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STAGE PLAY BRINGS ‘GRANDMA MOSES’ TO LIFE AT THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE, DEC. 3-6

Special theatrical event held in conjunction with Grandma Moses exhibition ‘American Sampler’

(DAYTON, OHIO) – November 24, 2015 – The Dayton Art Institute’s Fifth Third Bank Arts Night Out series concludes with a special theatrical event, Grandma Moses: An American Primitive, taking place December 3-6 in the museum’s Renaissance Auditorium.

The revival of the popular stage play is being presented in conjunction with The DAI’s current special exhibition, American Sampler: Grandma Moses and the Handicraft Tradition.

“We’re excited to bring this special show back to Dayton for the first time in 25 years,” says Michael R. Roediger, Director and CEO of The Dayton Art Institute. “It’s a perfect complement to our special exhibition about Grandma Moses, offering a unique perspective on the life of this iconic artist. It’s the perfect way to ‘make your holidays a masterpiece’ at The Dayton Art Institute.”

Grandma Moses: An American Primitive, written by Stephen Pouliot, chronicles the life of America’s best-known folk artist. It follows Moses as a child, a young woman, a middle-aged widow, and a 100-year-old international celebrity.

The show is produced by the Oldcastle Theatre Company of Bennington, Vermont. Entering its 44th season, Oldcastle has produced almost 300 shows, and plays developed at Oldcastle have been produced in more than 25 states and in such foreign countries as South Africa, Canada, Spain and Argentina.
**Grandma Moses: An American Primitive** was a natural fit for the theatre company, as Grandma Moses spent much of her life near Bennington, and the Bennington Museum is home to the largest public collection of paintings by Grandma Moses. Many of the works featured in The DAI’s American Sampler exhibition are on loan from the Bennington Museum.

The two-person stage play stars Christine Decker as Grandma Moses, and Peter Langstaff portrays several of the men in Grandma Moses’ life. Decker has more than 35 years of experience as a professional actress and teacher, including 19 years with Disney World’s Comedy Warehouse as a member of their famed improv group. Langstaff has been acting on the stage for more than 50 years, and his grandmother actually knew Grandma Moses!

Performance times for **Grandma Moses: An American Primitive** are 8 p.m. on December 3-4 and 2 p.m. on December 5-6. Individual tickets for the show are $30 for adults and $26 for seniors.

Tickets may be purchased by phone, at 937-223-4ART (4278), in person at The Dayton Art Institute during regular museum hours, or online at www.daytonartinstitute.org/artsnightout and www.etix.com. Group packages for the play and the special exhibition American Sampler are available by calling The DAI’s Events & Group Sales Coordinator, at 937-512-0152.

The DAI’s **Leo Bistro** will be open for dinner prior to the December 3 performance, from 4:30 – 8 p.m. Leo Bistro will also be open for lunch on December 5, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., and December 6, noon – 2 p.m. Reservations are recommended, by calling 937-512-0146.

The Fifth Third Bank Arts Night Out series is made possible through the generous support of Fifth Third Bank. **Grandma Moses: An American Primitive** is presented with additional support from Jessup Wealth Management.

The special exhibition **American Sampler: Grandma Moses and the Handicraft Tradition** opened November 21 and continues at the museum through February 21. It is the first exhibition of its kind to focus on the formal relationships between the handicraft produced by Anna Mary Robertson Moses, better known as Grandma Moses, and her paintings, and to explore the concept of “sampling” from other sources that she employed in her work.

Featuring approximately 50 works by Grandma Moses, including her paintings, embroideries, a quilt and other handmade ephemera, along with examples of embroidery from the 17th through 19th centuries, American Sampler presents a new frame through which to view one of America’s most beloved and iconic artists.

For more information about exhibitions, events and programs at The Dayton Art Institute, please visit www.daytonartinstitute.org or call the museum at 937-223-4ART (4278). Tickets for most Dayton Art Institute exhibitions, events and programs may also be purchased online at www.etix.com. Be sure to connect with The Dayton Art Institute on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest for additional information, behind-the-scenes photos and exclusive offers.
ABOUT THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE
As one of the Miami Valley’s premier fine art museums, The Dayton Art Institute offers a full range of programming in addition to exhibiting its collection. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon – 5 p.m., with extended hours until 8 p.m. on Thursdays. Suggested admission to the museum’s permanent collection is $8 adults, $5 seniors, active military and groups. Admission is free for museum members, students (18+ w/ID) and youth (17 and under). Some special exhibitions, programs and events may carry an additional charge and include admission to the museum’s permanent collection as part of that price. Free parking is available at the museum and the facility is fully accessible to physically challenged visitors. The DAI’s Museum Store is open during regular museum hours. Leo Bistro serves lunch Tuesday – Friday, 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., and Sunday, noon – 2 p.m. Leo Bistro also serves dinner on Thursday evenings, 4:30 – 8 p.m. For more information, please call 937-223-4ART (4278) or visit www.daytonartinstitute.org. The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The DAI also receives support from the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District.

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