



For Immediate Release, April 14, 2009

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Link to high resolution images:  
[http://www.hamnertheater.com/Daughters\\_Press](http://www.hamnertheater.com/Daughters_Press)

**The Hamner Theater continues its fourth season with *Daughters of the Appalachians*, opening April 30.**

**Nellysford, VA, April 14, 2009** - The Hamner Theater announces the opening of *Daughters of the Appalachians*, by Linda Goodman, on stage April 30 through May 10. This play portrays the lives of six unique women, drawn from insights and stories culled from Goodman's family and the community of her southwestern Virginia childhood mountain roots, each character offering a glimpse of the Appalachian culture that is fast fading away. For this special production, all seats are Pay-what-you-will.

*Daughters of the Appalachians* has been performed to standing ovations & sold-out crowds around the country, but this is the first time it has come home to Virginia. Writer & story-teller Linda Goodman was born in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia, where she learned the art of story telling from her father, a former coal miner (and master yarn-spinner). She has performed and taught in storytelling workshops and festivals throughout New England and the South for more than 20 years, entertaining audiences with her original stories, traditional tales and monologues. Her works are best known for their Southern Appalachian flavor.

Says Goodman, "I was born into a culture that is fading away. I feel an obligation to keep that culture alive in my stories." She aims "to people my stories with Southern Appalachian characters of intelligence & integrity. This country has a stereotype of a Southerner who is slow & unintelligent. My stories seek to dispel that stereotype." Meet Harlene, whose dog is both her anchor and her best friend, Boojie, whose star-crossed lover changed her life, Nellveda Hawkins, who may or may not be the devil incarnate, Sara Jane, a woman who understands true beauty, Jessie, who should have been more careful what she wished for and Martha Potter, a woman ruled by simple truths. As you share their joys and sorrows, these women will touch your soul and live in your heart.

*Daughters of the Appalachians* is directed by Hamner Theater Co-Artistic Director, Boomie Pedersen and features Kate Adamson, Chris Courtenay, Rose Harper, Kerry Moran, Holly Schumann and Melissa Wender.

Performances of *Daughters of the Appalachians* will take place Thu. - Sat. at 7:30pm, and Sun. at 2pm from April 30 – May 10. There will be a Preview Wednesday, April 29 at 7:30pm. Opening Night performance, Thursday, April 30, will be followed by a champagne reception. Talk-back sessions will be held after both Friday performances, May 1 and May 8. The performance on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, will be followed by tea & cookies. All tickets for all shows are Pay-what-you-will. Reservations are suggested, phone (434)361-1999. Visit [www.thehamnertheater.com](http://www.thehamnertheater.com) for more information.

*About the Hamner Theater: The Hamner Theater, a non-profit project of the Rockfish Valley Community Center in Nelson County, receives funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the Donovan Foundation, the Perry Foundation and anonymous donors to support its mission of bringing professional theater to Nelson County.*

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**Summary:**

**What:** *Daughters of the Appalachians*, by Linda Goodman

**Where:** Hamner Theater, 190 Rockfish School Lane, between Afton and Nellysford, VA

**Show Times:** Thursday – Saturday, April 30 – May 2 & May 7 – May 9 at 7:30pm, Sun., May 3 & 10 at 2pm.

**Preview:** Wed., April 29, Free

**Special shows:** Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10 performance followed by tea & cookies

**Talkbacks will follow Friday performances, May 1 & 8.**

**Tickets:** Donation, Pay what you will

**Reservations/Information:** 434.361.1999 or [www.hamnertheater.com](http://www.hamnertheater.com)