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Documentary Film Screening / Tacoma Historical Society Benefit:

Bringing Thea Home: The Making of The Other Country (14mins)

The Other Country - A Play With Music about Thea Foss (video rendition) (1hr12mins)

May 17 / 7pm Blue Mouse Theatre, 2611 N Proctor St, Tacoma 98407

The Other Country, a community-based theatrical event for all ages, was staged at the historic Foss Waterway Seaport in August 2017, with five sold out shows. Luckily for those who could not get tickets or who were out of town, a video of the play has been created and is ready to share with the community. The Blue Mouse Theatre (in North Tacoma Proctor district) will open their doors to a benefit screening on Thursday, May 17 at 7pm. Admission at the door of \$5+ donations to benefit Tacoma Historical Society. Come out and celebrate a classic local history story on Norwegian Constitution Day!

The award-winning 2006 documentary film ***Finding Thea*** inspired Kristin Lyhman in Skipvet, Norway to write and produce this moving treatment of Foss's story with her theatre company Nes Lenseteater (2015). It was natural and fitting that our region would produce her play, ***Det Andre Landet***, translated into English by Janet Ruud and Kari Nellia Groven, here in Tacoma.

Spanning from 1880-1927, ***The Other Country*** encompasses Thea's humble beginnings in Norway, her marriage to Andrew Foss, and her family's subsequent immigration to the United States. Once settled in Tacoma, this practical and determined woman began a small Puget Sound boat business. Due to Thea's tenacity and business acumen, and with the help of her husband and children, this eventually became the famous Foss Maritime Company, which continues to thrive today.

A diverse company was cast of 22 local actors and singers of multiple ages, cultures and heritages, reflective of the "immigrants from many countries" referenced by Thea in her letters home, accompanied by 2 area musicians. ***The Other Country***, produced by Nancy Bourne Haley, was co-directed by Marilyn Bennett and Suzy Willhoft, artistic directors of the independent theatre companies Toy Boat Theatre and Found Space Productions, musically directed by Debbie Birkey and with costumes by Alex Lewington. The video was filmed by Pacific Lutheran University media students Ron Berg, Nicole Jones and Eric Zayas. Ron Berg of Midnight Reflections Video Production edited the full play video and Nicole Jones edited *Bringing Thea Home*.

Production was made possible with gifts from funders and collaborators: Foss Waterway Seaport, Pacific Lutheran University Scandinavian Cultural Center, University of Puget Sound Theatre Department, Foss Maritime Company, Florence Kilworth Foundation, Gottfried & Mary Fuchs Foundation, Tacoma Arts Commission, Bayview Partners, Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation, Sons of Norway Foundation, Tacoma Historical Society, various Daughters of Norway lodges, and many kind individuals.

For more information: theothercountry2017@gmail.com

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TACOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

