

StageWest Theatre Company

At the Civic Center's Stoner Theatre, 221 Walnut St, Des Moines

MEDIA RELEASE – The 2010.11 Season – Presented by Hubbell Realty

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StageWest's most ambitious season in its 14-year history – eight plays and musicals include a ground breaking repertory series of Neil LaBute play and four Iowa premieres! For the first time, we welcome a season corporate sponsor to StageWest – Hubbell Realty Company.

The subscription series includes “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” – “The Seafarer” – “The Beebo Brinker Chronicles” – “[title of show]” – “reasons to be pretty.” Season subscriptions may be purchased in person at the Civic Center Ticket Office or online at www.stagewestiowa.com Price: Anytime Series - \$115. Weeknight Series - \$90. A very special offer for StageWest “virgins” – first-time subscribers can see any performance of all five productions for only \$90!

THE ENTIRE SEASON:

“Bill W. and Dr. Bob” by Stephen Bergman and Janet Surrey. Sept. 17-19 and 22-26. Directed by Karla Kash. Sponsored by the Powell Chemical Dependency Center at Iowa Lutheran Hospital. The true-life story of the two founders of Alcoholics Anonymous and their wives, founders of Al Anon. Iowa premiere production.

“The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” - Music and Lyrics by William Finn. Book by Rachel Sheinkin. Oct. 8-10, 13-17 and 20-24. Directed by Deena Conley. Music direction by Andrew Ryker. Choreography by David Decker. The Tony Award-winning musical comedy about six adolescent outcasts vying for the spelling trophy of a lifetime.

“The Seafarer” by Conor McPherson. Dec. 3-5 and 8-12. Directed by Brad Dell. In the grand tradition of Irish storytelling comes this Christmas fable about the sea, Ireland and the struggle for redemption. A Christmas Eve card game has the stakes raised when a mysterious stranger arrives and Sharky finds himself playing for his very soul. Eerie, engaging and totally entertaining. One of the most produced plays in the past year, “The Seafarer” was nominated for the Tony Award and London's Olivier Award for Best Play. Iowa premiere production.

“The Beebo Brinker Chronicles” by Kate Moira Ryan and Linda S. Chapman. Feb. 18-20 and 23-27. Directed by Anthony Nelson. Based on the ground breaking pulp novels of the 50s and 60s by Anne Bannon, the comedy follows the lives of friends in pre-Stonewall Greenwich Village.

Beth and Laura, secret lovers in college, still pine for each other. Before they can reunite, they find themselves entangled in a web spun by Beebo Brinker, a butch denizen of the underground bar scene in New York. Originally produced by Lily Tomlin and Jane Wagner, it celebrates the era when the “love that dares not speak its name” began breaking the old rules. Iowa premiere production.

“[title of show]” by Jeff Bowen and Hunter Bell. April 1-3, 6-10 and 13-17. Directed by Todd Buchacker. An original Broadway musical (Tony Award nominee) about two nobodies named Hunter and Jeff who decide to write a completely original musical starring themselves. So, here’s the musical about two guys writing a musical – and it is a celebration of the creative spirit and joy of friendship, of collaboration and realizing your dreams! Central Iowa premiere.

The Beauty Plays in Rep by Neil LaBute (June/July 2011)

Over the course of four weeks, StageWest will be one of the first theatres in the country to present three acclaimed plays by one of America’s most prolific young playwrights. The plays are tied together by stories of physical appearance, our obsession with beauty and the importance it plays in relationships and life.

The three plays in the rep series (performed together on alternating days and times-separate admission):

“reasons to be pretty” June 23-26 and July 7 and 9. Directed by Todd Buchacker. Is anyone ever comfortable in their own skin? This is the Tony Award-nominated (Best Play) play that is a love story about the impossibility of love...do we ever know what our partner thinks of us – physically and emotionally? Part of the StageWest season ticket package. Iowa premiere production.

“The Shape of Things” July 6, 9, 14, 16 and 17. Directed by Jennifer Ross Nostrala. A romantic comedy-drama set in a small Midwestern university town. It centers on the lives of four young students who become emotionally and romantically involved with each other.

“Fat Pig” July 8, 10, 13, 15 and 16. Directed by Brad Dell. Winner of the Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Off-Broadway Play. A contemporary play that tells the story of Tom, a thirty-something, in shape, stereotypical professional in a large city, who falls for a very plus-size librarian named Helen. An honest, heartfelt, funny and realistic social commentary.

Location: Civic Center’s Stoner Theatre, 221 Walnut St, Des Moines

Tickets: \$22/Wed/Thur. \$25/Fri/Sat/Sun. Available for all performances in person at the Civic Center Ticket Office or through Ticketmaster, 800-745-3000 or online at www.civiccenter.org. Half-price tickets for Wed. and Sun. performances available on the day of the show – in person at the Civic Center Ticket Office only – subject to availability.

Times: Wednesday through Saturday evenings at 7:30 PM. Sunday matinees at 3:00 PM.

(Note: check web site for special dates and times for The Beauty Plays in June/July 2011)

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