



For Immediate Release
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ARTSCENTER AND PLAYMAKERS CREATE SUMMER YOUTH CONSERVATORY

CARRBORO (February 13, 2007) – The ArtsCenter, in partnership with PlayMakers Repertory Company, will offer a Summer Youth Conservatory program for young actors, age 8-18 to produce the musical OLIVER! This summer, a cast of 40 young actors will have the chance to rehearse and perform in a professional theatre space – PlayMakers' main stage, the Paul Green Theatre.

This is a rare theatre experience for young people; an educational and performance opportunity that includes working with a professional director, choreographer and musical director at PlayMakers Repertory Company, the leading professional theatre in the Carolinas.

In addition to rehearsing and performing the musical OLIVER!, participants will also take classes taught by PlayMakers company members Julie Fishell and Kathryn Hunter Williams – both professional actors, covering acting technique and dialect. With lights, sound design, set, and costumes provided by PlayMakers, this Summer Youth Conservatory production of OLIVER! will provide a rich theatre experience for cast and audience alike.

This recently established collaboration between PlayMakers and The ArtsCenter was a theatrical marriage waiting to happen! The ArtsCenter is home to the very successful Youth Performing Arts Conservatory, an in-depth acting program for 250 students. Explaining the Summer Youth Conservatory program with PlayMakers, Jon Wilner, Executive Director of The ArtsCenter comments,

"Many of our students are ready for a challenging production experience. We have committed, talented young actors who are ready to perform at a high level. Partnering with PlayMakers, who have such a wealth of acting and production experience and excellence, as well as such a beautiful rehearsal and performance facility, will give our students this opportunity."

"PlayMakers is thrilled to partner with The ArtsCenter to provide an opportunity for our region's young people," said Joseph Haj, PlayMakers producing artistic director. "The ArtsCenter is a great community resource that provides an artistic outlet for many Triangle residents. PlayMakers is committed to community outreach through unique collaborations such as this. The ArtCenter and PlayMakers staff will make the Summer Youth Conservatory a terrific opportunity for both organizations to shine."

This production will be cast by audition only and is open to both conservatory and non-conservatory students alike.

PlayMakers and The ArtsCenter particularly encourage young actors in the community (non-equity) with passion and skill, age 14-18, to audition for the leads of Nancy, Fagin and Bill Sykes.

Los Angeles based director; Tom Quaintance will direct this production of OLIVER! Mr. Quaintance has worked on the Broadway productions of The Who's TOMMY and HOW TO

SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING with Matthew Broderick, among many other credits. He is very experienced with youthful casts.

For the final 40 members of the OLIVER! cast, five-weeks of intensive rehearsals and classes begin on June 11, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. Rehearsals will culminate in three performances of OLIVER! on July 13, 14 and 15. Cast members will be expected to attend all rehearsals (with July 4th off only). Tuition is \$1000/actor, with scholarships available, based on financial need.

AUDITION INFORMATION

Auditions for actors (8-18) will take place throughout the day on February 24, 2007 at PlayMakers located in the Center for Dramatic Art, Country Club Road on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill, with Mr. Quaintance. All young actors will be contacted in advance with times to attend auditions on February 24. Mr. Quaintance can see a maximum of 70 young actors at audition. Callbacks are scheduled from 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 25, 2007.

All those wishing to audition must be available, as needed, for both the audition day and the callback day, as above.

To sign up for auditions, actors will need to download and complete the Summer Youth Conservatory Audition Information sheet from The ArtCenter's website www.artscenterlive.org. This sheet must be returned to The ArtsCenter's Box Office located at 300G East main Street, Carrboro, NC 27510 no later than February 21, 2007. A current photograph must accompany the information sheet (a recent school picture is fine.) For auditions, actors will sing 16-bars of an up-beat, Broadway-style song of their choice (actors will need to bring sheet music of their selection), read scenes from Oliver, available on The ArtsCenter website, and dance. Audition applicants will be contacted after receipt of information sheet and photograph to confirm call times for all audition sessions.

For further media questions about this exciting summer collaboration, please contact: Pam O'Connor at PlayMakers Repertory Company, (919) 621-1230 or pamo@nc.rr.com or Jeri Lynn Schulke at The ArtsCenter (919) 929-2787 (ext.219) or ypac@artscenterlive.org