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FALL THEATER SEASON LAUNCHES IN CHICAGO

Half of the plays this year are new to Chicago theater-goers.

(Chicago), August 28, 2008 – Hot on the heels of a remarkable theater season, Chicago theaters are preparing to launch what promises to be another successful and ground-breaking year. Chicago's adventurous theater patrons will be rewarded once again with a season stock full of innovative premieres and inventive revivals.

Theater-goers should expect to see plenty of new work on Chicago area stages this year. More than 130 world premiere productions and adaptations are on tap, along with an impressive 43 Chicago premieres, 22 Midwest premieres and 9 U.S. premieres. With more than 400 productions already announced for this season, nearly one-third of all the plays announced have never been seen before and 50 percent have never been seen in Chicago previously. Chicago has proven yet again to be a national leader on the new play scene.

Exciting productions are in store all across the Chicago land area. Some highlights of the upcoming fall season schedule include:

- World premiere productions and adaptations are a plenty, including **Ten Cent Night** at Chicago Dramatists, **Odin's Horse** at Infamous Commonwealth Theatre, the new musical **Million Dollar Quartet** at the Goodman Theatre, **Dr. Egg and the Man with No Ear** at Redmoon Theater, Frank Galati directs and adapts **Kafka on the Shore** by writer Haruki Murakami at Steppenwolf Theatre, and a new adaptation of Oscar Wilde's **The Picture of Dorian Gray** appears at Lifeline Theatre.
- The Hypocrites present their first musical, a revival of Bertolt Brecht's **The Threepenny Opera**, directed by Sean Graney, in the Steppenwolf Garage Theatre.
- Renowned director Gary Griffin takes on a revival of **Amadeus** by Peter Shaffer at Chicago Shakespeare Theater.
- In time for the 2008 election season, Writers' Theatre remounts their hit production of **Nixon's Nixon**, TimeLine Theatre stages the Chicago premiere of Gore Vidal's 1968 political comedy **Weekend**, Theatre Oobleck produces their election play, **The Trojan Candidate**, and Babes With Blades presents a new play **Land of the Free** at the Raven Theatre in Rogers Park.
- The Goodman Theatre stages the world premiere musical, **Turn of the Century**, directed by Tommy Tune and featuring Jeff Daniels and Rachel York.
- The pre-Broadway US premiere of **Dirty Dancing** lands at the Cadillac Palace Theatre at the end of September, and the hit productions of **Wicked** and **Jersey Boys** continue their successful runs throughout the fall.
- Anticipated Chicago premieres include **Caroline, or Change** at the Court Theatre, **Eurydice** by Sarah Ruhl at the Victory Gardens Biograph Theater, an adaptation of **The Voyage Inheritance** by David Mamet at Remy Bumppo Theatre, and **Yohen** by Philip Kan Gotanda at the Silk Road Theatre Project.

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.



- Evil lurks around the corner in time for Halloween with new productions and adaptations of Bram Stoker's ***Dracula*** appearing at The Building Stage, Theatre-Hikes, and First Folio Theatre, in addition to a new adaptation of ***Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*** at Northlight Theatre in Skokie.
- Several hit productions return this fall, including Drury Lane's ***Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*** at the Drury Lane Theatre Watertown Place, ***Dave DaVinci Saves the Universe*** at the House Theatre, ***The Mark of Zorro*** produced by Lifeline Theatre returns at Theatre Building Chicago, and The Hypocrites bring back Thornton Wilder's ***Our Town*** to the Chopin Theatre basement. If you missed these shows the first time, don't let it happen again!

Information and links to all of these productions can be found online at ChicagoPlays.com. Half-priced tickets are always available online at HotTix.org and at the Hot Tix booth locations, 72 E. Randolph and 163 E. Pearson in downtown Chicago.

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CHICAGO THEATER BY THE NUMBERS:

- More than **200** producing theater companies
- More than **5 million** tickets sold annually
- 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 a non-profit 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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