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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HERSHEY AREA PLAYHOUSE THEATRE ACADEMY
ANNOUNCES WINTER ACTING CLASSES**

HERSHEY, Pennsylvania—December 8, 2008— Hershey Area Playhouse Theatre Academy has announced its winter educational programs for all school-aged kids.

STORIES ON STAGE PERFORMANCE CLASSES

Saturdays 9:00 am–10:30 am for seven weeks beginning 1.10.09

Grades K - 3

This class uses creative dramatics to teach theatre skills. Students will learn about performance through movement, storytelling and FUN. The class will focus on telling stories culminating in a final performance.

Limit 12

\$95.00 early bird until 1.3.09

\$105.00 after 1.3.09

YOUNG ACTORS PERFORMANCE CLASSES

Saturdays 10:30 am–12:00 pm for seven weeks beginning 1.10.09

Grades 4 - 6

This class mixes creative dramatics with improvisation with a focus on performance. This fast paced mixture of theatre games, storytelling and

creative movement gives kids confidence on stage. The class will end in a final performance.

Limit 15

\$95.00 early bird until 1.3.09

\$105.00 after 1.3.09

Registration deadline is two days prior to the first class - if space is available.

NEW THIS SPRING – THEATRE ACADEMY PLAYERS GO ON TOUR!

Hershey Area Playhouse Theatre Academy Players is a professional youth theatre troupe designed to provide training for students interested in a career in the performing arts. The class is open only to young people in grades seven through twelve, on a tuition basis, meeting weekly each semester. Additional rehearsal time may be scheduled at the end of the study period as needed to prepare a live performance. During each semester, the students will receive hands on instruction in performance skills as well as tips and career advice from working professionals. This is a performance-based educational program. Each session centers around a performance used as text for learning solid acting skills.

Registration fees are \$295 and the program is open to students in *grades 7 – 12*. Classes will be held on Saturday afternoons from February 7 through April 30, 2009. Tour dates begin in early May based on bookings and student availability.

Registration and first class meeting: Saturday, 2.7.09 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Enrolled students will spend two hours learning about the program and getting to know each to other. Auditions for roles in the touring production will be held on Saturday, 2.14.09 from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm for registered students. All registered

students will be cast, however the size and depth of the role will vary depending upon the results of their audition.

This semester, the troupe will perform *Classy* by Cory Wilkerson which asks the question: can Shakespeare's characters convince some tough guys that it takes courage to be yourself? This is a play designed around classic pieces from the Bard specifically for touring to elementary and middle school students that offers strong roles for the more serious actor as well as some great spots for those just beginning to learn the craft.

Registration deadline is Thursday, 2.5.09, if space is available. Registrations will be date stamped and the first 25 paid registrations will receive a spot in the class. The class will close after 25 students have registered.

Visit HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com for more information and to download a registration form. Contact Randall Cline at 717.497.2315 or TheatreAcademy@HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com if you have questions about any of these Playhouse classes.

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Hershey Area Playhouse (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 32 productions at numerous venues around the Hershey area. In April 2007, the Playhouse opened its new permanent home, Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows.