

“Consistent quality of productions and integrity of theme and presentation.”

*Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C.*

“...the outstanding quality of your work shines bright.”

*Kravis Center for the Performing Arts
West Palm Beach, Florida*

“A glimpse into the past, into our souls, with wit and genuine American ingenuity.”

*The Annenberg Center
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

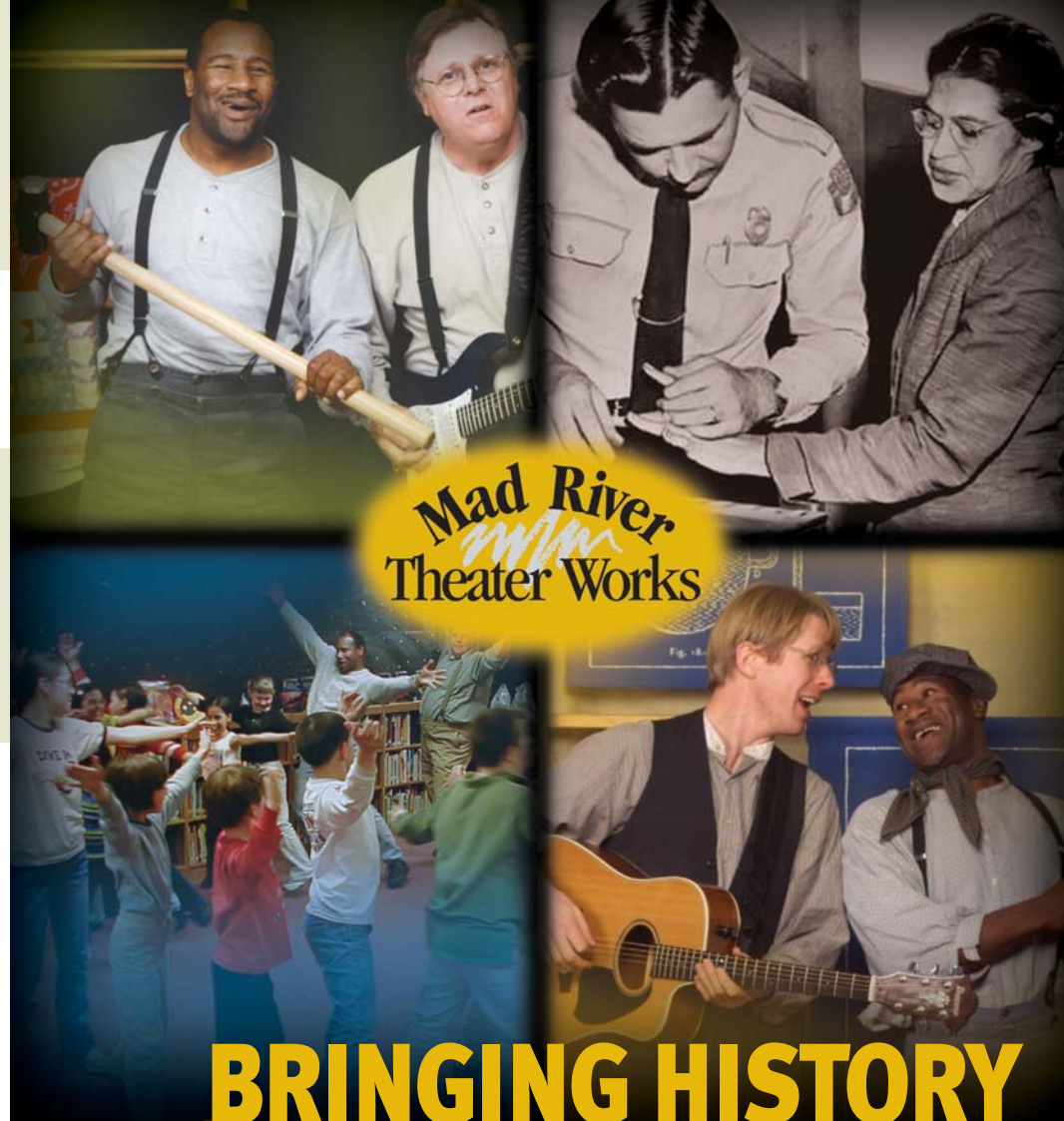
“We always look for a story that will both entertain and educate, but this show was inspiring. We were all the better for having seen it.”

*The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts
Hartford, Connecticut*

**Mad River
Theater Works**

P.O. Box 248
West Liberty, Ohio 43357
937-465-6751
www.madrivertheater.org

Mad River Theater Works is a touring ensemble deeply rooted in the Midwest. We create plays that combine music and drama to tell stories about people from the small towns of America. Our plays are not only entertaining, but have ties to the school curriculum. We often reach back into history to highlight the personalities and events that shaped our nation. Our plays explore contemporary issues. Theater is a mirror that reflects our joys and difficulties, illuminating the choices we face in an increasingly complex world.



**BRINGING HISTORY
TO LIFE**

2007-2008
Performances

NO EASY WALK Rosa Parks and the Struggle for Civil Rights

AVAILABLE FALL 2007!

The tremors of an earthquake were rumbling across America. A new kind of music was making its first appearance on the radio and parents were outraged. While the rhythms of rock-and-roll were shaking the social fabric of the country, deep down an even more important transformation was about to take place. In Montgomery, Alabama, a determined activist named Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a city bus. The resulting uproar launched the Civil Rights movement and changed our country forever. *No Easy Walk* weaves together music, drama, and storytelling to explore the interplay between the shifting cultural landscape and the birth of the struggle for freedom and equality in the United States.



JOHN HENRY Nothin' but a Man

AVAILABLE SPRING 2008!



John Henry is a well-known figure of American folklore. Born in poverty in rural West Virginia, John Henry's incredible size and strength became legendary as he worked laying track for the railroads that criss-crossed the countryside in the late nineteenth century. No one could match his skill or his endurance, until the invention of the steam-powered driver, that is. We remember John Henry for his famous contest with this newfangled machine. He won the day, but died soon afterwards of a broken heart. John Henry realized that ordinary men could not compete with the iron workhorses of the industrial revolution and that the days of men like him were numbered. *John Henry* uses storytelling, drama, and music to bring the story of an American legend to life. It is a tale that speaks to young and old alike and carries a strong contemporary parallel about the importance of our humanity in the face of changing technology.