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LEAGUE OF CHICAGO THEATRES ANNOUNCES FIVE FINALISTS FOR THE 2009 BROADWAY IN CHICAGO EMERGING THEATER AWARD

CHICAGO (February 19, 2009) – The League of Chicago Theatres is pleased to announce the five finalists for the 2009 *Broadway In Chicago* Emerging Theater Award. This is the third year of the award, which provides \$5,000 and a marketing support package, which includes a full page ad in the Friday and Sunday Tribune, to an emerging theater company in the Chicago land area.

The award was created in 2007 to encourage, support and promote young theaters in Chicago that have demonstrated great ability and promise, artistic excellence and fiscal responsibility in business practices. The honoree is selected from this group of finalists by a majority vote of member companies of the League of Chicago Theatres.

The 2009 finalists are as follows:

- **Adventure Stage Chicago**
- **Chicago Children's Theatre**
- **Dog and Pony Theatre Company**
- **the side project**
- **TUTA Theatre Chicago**

Nominations for the award were accepted from December through January. 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 Chicago theatre administrators, artists, and educators reviewed the applications and selected five finalists. **The finalists will be presented before the entire League membership for a vote in late February and early March. The award recipient is determined by majority vote from the entire League membership and will be announced in March.** Each member company is permitted to cast one vote towards the finalist of their choice. This is the third year of a five year support pledge for this program from Broadway In Chicago. The House Theatre of Chicago and Silk Road Theatre Project are previous recipients of the award.

"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."

"The *Broadway In Chicago* Emerging Theater Award is a testament to the collaborative and supportive nature of the Chicago theatre community," said Deb Clapp, Executive Director of the League of Chicago Theatres. "We are thrilled to partner with award sponsor Broadway In Chicago to present this award to an emerging Chicago company recognized by its peers."

The League of Chicago Theatres 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 is dedicated to enhancing the art of theater in the Chicago area through audience development and support services for theaters and theater professionals.

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The award will be presented at the League of Chicago Theatres 30th Anniversary Showtime Gala. This theatrical celebration will take place **Monday, May 18, 2009** beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe St. Guests will dine at the Empire Room of the historic Palmer House Hilton in downtown Chicago and be entertained as they pay tribute to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Marcelle McVay and Janet Davies for their roles in developing and supporting Chicago theater. The Emerging Theater Award will be presented by Broadway In Chicago along with a member of Silk Road Theatre Project, the 2008 recipient of this award.

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, which supports and promotes live theater in Chicago. To purchase tickets, or for sponsorship opportunities and participation information, visit ChicagoPlays.com or call 312-554-9800.

FACT SHEET:

- Event: **League of Chicago Theatres 30th Anniversary Showtime Gala**
- Date: **Monday, May 18, 2009**
- Time: **5:30 p.m.**
- Location: **The Empire Room at the historic Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe St.**
- Tickets: **\$300** per person. Sponsorships and tables available. **Call 312-554-9800 for tickets or purchase online at ChicagoPlays.com.**
- Featuring: Exclusive performances from ***Mary Poppins*** and others. Award presentations to **Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Marcelle McVay, Janet Davies** and the **2009 Broadway in Chicago Emerging Theater Award** recipient to be named later.
- Benefiting: The programs and services of the League of Chicago Theatres. A non-profit alliance of nearly 200 theaters that leverages its collective strength to promote, support and advocate for Chicago's theater industry locally, nationally and internationally.

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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 190 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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