



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Near West Theatre invites guests to feel the STREET BEAT at February 12th Benefit at Trinity Cathedral

Cleveland, OH (January 10, 2011)- Near West Theatre invites guests to fully immerse themselves in the rhythm of the city at its 2011 Benefit, Street Beat, on Saturday, February 12 at beautiful Trinity Cathedral in Downtown Cleveland. With the Cathedral awash in streetlight and neon, guests will enjoy dynamic performances by unique street performers and Near West Theatre cast members, indulge in delectable drinks & hors d'oeuvres and dance the night away with a live DJ.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. with the event concluding at 10:00 p.m. Individual tickets can be purchased for \$85 and sponsorships are available starting at \$1,000. For ticket information, please call (216) 961-6391 or visit www.nearwesttheatre.org.

This year's event will honor Eric Kennedy of Weisman, Kennedy & Berris Co., L.P.A. Eric has been a prominent trial lawyer for over 30 years assisting families and individuals throughout the country. While a generous philanthropist with many interests, he points to his family of artists and actresses as the source of his long-time support of the Near West Theatre. Near West is honored to call him a supporter and excited to celebrate his generosity and compassion.

Along with the vibrant performances by local street performers and Near West Theatre veterans, the event will feature a unique raffle and silent auction. The raffle gives guests the opportunity to win a "Key to the City" package featuring specialty offerings from around Cleveland. The silent auction will feature one-of-a-kind items that celebrate the vitality of the neighborhoods that create the rich tapestry of our great city.

Major support for Near West Theatre's 2011 Benefit comes from our generous sponsors & underwriters which include Jan Roller & Dave Abbott; American Limousine Service; Bashein & Bashein Company L.P.A.; Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP; Dominion East Ohio; EuroUSA; Frantz Ward LLP; Hans Holznagel & Kathy Harlow; Veronica & Ray Kalich; Eric Kennedy; KeyBank; David Landever & Keely O'Bryan; Lincoln Electric; Rita & Charles Maimbourg; Midwest Info Systems; PNC; RC Distributors; Rennillo Disposition & Discovery; Roseangel; Deborah Lewis Hiller & Alan J. Ross; RPM International, Inc.; Joyce & Kevin Shaw; The Sherwin-Williams Company; Stone Mad Pub, Restaurant & Bocce; Fred Stueber; David Goodman, Barbara Hawley and their colleagues at Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP; Taft, Stettinius & Hollister L.L.P.; Ulmer & Berne; Union Cafe/Bound Nightclub; Weisman, Kennedy & Berris Co., LPA; Ann & Charles Zellmer; and Zuckerman, Daiker & Lear Co., L.P.A.

Since 1978, Near West Theatre has engaged youth on the Near West Side in a positive activity that taps into their energy, allowing them to discover their creativity and present themselves as contributing members of the community. Through a process that is intense, sometimes rugged and ragged, challenging and transforming, Near West Theatre, now intergenerational, engages participants and audiences alike. Individuals from all walks of life come together and share their unique life stories and experiences in order to find their own voices and make personal connections with the production. Near West Theatre's unique blend of performing arts and community-building has played an instrumental role in the theatre's success with its audience, community and participants.

NWT is a partner in the Gordon Square Arts District, a collaboration between Near West Theatre, Cleveland Public Theatre, and Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, where it will build a new, accessible performance venue. Go to www.gordonsquare.org for more information on Gordon Square Arts District which has completed Phase One of its capital campaign, which includes completion of a streetscape, renovation of the historic Capitol Movie Theatre featuring art and independent films, site acquisition for NWT's new building & gateway plaza, doubled parking capacity, and expanded campus for CPT and seven new roofs for its historic structures.

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