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ROAD LESS TRAVELED TO PRODUCE FIRST-EVER MUSICAL

World-premiere examines the Great Depression, FDR, New Deal

*Road Less Traveled
Productions
2009 – 2010 Season:*

GRENADINE

World premiere by
Neil Wechsler
Directed by Scott
Behrend
**Sept. 11 (Curtain Up)
– Oct. 11**

AMERICAN DEAL

World premiere by
Tom Naples & Jon
Elston
Directed by Kyle
LoConti **Nov. 6 - 29**

A LIGHT LUNCH

By A.R. Gurney
Directed by Scott
Behrend **Jan. 29 –
Feb. 21**

THE GOAT or WHO IS SYLVIA?

By Edward Albee
Directed by Derek
Campbell
American Theatre
Masters Series
Selection **April 16 -
May 16**

INSIDIOUS

By Ibn Shabazz
Directed by Doug
Zschiegner
New Play Workshop
Selection **July 22 –
Aug. 1**

OCTOBER 15, 2009, BUFFALO, NY - Road Less Traveled Productions' second play of the season will be a musical—the company's first-ever. ***American Deal*** is a world-premiere from award-winning playwright Jon Elston and Tom Naples that explores the people and events surrounding the Great Depression. Directed by Kyle LoConti, it opens Friday, October 30 and run through Sunday, November 29, 2009.

The music that will be featured in ***American Deal*** is a cross-section of American folk songs from the 1930s by a variety of composers and lyricists including the legendary Woody Guthrie—a featured player in the musical.

American Deal is a timely story of hope and American resilience told through music, images, and testimony. The cast, lead by Phil Knoerzer as Guthrie, chronicles the stories of regular Americans, in Buffalo and elsewhere, as they struggle to persevere through the Great Depression. Diane Curley, Mary McMahan, and Gordon Tashjian also star.

Each member of the cast will not only sing, but will also provide their own instrumental accompaniment. Co-author and musical director Tom Naples will also accompany each performance on the INSTRUMENT.

About the Playwrights

Jon Elston is the co-founder of Road Less Traveled Productions where he is the company's Literary Manager and Resident Playwright. He wrote RLTP's 2008 hit play *Triangles: The Elliptical*, among others, and has been named Best Playwright in the past three Artvoice Best of Buffalo polls. Elston won the Artie Award for Best New Play (***Interrogation Room***) and the Source Theater National Literary Prize. *American Deal* is his first produced musical.

Tom Naples is a singer/songwriter, collector, researcher, and producer. He has done extensive work on the Great Depression at the Library of Congress, the FDR Library, and the Smithsonian. He has conducted numerous interviews of Depression and Dust Bowl survivors here and in Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, and California. In March of 2009, he wrote and directed the music to Buffalo State's production of *The Grapes Of Wrath*. He has also produced and performed in a multi-media presentation titled *Whose Names Are Unknown...*, describing life in the Depression. He resides in Ellicottville, NY,

Road Less Traveled Productions (RLTP) is a professional theatre company dedicated to the development and production of new theatrical works by Western New York playwrights, as well as presentations of esteemed modern dramas of outstanding literary merit. RLTP is located in the Market Arcade Film & Arts Center in the theater district of downtown Buffalo. For ticketing information call 716.852.5000 or visit www.RoadLessTraveledProductions.org. RLTP's work is made possible through public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

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