band, Marian is the only skeptic. Until she starts to buy his pitch. Fall in love all over again with "76 Trombones," "The Wells Fargo Wagon," "Trouble" and "Till There Was You." A glorious classic that will have you parading in the streets!

The heartwarming new musical ***Because of Winn Dixie*** will run from June 28 – September 1, 2019.

Book and Lyrics by **Nell Benjamin**, Music by **Duncan Sheik**  
Based on the original book by **Kate DiCamillo**

Not since *Annie* has a stray dog inspired such joyful noise! In a Southern town filled with lost souls, a new leash on life is just around the corner when a preacher and his daughter take in a mutt named Winn Dixie. The beloved, award-winning novel about a quirky community learning to get along now sings for the first time in this uplifting new musical. Let Grammy and Tony winner Duncan Sheik (*Spring Awakening*) and Tony nominee Nell Benjamin (*Legally Blonde*, *Mean Girls*) take you on a heartwarming adventure for all ages.

The Goodspeed production of ***Billy Elliot The Musical*** will run from September 13– November 24, 2019.

Book and Lyrics by **Lee Hall**, Music by **Elton John**  
Originally Directed by **Stephen Daldry**

Young Billy Elliot is pulled between his family's coal-mining roots and his newly discovered passion to dance. Is his future boxing gloves or ballet shoes? In the hardscrabble world of a changing England, reaching high becomes a leap of faith. Following your dream — and overcoming obstacles — has never been more electric than in the 10-time Tony winning Broadway phenomenon with songs by the legendary Elton John. Celebrate the idea of being yourself in the Goodspeed premiere of this powerful dance-filled story!

## AT THE TERRIS THEATRE:

The remarkable new musical *My Name is Ben* will run May 17 – June 9, 2019.

Book and Lyrics by **Scott Gilmour**, Music by **Claire McKenzie**

The true story of an ordinary man and his extraordinary life. From his tiny room in New York City, Bernhardt Wichmann III changed the lives of those around him without saying a word. Using just his notepad and pen and open heart, Ben turned a neighborhood of strangers into a community of friends. Featuring a joyful, folk-inflected score by an award-winning Scottish writing team in collaboration with Dundee Rep, one of Scotland's leading theatres, this is the story of how one man with nothing somehow changed everything.

The inspirational new musical *Passing Through* will run July 26 – August 18, 2019.

Music and Lyrics by **Brett Ryback**, Book by **Eric Ulloa**

Set amidst the rich sounds and diverse tapestry of the American landscape, *Passing Through* tells the incredible true story of a young man who journeys on foot from Pennsylvania to California, collecting stories as he goes. But when his trek brings to light an unresolved family crisis, he must use the lessons he's gathered to finally confront his past. Don't miss the musical that celebrates America and the power of what can happen when we open ourselves up to a stranger.

### *About Dundee Rep And Scottish Dance Theatre:*

Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre Limited is the charity behind Dundee Rep Theatre and Scottish Dance Theatre. The organisations mission is to create unmissable experiences which engage, support and take risks. Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre sit at the cultural heart of Scotland and the City of Dundee. Founded in 1939, the Rep is a centre of creative energy, a space for engagement with a wide range of art forms, whilst also playing a lead role in arts education and engagement across the city and beyond. Proud of its Scottish roots, the Company looks outwards, creating and delivering work for a local audience, as well as on a national and international scale, for and with a diverse audience. Dundee Rep Ensemble was established in 1999 with the mission of bringing together a permanent full-time company of actors, the only company of its kind in Scotland. Dundee Rep Ensemble has created a number of award-winning productions, including *Death of a Salesman*, *Further than the Furthest Thing*, *Elephant Man*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf* and many more; establishing a reputation as one of the UK's foremost theatre companies. Scottish Dance Theatre, Scotland's principal contemporary dance company and research engine for dance was created in 1986 as the Dundee Rep Dance Company. Pioneering new ways to create and distribute dance across all scales, the company commissions work by pre-eminent artists in many fields whose practice is outstanding and assured in its relationship with audiences.

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For more information, to schedule an interview, or to receive stock art, please contact  
Elisa Hale (ext. 323) or Dan McMahon (ext. 324) at 860.873.8664, [Elisa.Hale@goodspeed.org](mailto:Elisa.Hale@goodspeed.org)/[Dan.McMahon@goodspeed.org](mailto:Dan.McMahon@goodspeed.org).