

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Summer Melodramas Return to Fort Lincoln**

The Fort Abraham Lincoln Dramatic Association's annual performance is right around the corner. This year's production, "The Dumb Maid of Genoa, or The Bandit Merchant!" includes dastardly plots, a band of thieves, a mysterious maid who cannot speak and, of course, comic relief.

"The Dumb Maid of Genoa" is a typical Victorian melodrama, about a villain who plans to attack an inn on the road to Genoa in hopes of keeping the authorities, especially the dashing Count Corvenio, from foiling his band of robbers.

"People can come to the melodrama and kind of let loose," said returning melodrama director Rebecca Maloney. "And, they can bring the whole family." Audience participation is an important part of melodrama performances, and sets it apart from more traditional theatre. The audience members are encouraged to boo, hiss, cheer and interact with the action on stage. The actors and audience have fun together, instead of as individual groups.

There are both old and new faces in the cast this year: Kevin R. Tenedahl will be returning, as well as Cassandra Becker, Brock Schmeling and Rob Sandness. This will mark the melodrama debut for James Gardner and Greta Lynn Paulsen, and a return to the melodrama after several years' absence for Matt Schanandore. "The actors, who double as my crew, are so talented and so true to the spirit of melodrama. It was an escape from the soldiers' mundane lives, and continues to be an escape for the modern actors and audience," Maloney said.

The melodrama runs July 21-23 and July 28-30 at 7:30 pm, and July 24 and 31 at 2:00 pm. The cost is \$3 per person. Root beer and popcorn will be available for purchase throughout the show. Performances take place in the Granary building at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park-located 7 miles south of Mandan on Hwy 1806. There is a \$5 vehicle entrance fee into the state park. For more information, contact Scott Larkin at [scott@fortlincoln.org](mailto:scott@fortlincoln.org), or 701-663-4758.