The Westfield Foundation and the New Jersey Historical Commission have funded the “Liberty Live” project that partners Premiere Stages, the Liberty Hall Museum and the Westfield Historical Society in an effort to educate and entertain New Jersey families through a series of uniquely conceived events that celebrate the rich history and diversity of the state. John Wooten, Producing Artistic Director of Premiere Stages at Kean University, will serve as the Project Director.

Liberty Live is an exciting new addition to Premiere’s roster of outstanding performance and educational initiatives. It furthers Premiere’s mission of serving the cultural needs of northern and central New Jersey through the development and production of high-quality Equity theatre premieres and related educational initiatives for the local and campus communities. Liberty Live will provide a new production opportunity to a New Jersey based artist and multiple opportunities for New Jersey audiences to engage and interact with New Jersey historians, and help further Premiere Stages long range plan of expanding the Play Festival program.

Each year, Liberty Live will focus on a different town or region in the state; specifically on an event that happened there that helped shaped what New Jersey is today. 2012 marks the launch of the project and the first Liberty Live will focus on the town of Westfield. Following the thirty-minute play, Kean University Historian Terry Golway will interview a local historian about the significance of the dramatized event as well as its impact on New Jersey. Each performance will culminate in a guided tour of the Liberty Hall grounds and museum. This multifaceted event, which brings New Jersey history to life, will be held five times in November over an extended weekend in the renovated Carriage House at Liberty Hall. The event will be targeted to family audiences. Local schools will be invited to bus groups of students to the Museum for the performance and specifically tailored study guides will be distributed.