

HERSHEY AREA PLAYHOUSE

OUR TOWN PRODUCTION CONTACT:

Skip Becker
717.233.7673 ext. 27
sbecker@capitoltrailways.com

ESSAY CONTEST CONTACT:

Derek Dunham
717.991.3268
marketing@HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WIN TICKETS, DINNER AND A WALK-ON ROLE
AS THE HERSHEY AREA PLAYHOUSE PREPARES FOR *OUR TOWN***

HERSHEY, Pennsylvania—February 12, 2007 – The new Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows will open with a production of Thornton Wilder’s 1938 Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Our Town*. This is the timeless story that questions the way we live our lives without appreciating or sharing the simpler moments, and it challenges us to appreciate the joys in everyday life.

In *Our Town*, Emily has an opportunity to revisit one day of her life, and we’d like you to tell us about the day you’d most like to revisit.

Each and every member of the community is invited to submit an essay answering the question “If you could revisit any single day in your life, what day would you choose and why?” The essay must be a maximum of 500 words and submitted to info@HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com or P.O. Box 703, Hershey, PA 17033 by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 16, 2007.

Essays will be judged on 1) originality, 2) connection to the Hershey area and 3) writing style. Our independent judging panel includes Bill Jackson, *Hummelstown Sun* Editor, Alice Knutsen, Hershey High School English Teacher, Bradley Miller, Mayor of Hummelstown and Larry White, *Hershey Chronicle* Staff Writer.

Winners will receive four tickets to the Hershey Area Playhouse production of *Our Town*, a \$50 gift certificate to a local restaurant (Fenicci's, Fire Alley and The Hershey Pantry have each donated a gift certificate) and one walk-on role during the Act 3 graveyard scene (no speaking or acting will be required).

One adult winner (for authors 18 and older), one teen winner (for authors 13 to 17) and one youth winner (for authors 12 and under) will be awarded. By submitting an essay, participants are agreeing to let Hershey Area Playhouse reprint it via any means to promote the production (of course, you will always be credited for your submission).

This historic production is being directed by Skip Becker and produced by John and Barbara Messmer. Performances will be held April 26 – 29 and May 2 – 6 at 8 p.m. each evening. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$13 for children 12 and under. For more information and to purchase tickets in advance, visit www.HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com. We expect a great turn-out from the community, so purchase your tickets today.

For more information about the essay contest, contact Derek Dunham at 717.991.3268 or marketing@HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com.

For more information about the production, contact Skip Becker, Director for *Our Town*, at 717.233.7673 ext. 27 or sbecker@capitoltrailways.com.

#