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LEAGUE OF CHICAGO THEATRES ANNOUNCES JULY LINE-UP OF THEATER THURSDAYS EVENTS

CHICAGO (July 3, 2008) – The League of Chicago Theatres is pleased to announce the July line-up of *Theater Thursdays* events. *Theater Thursdays* events combine a new show every week, with a pre or post show reception including food and drinks, and exclusive access to artists from each production, all for one special ticket price by mentioning “*Theater Thursdays*” when making a reservation at each box office.

This July, patrons of *Theater Thursdays* can participate in a variety of exciting events. Indulge in a taste of classic UK-inspired comfort food at The Gage, while enjoying the company of Shattered Globe ensemble members and the director of *A Taste of Honey*. You can also cozy up under the Chicago sky with Shakespeare’s classic comedy, *Much Ado About Nothing* or prepare for a knee-slapping good time with ComedySportz as they celebrate their 21st season. Take advantage of the summers in Chicago and make your nights great!

Launched in January of 2005, *Theater Thursdays* provides a great opportunity to venture out after work, entertain clients, socialize with friends or make new ones. Explore foreign cultures, sample bites from the city’s best restaurants and take in Chicago’s exceptional theater scene with a new show every week.

93.1 FM WXRT, the *Chicago Reader*, and Yelp.com are media partners for *Theater Thursdays*.

For a description and pricing of each show, please see the features listed below.

Thursday, July 3

A Taste of Honey by Shelagh Delaney
Victory Gardens Greenhouse
2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago

Wine and dine with Shattered Globe as you enjoy a twist on classic UK-inspired comfort food with hors d'oeuvres from gastro pub **The Gage**, as well wine and beer, at a pre-show reception starting at 6:30pm. You'll get to mingle with SGT ensemble members and the director of the play. Then join us for the revolutionary British classic *A Taste of Honey*. Set in 1950's Manchester, England, Shelagh Delaney's poignant and comic play tells the story of Jo, a shy adolescent chafing against the constraints of her working class life and the demands of her selfish, irresponsible mother Helen. The Chicago

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
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Sun-Times calls it "A gorgeous, relentless play. A must-see production." and Chicago Tribune sited it as the "Hottest Ticket" in town.

Pre show reception at 6:30 p.m.

Event begins at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$35

For reservations, call 773-871-3000 and mention "Theater Thursdays."

Visit www.shatteredglobe.org for tickets or more information.

Show Press Contact: Tiffany Carter, tcarter@shatteredglobe.org

Thursday, July 10

Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare

Oak Park Festival Theatre

Austin Gardens at Forest & Lake Streets, Oak Park

Enjoy an evening under the stars in Oak Park's Austin Gardens with William Shakespeare's classic comedy *Much Ado About Nothing*, about two couples, with a bit of everything - romance, humor, and treachery. Can Beatrice and Benedick's friends trick them into love? Prior to the show there will be a discussion led by director Jack Hickey and selected cast members along with hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

Event begins at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$22 (\$17 students and seniors)

Visit www.oakparkfestival.com for tickets and more information.

For reservations, call 708-445-4440 and mention "Theater Thursdays." You'll also receive a free rental chair!

Show Press Contact: Galen Gockel, mgockel@juno.com

Thursday, July 17

Gutenberg! The Musical

Royal George Theater

1641 N. Halsted, Chicago

Don't miss the Chicago premiere of the critically acclaimed hit Off-Broadway phenomenon. In this hilarious two-man musical spoof, a pair of aspiring writers performs a backers' audition for their new project—a big, splashy musical about printing press inventor Johann Gutenberg, the evil monk who tries to stop him, and the beautiful woman who loves him. With an unending supply of enthusiasm, Bud and Doug sing sixteen songs and play over 30 roles in the outrageous play within a play. The duo hopes that one of the producers in attendance will give them a Broadway contract, fulfilling their bright-eyed, and ill-advised, dreams. Following the performance there will be a talk-back with the actors, along with food and beverages. John Pinckard, the producer, will also talk about how the project has evolved.

Show begins at 8 p.m.

Event begins immediately following the performance

Tickets: \$30

For reservations, call 312-988-9000 and mention code EXTRA

Show Press Contact: Katharine Hughes, khughes@heronpr.com, 773-477-7666

Thursday, July 24

Plaza Suite by Neil Simon

Eclipse Theatre Company

At the Victory Gardens Greenhouse Theatre

2257 N. Lincoln Ave, Chicago

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Join the cast and crew of *Plaza Suite* for afternoon tea at the Plaza before the show! Enjoy full tea service, including a selection of premium teas, scones and preserves. After the show, you'll also be invited to a discussion with the artists and a private backstage tour. One of Neil Simon's most popular and celebrated comedies, *Plaza Suite* details the misadventures of three very different couples – all in the same room at the world famous Plaza Hotel.

Event begins at 6:30 p.m.

Show begins at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$35

For reservations call 773-871-3000 and mention "Theater Thursdays."

Visit www.eclipsetheatre.com for tickets or more information.

Show Press Contact: Nathaniel Swift, nswift@eclipsetheatre.com

Thursday, July 31

ComedySportz

At The New ComedySportz Theater

929 W. Belmont, Chicago

Come join the fun as ComedySportz celebrates their 21st season of making people laugh in Chicago! ComedySportz opened a brand new theatre at 929 W. Belmont just steps from the Belmont Train stop. The theatre includes a brand-new stage, lighting systems and LCD screens. It also has a full service bar for the first time in the company's history. There will be a reception with appetizers provided by **Soprano's Restaurant** and stay and laugh with the main stage show - *ComedySportz*.

Event begins at 7 p.m.

Show begins at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$19

For reservations call 773-549-8080 and mention "Theater Thursdays."

Visit www.comedysportzchicago.com for tickets and more information.

Show Press Contact: David Montgomery, david@comedysportzchicago.com

THE LEAGUE OF CHICAGO THEATRES

Theater Thursdays are organized by 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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