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INDIANAPOLIS CIVIC THEATRE LANDS A LEADING ROLE AT REGIONAL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Renowned arts institution celebrates plans to debut 2011 season in brand new facility

INDIANAPOLIS (Nov. 17, 2009) – The Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre of Indianapolis, Inc. announced today that it will move its theatre and operations to the Regional Performing Arts Center, located in Carmel, where it will be the principal resident theatre company. The decision was made this afternoon by the organization’s board of trustees.

Civic will open its 2011-2012 season in the new, 500-seat state-of-the-art proscenium theater located at the Center. Civic will also have access to extensive rehearsal space, classrooms and a 200-seat studio theater that will allow Civic to produce more intimate performances.

“During a time when many arts organizations are feeling the effects of the economy - budgets are being cut, staffs are being downsized, and many businesses and endowments have less money to contribute - here is a bright spot for both the arts community and all of Central Indiana to celebrate,” said Pete Anderson, Chairman of the Board of Civic. Anderson added that the organization’s administrative offices and rehearsal space also will move to the new facility.

In addition, the move will allow Civic to expand its education program, an important component of the theatre’s community outreach efforts. The new location will offer audiences an abundance of parking, as well as a variety of nearby restaurants and pubs for pre and post-performance dining.

“We are honored to welcome Civic Theatre, which has a 95-year history of providing an outlet for artistic expression and release in this area, as well as serving as a point of pride for local audiences who enjoy the theatre’s quality performances,” said the Regional Performing Arts Center’s Executive Director, Steven Libman. “While the addition of such an established organization is an incredible opportunity for the Center, we look forward to welcoming other theatre and performance groups to the stages of the RPAC as well.”

Civic will perform its season at the Center in addition to a new Broadway concert series and programming for children.

Civic Theatre has been housed in five locations since it was founded in 1915, moving as populations have shifted, facilities have been outgrown and leases have expired. After leaving the Indianapolis Museum of Art in 2004, Civic found a home at Marian University, where it has been for the past five years.

“We appreciate the cooperation and hospitality that we have received at Marian during the past five years, and hope to continue our relationship with the University in new, mutually beneficial ways,” said Cheri Lynn Dick, Executive Director of Civic Theatre.

Prior to committing to the Regional Performing Arts Center, Civic sent a Request For Proposal (RFP) to seven organizations and government entities in Central Indiana in hopes of finding a permanent home after the expiration of its lease with Marian College in June 2012.

“We are pleased that this area’s commitment to the arts continues to grow, and Civic Theatre is grateful to be a part of it,” said Anderson. “Our theatre now enjoys stability and permanence.”

Civic Theatre, originally known as the Little Theatre Society of Indiana and then as Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre of Indianapolis, Inc. is the largest of more than 70 community theaters in Indiana. It is also one of the 10 largest active community theaters in the United States and is considered to be one of the nation's longest continuously operating community theaters. Now commonly referred to as simply “Civic Theatre,” it has been a vital part of the city's cultural landscape, serving audiences and cast and crew members from Indianapolis, Avon, Brownsburg, Carmel, Fishers, Greenfield, Greenwood, Noblesville, Westfield, Zionsville and communities throughout Central Indiana for 95 years.

“While our past is storied, our future could not be brighter,” said Dick. “Our actors, our audiences and our entire community have much to look forward to.”

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