



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Near West Theatre announces 2010-2011 Season

Cleveland, OH (August 25, 2010) – Join Near West Theatre for the 2010-2011 Season and enter into the mania of Roald Dahl's *Willy Wonka* (Nov 19-Dec 5, 2010) that challenges greed and gluttony, venture deep *Into the Woods* (May 6-22, 2011) where Sondheim's fractured fairytales move from fantasy to life lessons and experience the intimacy, power, loss, and resiliency of *Miss Saigon* (July 22-Aug 7, 2011). All performances will take place at Near West Theatre's long time home, St. Patrick's Club Building* at West 38th Street and Bridge Avenue in Ohio City.

As Near West Theatre works to expose people of all backgrounds to the world of live theatre, tickets for all performances are priced reasonably at \$8 for adults and \$6 for children 12 & under. Tickets and more information about these programs are available by calling (216) 961-6391 or by visiting www.nearwesttheatre.org.

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka

Performance Dates: November 19 – December 5, 2010

Auditions: September 7-9, 2010

Roald Dahl's timeless cautionary indictment of greed, the story of the world-famous candy man and his quest to find an heir comes to life in this musical stage adaptation of *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*.

One evening, the village paper's headline states that Wonka is holding a contest, in which five Golden Tickets are hidden under the wrappers of his candy bars. The contest becomes a worldwide mania, with people resorting to increasingly desperate and unscrupulous measures, to find the tickets. The first four are found by four hard-to-like children: the gluttonous Augustus Gloop, spoiled Veruca Salt, gum-addicted Violet Beauregarde, and television-obsessed Mike Teavee. Our hero, Charlie, one cold night in the snow, magically, finds the 5th! This tale is a frothy, thoughtful blend of scary and fun for children and adults.

Into the Woods

Performance Dates: May 6 – 22, 2011

Auditions: February 22 – 24, 2011

An ambivalent Cinderella? A blood-thirsty Little Red Riding Hood? A Prince Charming with a roving eye? A Witch...who raps? They're all among the cockeyed characters in James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim's fractured fairy tale. When a Baker and his Wife learn they've been cursed with childlessness by the Witch next door, they embark on a quest for the special objects required to break the spell, swindling, lying to and stealing from Cinderella, Little Red, Rapunzel and Jack (the one who climbed the beanstalk). Everyone's wish is finally granted, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later, with disastrous results. What begins as a lively irreverent fantasy becomes a moving lesson about community responsibility and the stories we tell our children.

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Miss Saigon

Performance Dates: July 22 – August 7, 2011

Auditions: May 24 – 26, 2011

Miss Saigon brings Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* to post-millennium America in a moving testament to the resiliency of the human spirit. In the final chaos of the Vietnam War, an American soldier and a Vietnamese girl fall in love, only to be separated during the fall of Saigon. This is an intimate story of love, war, loyalty, survival and a mother's drive to give her child a future of promise. Raw and uncompromising, *Miss Saigon* is an intense experience of the losses suffered and the sacrifices made in a fearful world using violence to achieve peace. Songs include: "The Movie In My Mind," "Sun & Moon" and "The Last Night of the World."

Near West Theatre Supporters

The Ohio Arts Council has helped fund this program with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. NWT is generously funded by Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and is a member of Greater Cleveland Community Shares. Community Shares supports local nonprofit organizations working for long-term, sustainable, solutions to build a stronger Cleveland. Learn more about Community Shares and supporting social justice through workplace giving at www.communityshares.org.

Star Seat Packages Available

Star Seat donors help bridge the gap between the true cost of an audience member's experience and the affordable rate we offer our guests. Buy this package to help NWT continue to offer affordable, high-quality theatre on the Near West Side. For \$120, you get 7 tickets for any combination of performances plus concession coupons, playbill recognition and other VIP opportunities and benefits. Star Seat Packages are available online at www.nearwesttheatre.org.

History

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 audience 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 NWT, 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 recently completed a streetscape and the opening of the revitalized Capitol Movie Theatre that features art and independent films.

For more information about the Near West Theatre, our programs, performances or for audition information, please contact the NWT business office at (216) 961-9750.

**While accessibility is an important part of Near West Theatre's Mission, our current location at W. 38th & Bridge is on the third floor and is unable to accommodate an elevator or chair lift to make it accessible to individuals in wheelchairs or to those who have difficulty with stairs. We are working diligently to raise the funds to build an accessible new theater space in the Gordon Square Arts District.

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