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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HERSHEY AREA PLAYHOUSE
TO PRESENT *THE KING AND I***

HERSHEY, Pennsylvania—June 9, 2009 – Hershey Area Playhouse will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The King and I* from July 9 – 19, 2009. This production will be directed by veteran director Cory Wilkerson, and produced by theatre professional Megan Janel Zimmer.

This beloved musical where east meets west is an unusual love story about two strong-willed people who grow closer than lovers ever could: the King of Siam and his children's English tutor Anna Leonowens. Their struggle to understand and respect each other is cast against the turbulent times of 19th century Siam – a country emerging from a feudal era that is struggling to fend off British colonization. Anna becomes the King's chief advisor, the one who will help him prove to the world that he is not the barbarian King some believe him to be.

"With elaborate costumes designed by Drenda Cordeiro, a hugely talented cast of experienced actors and singers and an exotic Siamese palace for our set,

our production has captured the splendor of ancient Siam to create a feast for the senses in the intimate setting of the Playhouse,” says Wilkerson. “Audiences are in for the time of their life!”

The cast for *The King and I* is as follows:

Captain Orton – Neal Ambron

Louis Leonowens – Adam Lerro

Anna Leonowens – Patty Cole

The Interpreter/Phra Alack – Carl Veigle

The Kralahome – Curt Sisco

The King – Roger Lentz

Lun Tha – Joseph J. Chubb

Tuptim – Natalie Keil

Lady Thiang – Amber Mauldin

Prince Chululongkorn – Jonathan Tirado

Sir Edward Ramsay – Thomas Curry

Royal Children – Eliza Dewey, Emily Fan, Julia Fan, Maria Goldman, Sara Goldman, Juliana Kerper, Kaylor Long, Katia Luu, Mei-Ling Malecki, Maura McErlean, Meigan Mueller, Luke Mummau, Neil Muscat, Lydia Neuhauser, Anishka Parikh, Poorvi Parikh, Jack Rizzo, Mallory Royer, Carina Sarracino, Dante Sarracino, Evan Sassaman, Casey Sisco, Katie Wallace, Lizzie Wallace, Jamie Wilson, Mitch Wise, Naomi Ziegler

Royal Wives – Jackie Brock, Caroline Buckley, Susan Cort, Catherine DeLuce, Nikki Heckerman, Katie Kanoff, Angeline Lonardi, Tara Martenis, Samantha Pierce, Kirstyn Schaeffer, Asha Sahu

Priests of Siam/Amazons – Corey Greene, Luke Mummau, Neil Muscat, Jack Rizzo, Brian Sisco, Carl Veigle

Royal Dancers – Catherine DeLuce, Nikki Heckerman, Jackie Kosoff, Megan Maloskey, Eric Mansilla, Carrie Reale, Asha Sahu, Kirstyn Schaeffer, Micaela Sisco, Victoria White, Chelsea Wicklem, Jessica Wilson, Emma Wolfe, Erin Wolfe

The production will run July 9 – 19, 2009 at Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows, located on Sand Hill Road at Cherry Drive in Hershey, PA. Thursday through Saturday performances will be at 8:00 pm with Sunday matinees at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$17 for teens/adults and \$15 for children 12 and under (service charges apply), and can be purchased by visiting HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com or the Box Office at the theatre on Tuesdays from noon 'til 4:00 pm.

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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 33 productions at numerous venues around the Hershey area. In April 2007, the Playhouse opened its new permanent home, Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows.