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NEWS RELEASE

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STAGES ST. LOUIS PRESENTS THE AMERICAN REGIONAL PREMIERE OF THE DROWSY CHAPERONE

(St. Louis, MO) – Stages St. Louis will present the 2nd show of its 2009 season, ***The Drowsy Chaperone***, at The Robert G. Reim Theater in Kirkwood from July 17 – August 16.

Originally conceived by the writers and composers as a mocu-musical wedding gift for two actor friends, ***The Drowsy Chaperone*** opened on Broadway in 2006, where it ran for 674 performances and won the most Tony Awards of any musical that year. A die-hard musical fan plays his favorite cast album in his small apartment; a 1928 smash hit called "The Drowsy Chaperone." The show magically bursts to life before him and audiences are immersed in the glamorous, hilarious tale of a celebrity bride and her uproarious wedding day, complete with gangsters, mistaken identities, and 11th hour nuptials.

The Drowsy Chaperone features music and lyrics by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison, with book by Bob Martin and Don McKellar. Appearing in the Stages cast are David Schmittou as Man in Chair, David Elder as Robert Martin, Tari Kelly as Janet Van De Graaff, Christianne Tisdale as The Drowsy Chaperone, Edward Juvier as Adolpho, Ed Romanoff as Feldzeig, Kari Ely as Mrs. Tottendale, John Alban Coughlin as Underling, Brian Ogilvie as George, Melinda Cowan as Kitty, Ben Nordstrom as Gangster #1, Michael Baxter as Gangster #2, and Zoe Vonder Haar as Trix. Other cast members include Patrick Martin, Laura Ernst, Andrew Kreup, Taylor Pietz, Nathan Garland and Katy Tibbets.

Direction and musical staging are by Michael Hamilton, with choreography by Dana Lewis, production supervision by Casey Hushion, and musical direction by Lisa Campbell Albert. Completing the artistic team are scenic designer James Wolk, costume designer Lou Bird, lighting designer Matthew McCarthy, and orchestral designer Stuart M. Elmore.

The Drowsy Chaperone will run for a total of five weeks. Week one performances are Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 4 and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 and 7:30 p.m. The week two schedule is Tuesday through Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 4 and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Weeks three, four and five will have additional performances on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Week five will also have an additional Sunday night performance at 7:30 p.m. 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, and Lynne and Jim Turley. 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, tickets are \$14-16) and *Guys & Dolls* (September 4 – October 4, tickets are \$48.00). 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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