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SHOWTIME 2008 GALA CELEBRATES CHICAGO'S DYNAMIC THEATER SCENE WITH EXCLUSIVE PERFORMANCES, DINNER AND DANCING ON THE STAGE OF THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE

Evening to honor The Second City, Jackie Taylor and the Illinois Arts Council

CHICAGO – (January 7, 2008) – Guests of the League of Chicago Theatres' Showtime 2008 gala will dine on-stage at the Auditorium Theatre and be entertained as they pay tribute to The Second City, Jackie Taylor and the Illinois Arts Council for their roles in developing and supporting Chicago theater. This theatrical celebration is on Monday, March 31, 2008. Only 350 guests will have the exclusive opportunity to sit on the historic Auditorium Theatre stage for the event.

The cocktails will start flowing in the Auditorium's lobby at 5:30 p.m. to kickoff the gala. Guests will be able to mingle with members of the Chicago theater community and buy raffle tickets for a chance to win dozens of prizes. Directors chairs designed by local theater companies will be available in a silent auction and great packages and experiences will be available for bidding in a live auction.

Following the cocktail reception, the evening will move onto the gorgeous stage of the Auditorium Theatre with a gourmet dinner, continue with performances and presentations and conclude with dancing and live music. The League of Chicago Theatres will honor The Second City with an Artistic Leadership Award, Jackie Taylor with the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Illinois Arts Council will receive the Tribute Award for its continued support of Chicago theaters, and the second annual Broadway In Chicago Emerging Theater Award will be presented to a theater to be announced later.

"We're thrilled to honor The Second City this year with the Artistic Leadership Award," said League of Chicago Theatres Chairman Roche Schulfer. "More than any other organization or individual, they have defined contemporary comedy and satire over the past half century."

"Jackie Taylor has been an inspiration and a leader to the entire Chicago community," said League of Chicago Theatres Managing Director Lyle Allen. "We're delighted to present her with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her continued work with the Black Ensemble Theatre."

"The Illinois Arts Council's ongoing contributions have been instrumental to the operations of our member theaters," continued Allen. "We are thrilled to honor the Council for supporting and sustaining the Chicago theater community. The impact of their work is evident in the unsurpassed strength and vitality of Chicago's theater scene."

For the second year, the League is presenting the *Broadway In Chicago* Emerging Theater Award. Sponsored by Broadway In Chicago, the honoree will receive \$5,000 and a marketing support package. Broadway In Chicago has pledged \$25,000 over five years to encourage, support and promote young theaters in Chicago that have demonstrated great ability and promise. The honoree is selected from a group of finalists by a majority vote of the members of the

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.

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League of Chicago Theatres. The recipient will be announced in early 2008. The House Theatre of Chicago was the first recipient of the award in 2007.

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

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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 195 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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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**.

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