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TO: Arts & Entertainment / Features Departments

**FROM: Landmark Community Theatre
At The
THOMASTON OPERA HOUSE
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FOOTLOOSE! THE MUSICAL

Landmark Community Theatre (LCT) will present **FOOTLOOSE! The Musical** for eight (8) performances beginning July 14th and running through July 29th, 2012 at the historic Thomaston Opera House.

FOOTLOOSE! will mark the second full-length community theatre production on the Thomaston stage after the success of Meredith Wilson's *The Music Man* in April 2012. After shutting its door in December of 2010, the Thomaston Opera House was contracted to LCT to manage the Opera House after a long RFP process, followed by negotiations, and finally, overwhelmingly approved by a town vote earlier this year. **FOOTLOOSE!** is the second of four community theatre productions LCT will produce this year in addition to managing day-to-day operations of the facility. Additional one-night events and rentals by other organizations will also be part of the regular LCT offerings throughout the year.

Landmark Community Theatre's production of **FOOTLOOSE!** features Rob Girardin as Ren McCormack, a city boy who comes to a small town where rock music and dancing have been banned, Nina Paganucci as the Reverend's daughter, Ariel Moore, and Tony Sposato as the Reverend Shaw Moore. Other featured cast members include Jack Saleeby as Willard Hewitt, Reuben Soto as Chuck Cranston, Kristina Johnston as Rusty, Catherine Quirk as Vi Moore,

Samantha Putko as Wendy Jo, and Victoria Beaudoin as Urleen. The production is both directed and choreographed by Foster Evan Reese, with musical direction by AJ Bunel.

FOOTLOOSE! The Musical is based off the Paramount film of the same name. The movie version, released in 1984, launched the careers of Kevin Bacon as Ren McCormack, John Lithgow as the conservative Reverend Shaw Moore and Sarah Jessica Parker as Rusty. The musical opened on Broadway on October 22, 1998, and ran for 709 performances until July 2000. The book was adapted for the stage by the original movie's creator, Dean Pitchford, as well as Walter Bobbie. With lyrics written by Pitchford and music by Tom Snow, the score includes classic 80's anthems such as , "Holding Out For a Hero", "Let's Hear It For the Boy", and "Almost Paradise" and the title track, "Footloose".

FOOTLOOSE! bursts onto the live stage with the story of a town called Bomont, a small town where the memory of a tragedy has caused the ban of rock music and dancing. Ren McCormack moves from Chicago to Bomont and quickly finds himself at odds with the repressive atmosphere of the community lead by the Reverend Shaw Moore. Ren is alarmed to find that dancing is not allowed anywhere in the town after a fatal accident five year before which took the lives of four Bomont boys coming home from a dance. Following the accident, Rev. Moore managed to convince the town council to place a ban on dancing. The only person seemingly unfazed by Rev. Moore's control is his daughter Ariel. Ren and Ariel find that they have a lot in common, but Rev. Moore forbids Ariel from seeing Ren, deeming him a trouble maker. Frustrated by his new stifling environment, Ren declares to take on the town and throw a dance igniting a revolution amongst his classmates. Breaking every taboo, Ren manages to bring dance back to the heart of a town held back by the memory of a tragedy.

FOOTLOOSE! is a high energy, enthusiastic show full of dancing and the best of 80's anthem rock. With a powerhouse score and a relatable book, **FOOTLOOSE!** is a classic story of overcoming grief, and experiencing growth and emotional healing, symbolically represented by dancing, as well as persevering with determination to fight for the things you love most. To the rockin' rhythm of its Oscar and Tony-nominated top 40 score (the soundtrack album reached number one on the Billboard charts and has sold over 15 million copies!) and augmented with dynamic new songs for the stage musical, **FOOTLOOSE!** celebrates the wisdom of listening to young people, guiding them with a warm heart and an open mind.

FOOTLOOSE! The Musical will be presented at the Thomaston Opera House, 158 Main St., Thomaston, CT on July 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28 at 8:00pm and on July 15, 22 & 29 at 2:00pm. All seats are reserved. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Thomaston Opera House box office at (860) 283-6250.