

**New Harmony's Famed Golden Theater Troupe  
Makes a Return to Historic Thrall's Opera House**

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**New Harmony, Indiana** – After one hundred and fifteen years, the famed Golden Theater Troupe has returned to Thrall's Opera House in Historic New Harmony, or at least their costumes and theatrical memorabilia have. In early June, Indiana State Museum staff completed the installation of a new exhibit on New Harmony's famous theatrical group. The exhibit features costumes, memorabilia, and historical information on the troupe, which performed in New Harmony from 1875 to 1891.

“This collection is so unique,” said Dan Goodman, Historic New Harmony's Collections Manager. “Quite often, costumes and memorabilia were owned by individual actors. Because the Golden Troupe collection was owned by a single family, it stayed together.” Visitors to the permanent exhibit will be introduced to Bella and Martin Golden's theatrical troupe, which was made up of twenty professional actors, including four of the Golden children. The Golden's performed throughout the Midwest and South as well as in New Harmony, but during the off-season and rehearsals, they lived in New Harmony.

Revolving exhibits will be on display each tour season. Following this initial introduction to the Golden Troupe, future exhibits will be arranged around themes, particular actors, or plays such as *The French Spy*, *Daughter of the Regiment*, and *Pearl of Savoy*, all of which were performed in New Harmony.

To celebrate the exhibit's opening, Historic New Harmony will be hosting a number of open houses during the New Harmony Theatre's present summer season ([www.newharmonytheatre.com](http://www.newharmonytheatre.com) or 877.NHT-SHOW). Thrall's Opera House and the exhibit will be open on Friday, June 23, and Saturday, July 15, from 6:30 to 7:45, and on Sunday, July 30, from 12:30 to 1:45. Each is open to the public in addition to theater patrons, free of charge, although donations to support the exhibit will be accepted.

The Golden Troupe exhibit will also be included as part of Historic New Harmony's guided walking tours, which begin at 10:00 and 2:00 daily from the Atheneum/Visitors Center. Information on the tour program and how to obtain tickets can be found at [www.newharmony.org](http://www.newharmony.org).

Historic New Harmony is a unified program of the University of Southern Indiana and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites.

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**Editor's Note: Any member of the media wishing to view the exhibit should contact Scott Wylie at 812.682.4488 or [rswylie@usi.edu](mailto:rswylie@usi.edu). Photographs of the Golden Troupe are available from Historic New Harmony's collection upon request.**