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THEATER MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT DEBORAH CLAPP NAMED INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LEAGUE OF CHICAGO THEATERS

CHICAGO (July 1, 2008) – Experienced Chicago-based theater consultant and former Goodman Theatre executive Deborah L. Clapp has been named Interim Executive Director of the League of Chicago Theatres. She will begin leading the member services and advocacy organization of 200 Chicago-area theater companies effective immediately.

Clapp has 15 years experience in theater, most recently as an independent consultant for theatres such as About Face, Chicago Children's, Chicago Opera and Teatro Vista. Prior to that she was the Director of Management at Goodman Theatre for 5 years. She came to Chicago from Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut where she served as General Manager and Acting Managing Director. She started her career as a part-time house manager at Connecticut's Hartford Stage where she continued as Operations Manager and Associate Business Manager.

"Chicago's theater community is the most vibrant and innovative in the world and I am honored the League has asked me to help represent the community," said Clapp.

While Chicago's theater community is celebrating one of its most successful years in term of critical acclaim, the League's members are also facing the challenges of a slowing economy and increasing local and global competition for entertainment and tourist dollars. Clapp will examine the League's current services and recommend to the board how it can best help Chicago's theater community grow in attendance and stature.

"The board is thrilled to have Deb on board and is looking forward to working with her," said Roche Schulfer, Executive Director of the Goodman Theatre and Chair of the League of Chicago Theatres. "She has a strong connection to many of the members already, and brings a wide variety of experience to the League."

"The League conducted a national search for a new executive director. Deb's combination of management experience, leadership skills and enthusiasm for Chicago theatre made her the leading candidate. Deb has prior commitments through August and will begin full-time with the League after those have been fulfilled. All of us on the board are looking forward to working with her" says David Hawkanson, chair of the search committee and executive director of Steppenwolf Theatre.

The League of Chicago Theatres (LCT) is an alliance of theaters which leverages its collective strength to promote, support and advocate for Chicago's theater industry locally, nationally and internationally. The League of Chicago Theatres Foundation (LCTF) is dedicated to enhancing the art of theater in the Chicago area through audience development and support services for theaters and theater professionals.



CHICAGO THEATER BY THE NUMBERS:

- More than **200** producing theater companies
- More than **5 million** tickets sold annually
- More than **800** total annual productions
- More than **110** world premiere productions and adaptations in the 07-08 season.
- Average ticket price to a Chicago theater production is approximately **\$23**
- More than **115** total performance venues
- More than **64,000** total seats in Chicago area performance venues
- **4** Tony Awards for Outstanding Regional Theatre (Chicago Shakespeare, Goodman, Steppenwolf, and Victory Gardens Theater)

THE LEAGUE OF CHICAGO THEATRES

Founded in 1979, the League is an alliance of theaters that leverages its collective strength to promote, support and advocate for Chicago's theater industry locally, nationally and internationally. Currently, the League serves a diverse membership of nearly 200 theaters and theater companies, ranging from small storefront, non-union companies to major cultural centers with multi-million dollar facilities and productions.

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