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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HERSHEY AREA PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES AUDITIONS
FOR *THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER***

HERSHEY, Pennsylvania—September 2, 2008 – This holiday season, Hershey Area Playhouse will present the modern classic, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Auditions for this modern classic will be held on Sunday, September 28, 2008 and Monday, September 29 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm each evening.

According to the production's director, Karen Dundore-Gulotta, "As a parent I read the story to my children many times over the years, and as a teacher I also often shared the story with my students. As my son matured and his interest in theatre increased, we often used monologues from the book as his audition material. My connection with the material was further reinforced when I had the good fortune to meet the author, Barbara Robinson, at Millersville University while taking a children's literature class in July 1996."

Karen will bring a passion to this production that has been nurtured and matures with every holiday season. If you or your children have a desire to help bring this story to life on stage while creating timeless memories of your own this holiday season, please come on out to audition.

Children and adults between the ages of 5 to 105 are eligible and we'll especially be looking for several elementary and middle school-aged child actors. All auditioners will be asked to read from the script, and are strongly encouraged to read the book prior to auditions to become familiar with the characters and plot.

Audition forms can be downloaded from HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com. Auditions will be held at Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows, located on Sand Hill Road at Cherry Drive in Hershey. The show will open on Thursday, December 4, 2008 and run through Sunday, December 14, 2008. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Dundore-Gulotta, the director, at 717.507.0543 or mcud7@aol.com.

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Hershey Area Playhouse (www.HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing residents of the community with an opportunity to participate in the creation and production of a theatrical experience. Since its inception in 1999, Hershey Area Playhouse has staged 30 productions at numerous venues around the Hershey area. In April 2007, the Playhouse opened its new permanent home, Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows.