



For Immediate Release
April 24, 2018

***Billy Elliot the Musical* soars onto the Civic stage!**

The Tony Award-winning *Billy Elliot the Musical* will close the Civic's 89th season May 4-20. An area premiere, *Billy Elliot* is an inspiring and moving tale about the importance of following your dreams. A heartfelt and undeniably entertaining musical, with music by the legendary Elton John, *Billy Elliot the Musical* has had audiences leaping to their feet all over the world since its debut in London in 2005 and on Broadway in 2008.

Set in working-class England, young Billy dreams of trading in his boxing gloves for ballet slippers, but his widowed father cannot understand or support his passion. But Billy was born to dance, and he defies the expectations put on him and takes a leap of faith in order to live his dream.

Andrew Klepser of Portage will be playing Billy in the Civic's production. Currently a 7th grader, Andrew is tackling a role about a boy who wants to dance ballet, yet he has never studied ballet himself. Andrew says that learning ballet is his biggest challenge in rehearsals, but he loves every minute of it.

Billy Elliot the Musical is being directed and choreographed by Jay Berkow, Professor of Theatre and Director of Music Theatre Performance at WMU with Music Direction by Cindy Hunter, Director of Choirs at Portage Central High School and Middle School.

Billy Elliot's story is a compelling reminder to live one's dream and be proud of who you are and will play in the Civic Auditorium May 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19 at 7:30pm and Sundays May 6, 13 and 20 at 2:00pm. Tickets range in price from \$15 to \$25 and are available through the Civic Box Office, 269-343-1313 or online at KazooCivic.com.

Parental Advisory: *Billy Elliot* contains mature content and language and is not recommended for most children under the age of 10.