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TAM's Wildly Whimsical Family Show

Monmouth, Maine – For the 2017 Family Show, Theater at Monmouth presents Ruth Stiles Gannett's adventure story, *My Father's Dragon*, adapted for the stage by producing artistic director, Dawn McAndrews. This re-telling opens on Saturday, June 24th at 7:30 p.m. Each summer, TAM presents a play for children of all ages adapted from classic literature. *My Father's Dragon* will run throughout the season including weekday and weekend performances.

When Elmer Elevator hears about the plight of a poor mistreated baby dragon, he packs his knapsack and stows away on a ship headed for Wild Island. Nothing will stop Elmer from rescuing the dragon! With the help of two dozen pink lollipops, rubber bands, chewing gum, and a fine-toothed comb, Elmer outwits the fiercest of beasts and saves the day.

Director Adam P. Blais says this production of *My Father's Dragon* will “encourage audiences of all ages to use their imaginations, lead with their hearts, and dare to fly.” The play celebrates the spontaneous and playful nature of children, young and old

Ruth Stiles Gannett wrote *My Father's Dragon* just a few years after her graduation from Vassar College in 1944. It was an immediate success, becoming a Newbery Honor Book, and was soon followed by two sequels, *Elmer and the Dragon* and *The Dragons of Blueiland*. All three dragon stories have been continuously in print for more than 70 years since their publication.

My Father's Dragon features Mackenzie Shaw as Cat/Dragon; Mike Dolan as Elmer; Emery Lawrence as Mother/Monkey; Ben Shaw as Narrator/Gorilla; and CJ Stewart as Sailor/Rhino. Set design by Stacey Koloski, costume design by Elizabeth Rocha, lights by Daniel Brodhead, and sound by Rew Tippin.

Performance Calendar: OPENING 6/24 at 7:30 p.m.; additional performance dates 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 8/1, 8/5, 8/10, 8/12, and 8/17 at 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children. Discounts available for groups of 10 or more. For calendar and reservations, please contact the TAM Box Office at 207.933.9999 or visit www.theateratmonmouth.org.

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Theater at Monmouth, founded in 1970, was named the Shakespearean Theater of Maine by the State Legislature in 1975. The theatre's mission is to present innovative approaches to Shakespeare and other classic plays through professional productions that enrich the lives of people throughout Maine. Since its founding, TAM has produced expertly crafted, engaging productions in its three-month Summer Repertory Season entertaining audiences from 36 states and through Education Tours annually reaching more than 15,000 students statewide.

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