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HAMLINE UNIVERSITY THEATRE PROFESSOR CAROLYN LEVY RECEIVES
2013 AGNES HULBURD CONGER PRIZE

St. Paul, Minn. (August 14, 2013) – Hamline University is proud to announce that Carolyn Levy, professor of theatre arts, has been awarded the 2013 Agnes Hulburd Conger Prize for her work with Theatre Unbound. The prize is awarded to Hamline faculty members for outstanding work in the humanities. Levy was selected for her artistic accomplishment in directing Theatre Unbound’s fall 2012 world premiere of Anne Bertram’s play *The Good Fight*.

The Good Fight is the true story of an early 20th century women's suffrage activist who organized a bodyguard of women to protect the leaders of the movement. As the play was rewritten and rehearsed, Levy surmounted challenges involving not only how to present the tensions within the suffrage movement and the toll taken by imprisonment and force-feeding, but also the staging of violent struggles between women and police as the Women's Social and Political Union adopted jujutsu as a form of self-defense. Levy says she passionately believes in Theatre Unbound’s mission to produce thought-provoking theatre created by women and to provide audiences with rarely-seen perspectives on issues that are relevant and universal.

“It was particularly relevant to talk about who has the right to vote last fall when Minnesota voters were about to go to the polls to decide on the voter rights amendment,” Levy said. “And that fits precisely with my own artistic vision about using theatre for social change.”

The Good Fight attracted large audiences to Theatre Unbound and critics recognized the quality of professor Levy’s work in their reviews. Mira Reinberg, writing in *Aisle Say* magazine, commented, “In addition to giving testament to one of the west’s most momentous social reform movements, the play problematizes the decision to revert to violent means . . . to achieve just ends.” Reviewing for the *Star Tribune*, William Randall Beard wrote that the play was a “thought-provoking and moving piece of historical drama.” In the *Twin City Daily Planet*, Matthew A. Everett declared that “director Levy inventively uses both the set and areas in the midst of the audience to open up the environment of the story...The whole ensemble of actors digs deep into Bertram's words and finds all kinds of delightful, funny and heartbreaking character detail.”

Creativity and innovation in teaching and learning are the hallmark of Hamline University—home to more than 5,000 undergraduate, graduate, and law students. At Hamline, students collaborate with professors invested in their success. They are challenged in and out of the classroom to create and apply knowledge in local and global contexts, while cultivating an ethic of civic responsibility, social justice, and inclusive leadership and service.

Hamline is the top-ranked university of its class in Minnesota, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. Founded in 1854, Hamline also is Minnesota’s first university and among the first coeducational institutions in the nation.

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