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**NEWSLETTER / NEWS RELEASE
From the Office of the Mayor**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 25, 2013

**FLORISSANT EAGAN CENTER THEATER WILL HOST
THE INAUGURAL ST. LOUIS THEATER CIRCLE AWARDS**

Performances by local professional theater companies, ranging in size from The Muny and its productions in the 11,000-seat Forest Park amphitheater to small companies performing in modest venues around the area, will be recognized at the inaugural St. Louis Theater Circle Awards. Other cities around the country, such as Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco and Washington D.C., honor their own local theatrical productions with similar awards programs.

The ceremony will take place on Monday, March 18, 2013 at the Florissant Civic Center Theatre in the James J. Eagan Civic Center, which is located at the intersection of Parker Road and Waterford Drive in Florissant. The event will celebrate theatrical achievements in the year 2012 from local professional theater as recognized by the St. Louis Theater Circle, a new organization comprised of area reviewers.

Tickets to the event will be \$10 apiece, payable in cash or check at the door on the night of the ceremony or in advance by mailing payment by check to St. Louis Theater Circle, 7162 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63130. Reservations can be made in advance by contacting stltheatercircle@sbcglobal.net.

Additionally, Love Catering, which services a number of theaters locally including The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and Stages St. Louis, will cater the event, offering food and drinks available on a cash basis. Tickets for a special pre-dinner buffet will be sold for \$15 apiece, which includes one drink along with a buffet. Buffet tickets may be reserved in advance or paid for in advance at the same addresses as above.

The box office will open at 6 p.m. and the ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. The pre-event buffet will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m. A post-ceremony celebration will take place following the event until 11:30 p.m. Well-known pianist Carol Schmidt will provide musical accompaniment throughout the presentation.

“We are delighted that Mayor Thomas Schneider and the City of Florissant have made the Florissant Civic Center Theatre available for this inaugural event,” said Judith Newmark, theater critic for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and a founding member of the St. Louis Theater Circle. “Our goal is to recognize and celebrate artistic accomplishments on the professional scene in the 2012 calendar year.”

While various reviewers may also cover professional touring shows at The Fox and the Peabody Opera House as well as selected community and college productions, The St. Louis Theater Circle Awards are designed to focus attention on dozens of area theater companies which showcase the artistic efforts of actors, directors and technical artists in the metropolitan area. Nominations for The St. Louis Theater Circle Awards are divided into categories for musicals, dramas and comedies. Approximately 100 local professional theatrical productions were presented in the St. Louis area in 2012.

Founding members of the St. Louis Theater Circle include Steve Allen, Stagedoorstl.com; Andrea Braun, The Vital Voice and Playback; Mark Bretz, Ladue News; Bob Cohn, St. Louis Jewish Light; Chris Gibson, Broadwayworld.com; Harry Hamm, KMOX; Gerry Kowarsky, Two on the Aisle, HEC-TV; Chuck Lavazzi, KDHX; Eleanor Mullin, local actress and arts supporter, who is the group’s administrator; Judith Newmark, St. Louis Post-Dispatch; Andrea Torrence, Stlouistheatresnob.com; Lynn Venhaus, Belleville News-Democrat; and Bob Wilcox, Two on the Aisle and Town & Style.

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