



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact:** Linda Twiss, 612-333-3302 x 13, [ltwiss@troupeamerica.com](mailto:ltwiss@troupeamerica.com)  
Curt Wollan, 612-333-3302 x 11, [cw@troupeamerica.com](mailto:cw@troupeamerica.com)

**THE CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES SERVE UP AN ALL-NEW CHRISTMAS PROGRAM *AWAY IN THE BASEMENT: A CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES CHRISTMAS* OPENING NOVEMBER 5TH AT PLYMOUTH PLAYHOUSE**

Minneapolis, MN September 25, 2009 -And out of the basement shall come a Church Basement program of good tidings, great humor and joy!. The ladies are serving it up again, This time around it's an all-new holiday show. Troupe America, Inc., the Producer of the nationally acclaimed musical comedy *Church Basement Ladies* opens the holiday season with a new musical comedy ***Away in the Basement: A Church Basement Ladies Christmas*** previewing November 5,6,7,8, 10 & 11, opening Thursday, November 12, 2009 and continuing through January 24, 2010,

***Away in the Basement*** takes us back to 1959 and the day of the Sunday School Christmas Program. In the midst of holiday preparations and sprinklings of love in the air, the ladies in their witty, down-to-earth style are creating their own memories from Christmases past and present. Content to do things the way they have always been done yet pondering new ideas, the reality of everyday life hits home as they plan the Sunday School Christmas Program. As the children rehearse up in the sanctuary, several of the ladies of the kitchen are finishing up the treat bags filled with apples, peanuts and ribbon candy while the others put the final touches on the nativity pieces. As they mend old bathrobe costumes, discuss the politics of who's going to play the various roles, little do the ladies know what surprises are in store for them. Known for their hilarious antics and subtle charm, they are once again called upon to step in and save the day!

In developing an all-new holiday show, ***Away in the Basement: A Church Basement Ladies Christmas*** is the third installment in the highly successful production of the musical comedy *Church Basement Ladies*. Executive Producer Curt Wollan's creative team includes the talents of composer/songwriter Drew Jansen, who wrote the original score and lyrics for *Church Basement Ladies* and co-wrote the music and lyrics for the sequel *Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping*. Sketch comedy writer and head writer for the *Medora Musical*, Greta Grosch, who wrote the sequel *Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping* developed the holiday script. ***Away in the Basement*** is directed by Curt Wollan, choreographed by Wendy Short Hays with set design by Jared Grohs, lighting design by Scott Herbst, sound design by Mark Brodin, costume design by Katrina Benedict and musical direction by Drew Jansen.

## ABOUT THE CAST

The performer's roles in ***Away in the Basement*** have been double cast due to the large volume of performances per week. Original cast member, Greta Grosch is joined by Shannon Herman as the able-bodied farm wife and jack-of-all-trades "Mrs. Gilmer Gilmerson" (Mavis), original cast member Dorian Chalmers shares with Roxanne Britz the role of "Mrs. Elroy Engelson" (Karin)- the best cook in the kitchen, Tara Borman and Andrea Alioto play Karin's teenage daughter "Beverly Signe Engelson," and Robbie Mancina and Judi Gronseth give equal time to the "Widow Snustad" (Vivian), the matriarch of the kitchen. Original cast member Tim Drake shares the pastoral duties with Greg Eiden

All three installments of the musical comedy *Church Basement Ladies* are inspired by the books of author/humorists Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson including the bestseller *Growing Up Lutheran*. The original production opened at the Plymouth Playhouse in September 2005 and performed to 250,000 patrons in its two and a half year run. Its sequel, *Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping* opened March 2008 and is currently playing at the Plymouth Playhouse through November 1, 2009.

Audiences instantly fell in love with the *Church Basement Ladies* and it has grown to be the most successful show produced both locally and nationally by Troupe America in its twenty-three year history. The original version of *Church Basement Ladies* has toured extensively in the last two years. In 2007, the show toured to 58 cities and 11 states across the country including a three month run at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville, and was produced by the nationally acclaimed New Theater Restaurant in Kansas City starring William Christopher, known for playing Father Mulcahy on television's *M\*A\*S\*H*, as Pastor. In 2008, Christopher joined the National Tour with performances at the Overture Center for the Performing Arts, Madison, Wisconsin, the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Chicago, and at the Hoyt Sherman Theatre in Des Moines, Iowa. The second junket of the tour included a 31 city tour that traveled to 20 states.

Currently, the original version is on a 20 city tour with Mr. Christopher that ends with a three week run in Mesa, Arizona at the Mesa Performing Arts Center. In January 2010, the show begins a 53 city tour traveling across the United States. Concurrently, *Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping* is being performed at the New Theater Restaurant in Kansas City, KS with Barry Williams, known for his role as Greg Brady in television's "The Brady Bunch" as Pastor. According to Wollan, because of the original show's success nationally, plans are in place to tour *Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping* in 2010.

## TICKET INFORMATION

All performances of ***Away in the Basement: A Church Basement Ladies Christmas*** are at the Plymouth Playhouse with previews November 5,6,7,8 10 & 11, premiering Thursday, November 12, 2009 and continuing through January 24, 2010.

Performances dates, time and prices:

Monday	1 pm	\$25
Tuesday	1 pm	\$25
Wednesday	1 pm	\$25
Wednesday	7:30 pm	\$30
Thursday	1 pm	\$25
Thursday	7:30 pm	\$30
Friday	7:30 pm	\$30
Saturday	11:30 pm	\$30
Saturday	3:00 pm	\$35
Saturday	7:30 pm	\$38
Sunday	2 & 6 pm	\$30

2705 Annapolis Lane Plymouth, MN 55441

Office: (612)333-3302 • Box Office: (763)553-1600 ext. 1 • Group Sales: (763)383-1073

[www.plymouthplayhouse.com](http://www.plymouthplayhouse.com) • [ltwiss@troupeamerica.com](mailto:ltwiss@troupeamerica.com)

Overnight “Stay & Play “ packages are available (includes a room for two at the Best Western Kelly Inn, a dinner voucher at the Green Mill Restaurant and two theater tickets to the current show, all under one roof). The Plymouth Playhouse is located at I-494 and Hwy. 55, twenty minutes West from downtown Minneapolis, in suburban Plymouth, Minnesota. For ticket information call the Plymouth Playhouse Box Office at 763-553-1600 x 1 or visit [www.plymouthplayhouse.com](http://www.plymouthplayhouse.com). Gift certificates are also available. For group information call 763-383-1073.

**PRESS INFORMATION**

For press photos and images go to [www.plymouthplayhouse.com/press](http://www.plymouthplayhouse.com/press) or e-mail: [ltwiss@troupeamerica.com](mailto:ltwiss@troupeamerica.com).

- 30 -

-  
-