



GEM THEATRICS

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Meet America's First Power Couple

The husband and wife acting team of **GEM Theatrics** will present *My Dearest Friend*, by Michigan playwright; Mary G. Kron. Using primary sources, *My Dearest Friend* chronicles the true love story of our second President and First Lady, John and Abigail Adams. This well-researched story begins as John writes to their son John Quincy Adams on the death of Abigail. In a poignant flash back, Abigail comes back to life and the two re-live the high points of their lives together.

Feel the anxiety as Abigail witnesses the Revolutionary war at her doorstep, while John is in Philadelphia stubbornly trying to get Congress to agree to declare independency. Learn of their love for each other and the struggles of their many and long separations while John was making history at home and abroad and Abigail kept the farm together and raised their children. Discover new insights into this most modern of historical couples as American history comes to life with Gary E. Mitchell and Mary Beth Quillin portraying these larger-than-life characters as real, loving, conflicted human beings.

Gary E. Mitchell is a Grand-Award winning actor who has appeared on many Grand Rapids, MI stages, including Actors' Theatre, Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids, and Heritage Theatre Group. An educator, Gary teaches in the paralegal department at Davenport University and has also taught acting classes at the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. Favorite shows include *1776*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Lost In Yonkers*, *The Rainmaker*, and *Conversations With My Father*. He has appeared as a guest artist in Grand Valley State University's Shakespeare Festival productions of *Hamlet*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Measure for Measure*. He can be seen as Mel Trotter in the feature film *One Life At A Time* and as the President in the web series *Real American*.

Mary Beth Quillin is an actor, storyteller, and director who has also appeared on the stages of the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, Actors' Theatre, Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids, Community Circle Theatre, and Heritage Theatre Group. Favorite shows include *Enchanted April*, *Top Girls* and *Talking With*. For Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids, she directed the Grand Award nominated production of *Becoming Dr. Ruth*, as well as *Seniors of the Sahara*, *Kunstler* and most recently, *New Jerusalem*. Mary Beth attended Grand Valley State University and has a B.A. in Theatre with an emphasis in performance and direction and has also appeared onstage with GVSU as a guest artist. Other directing credits include the World Premiere of *Four Wounded Women*, by Grand Rapids playwright Michael Smolinski, and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at East Grand Rapids High School. She can be seen in the award-winning web series *Lucky Jay* at www.luckyjayseries.com.

Together they have appeared in *Chapatti*, *2 Across*, *Old Love*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, Stephen Vincent Benet's *Stories of America*, *Sight Unseen*, *Macbeth*, *Communicating Doors* and *Love Letters*.

My Dearest Friend is produced by special arrangement with Dramagon Playwriting and Theatrical Services.