

228 S. Wabash Ave • Suite 200
Chicago • IL 60604
312 • 554 • 9800 p
312 • 922 • 7202 f
www.ChicagoPlays.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ben Thiem
Director of Member Services
League of Chicago Theatres
(312) 554-9800
ben@chicagoplays.com

LEAGUE OF CHICAGO THEATRES ANNOUNCES FIVE FINALISTS FOR THE 2008 BROADWAY IN CHICAGO EMERGING THEATER AWARD

CHICAGO (January 16, 2008) – The League of Chicago Theatres is pleased to announce the five finalists for the 2008 *Broadway In Chicago* Emerging Theater Award. This is the second year of the award, which provides \$5,000 and a marketing support package, that includes a full page ad in the Friday and Sunday Tribune, to an emerging theater company in the Chicagoland area. This is the second year of a five year support pledge for this program from Broadway In Chicago.

The 2008 finalists are as follows:

- **Adventure Stage Chicago**
- **Dog and Pony Theatre Company**
- **Silk Road Theatre Project**
- **The Gift Theatre**
- **The Utopian Theatre Asylum (T.U.T.A.)**

Nominations for the award were accepted from late-November through mid-December. Eligible companies must be a member of the League of Chicago Theatres, have been in existence at least 3 and no longer than 10 years, and have demonstrated artistic excellence and fiscal responsibility in business practices.

A nomination committee comprised of industry professionals, educators and League board members reviewed the applications and selected five finalists. **The finalists will be presented before the entire League membership for a vote in late January and early February. The award recipient will be determined by majority vote from the entire League membership and will be announced in February.** The House Theatre of Chicago was the first recipient of the award in 2007.

“This award speaks to the heart of the theater community in Chicago,” said Lou Raizin, President of Broadway In Chicago. “What makes Chicago special is our ability to celebrate each others accomplishments, acknowledge the work we have done and create mentorship which abounds and is quite unique to Chicago.”

“We are thrilled that Broadway In Chicago has shown such tremendous support for the next generation of theater companies in Chicago,” stated Lyle Allen, Acting Executive Director of the League of Chicago Theatres. “It is truly a testament to the supportive nature of the Chicago theater community and Broadway In Chicago’s role as a leader.”

The 2008 Showtime Gala will take place the evening of Monday, March 31 at the historic Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University. The Emerging Theatre Award will be presented by Broadway In Chicago along with a member of The House Theatre of Chicago, the theater company that was the first recipient of this award.

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.

228 S. Wabash Ave • Suite 200
Chicago • IL 60604
312 • 554 • 9800 p
312 • 922 • 7202 f
www.ChicagoPlays.com



In addition, to the Emerging Theater Award, the League of Chicago Theatres will honor The Second City with the Artistic Leadership Award, Jackie Taylor with the Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Illinois Arts Council will receive the Tribute Award for its continued support of Chicago theaters.

The League of Chicago Theatres invites the Chicago community to attend this elegant and colorful event. Tickets are available for \$300 per person and all proceeds benefit The League of Chicago Theatres in their annual fundraising event, which supports and promotes live theater in Chicago. To purchase tickets, or for sponsorship opportunities and participation information, visit www.chicagoplays.com or call 312-554-9800.

###

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 more than 195 theaters and theater companies, ranging from small storefront, non-union companies to major cultural centers with multi-million dollar facilities and productions.

###

The League of Chicago Theatres gratefully acknowledges the 2008 support of The Alphawood Foundation, The Boeing Company, Chicago Community Trust, CityArts Program IV, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Illinois, Mile After Magnificent Mile in corporation with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity/Bureau of Tourism and The Shubert Foundation. For complete information about the League of Chicago Theatres, visit chicagoplays.com.

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.