



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (2-06-08)

STAGES ST. LOUIS RECEIVES EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARD

(St. Louis, MO) – STAGES ST. LOUIS accepted the 2008 Excellence in Arts Award from the Arts & Education Council last month at the 17th Annual St. Louis Arts Awards gala held at the Chase Park Plaza. Receiving one of the highest honors bestowed on local arts organizations, STAGES was recognized for its outstanding and integral role in the success of the arts in the community over the course of its 22 year history.

"It is the sometimes small, sometimes large, but *always* daily efforts of producing and presenting art that reminds us of our humanity and restores our souls," said Jack Lane during his acceptance speech. "We very proudly accept this prestigious award on behalf of everyone associated with STAGES. The arts are triumphant and we are so very lucky to live in a town and work in an industry that embraces and celebrates the arts."

Over 630 guests attended the event, which raised \$400,000 for the Arts & Education Council and its mission to enrich the vibrancy of the St. Louis community by investing in arts organizations and growing a base of loyal arts supporters.

The other notable recipients of the 2008 Arts Awards include Washington University professor Gerald Early, law firm Thompson Coburn LLP, teacher Linda Packard of Reed School, Circus Flora founder Ivor David Balding, noted philanthropist Mary Ann Lee, and architect Gyo Obata.

STAGES ST. LOUIS was founded in 1987 and is dedicated to producing the indigenous American art form of musical theatre, combining the disciplines of music, dance and drama. STAGES currently presents 124 performances from May through October to more than 48,000 patrons and provides the most employment for local performers with over 450 St. Louis union actor work weeks logged annually. STAGES also provides performing arts educational opportunities to the community, serving students both at the STAGES Performing Arts Academy in Chesterfield and through numerous outreach programs.

The 2008 Season at STAGES will feature *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (May 30 – June 29), *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (July 18 – August 17), Disney's *The Jungle Book* (August 6 – 17), and *The Music Man* (September 5 – October 5). Season subscriptions begin at just \$88 and are now on sale. Single tickets will be available Monday, March 31.

For more information call 314.821.2407 or go online to www.stagesstlouis.org.

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Editor's Note: Photographs available by request or online at the STAGES website.