



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (7-9-09)

NEWS RELEASE

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**STAGES ST. LOUIS PRESENTS A PANEL DISCUSSION ON BROADWAY MUSICALS:
EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT BROADWAY MUSICALS BUT WERE
AFRAID TO ASK**

(St. Louis, MO)- Stages St. Louis welcomes **Ken Bloom**, best-selling author of *Broadway Musicals: The 101 Greatest Musicals of All Time*, **Peter Filichia**, New York based theatre critic for *The Newark Star Ledger* and New Jersey's television station News 12, and **Judith Newmark**, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* theatre critic and author of *The Munny: Songs of St. Louis Summers* for a panel discussion on Saturday, August 1 at 2:00 prior to the Stages performance of ***The Drowsy Chaperone***. This panel will discuss Broadway musicals past and present at the Robert G. Reim Theatre in Kirkwood. Admission is free but reservations are required at 314-821-2407. Immediately following the panel, Mr. Bloom will sign copies of his book which will also be available for purchase.

Ken Bloom is the author of three seminal works on American popular song: *American Song*, *Hollywood Song*, and *Tin Pan Alley*. His *Broadway: An Encyclopedia Guide to the History, People and Places of Times Square* was named one of the top reference books of the year by the New York Public Library. Bloom is also a playwright, theatre director, radio host and the president of Harbinger Records.

Peter Filichia writes a regular column "Peter Filichia's Diary," for the website Theatermania.com. Filichia is the author of the book *Let's Put on a Musical!: How to Choose the Right Show for Your School, Community, or Professional Theater*. He served four terms as president and chairman of the nominating committee of the Drama Desk Awards and is the host of the Theatre World Awards. Filichia has appeared on television with Sally Jesse Raphael, Phil Donahue, and Saturday Night Live. He is also critic-in-residence for the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Judith Newmark is the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* theatre critic. She is the author of *The Munny: Songs of St. Louis Summers* and teaches at Washington and Webster universities.

Stages St. Louis will present the American regional premiere of ***The Drowsy Chaperone*** from July 17-August 16. It stars David Schmittou as Man in Chair, David Elder as Robert Martin, Tari Kelly as Janet Van De Graaff, and Christianne Tisdale as The Drowsy Chaperone. For more information and to purchase tickets call 314-821-2407 or visit www.stagesstlouis.org.

The Drowsy Chaperone is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Edward Chase Garvey Memorial Foundation, Lynne and Jim Turley, and Betty and Dan Viehmann. The 2009 Season is made possible with the support of the Regional Arts Commission. Financial assistance has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council and Stages is also funded in part by the Arts & Education Council.

The 2009 season will also feature Disney's *Alice in Wonderland* (August 5 – 16) and *Guys & Dolls* (September 4 – October 4). Stages performs in the intimate, 384-seat Robert G. Reim Theater at the Kirkwood Civic Center, 111 South Geyer Road, 63122.

The recipient of the 2008 Excellence in Arts Award from the Arts & Education Council and 8 Kevin Kline Awards, including Best Musical, in 2008, Stages St. Louis was founded in 1987 and is dedicated to producing the indigenous American art form of musical theater. The mission of Stages is to become the leading company for musical theater performance and education in the Midwest.

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