



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 27, 2011

**CENTER STAGE THEATRE'S
URINETOWN
PLACES SECOND AT NATIONAL
AACTFest11 COMPETITION**

MIDLAND – The results from last weekend's American Association of Community Theatre – National AACTFest11 competition held in Rochester, New York, have been announced.

After competing against 11 other theatre troupes from across the nation, **Center Stage Theatre's** production of *Urinetown* received the **2nd Place Overall Production** award. *Urinetown* was the highest placing musical in the competition. The 1st Place Overall Production was awarded to Oh Look Performing Arts Center of Grapevine, Texas, for their production *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*.

All in all, 210 community theatres competed in the 2011 AACTFest state, regional and national competitions.

Additionally, Center Stage Theatre received the following accolades:

Nominations received:

Outstanding Direction: Bill Anderson Jr.

Outstanding Costumes: Laurelei Horton

Outstanding Supporting Actor: Paul Yakuber for his role as Officer Lockstock

Outstanding Supporting Actress: Carol Rumba for her role as Penelope Pennywise

Awards won:

Outstanding Choral Ensemble

Outstanding Choreography: Kelli Jolly

Outstanding Scenic Design

Outstanding Featured Actress: R. Jeanne Gilbert for her role as Josephine Strong

Urinetown cast & crew who travelled to Rochester were:

Bill Anderson Jr. – Director

Kristen Lences – Stage Manager

Andrew Knoff – Lighting

Tom Randolph – Sound

Laurelei Horton – Costumer

Terry Robinson, Lisa Dice and Christy Prout – Dressers

Marissa Martin – Props

Emily Sweeney and Valerie Padgett – Spotlight Operators

Bailey Banks – Stage Assistant

Josh Finch – Bobby Strong

Erin Southwell – Hope Cladwell

Paul Yakuber – Officer Lockstock

Emily Anderson – Little Sally
Carol Rumba – Penelope Pennywise
David Clayton – Caldwell B. Cladwell
Zach Prout – Officer Barrel
R. Jeanne Gilbert – Josephine Strong
Andrew Southwell – Mr. McQueen
Susie Polito – Senator Fipp
Adam Gardner – Hot Blades Harry
Kelsey Woods – Little Becky Two-Shoes
Trena Winans-Bagnall – Soupy Sue
Kyle Bagnall – Robby the Stockfish
Kelli Jolly – Tiny Tina
Sonja Roden – Mrs. Millennium
Christina Westbury – Rehab Rita
Josh Fridstrom – Billy Boy Bill
Jack Arensberg – Joseph “Old Man” Strong

AACTFest11 is a national theatre event that brought the best community theatre productions from across the Country and the U.S. Armed Services abroad to Rochester, NY, June 20-26, 2011. Over 600 people were expected to participate in this American Association of Community Theatre flagship event. Performances, workshops and exhibitions were open to the public. The Geva Theatre Center, Woodbury Avenue, was the venue where twelve performing companies presented their work. A Tony-style Awards Show closed the festivities on Saturday night. The Geva Theatre Center also housed the National Design Exhibition and Competition, which featured work by lighting, sound, costume, web and set designers.

Center Stage Theatre (formerly Theatre Guild and Music Society) is one of the most successful and exciting community theatre companies in the Midwest. Center Stage Theatre continues to present high quality plays, musical theatre, children’s theatre, and programs of community service, theatre classes and workshops in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Member of the American Association of Community Theatre.

Midland Center for the Arts, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation formed under the laws of the State of Michigan incorporating six groups: Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, Center Stage Theatre, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, Midland Symphony Orchestra, and Music Society – Choral. Activities at Midland Center for the Arts are supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For the latest Center news, visit our web site at www.mcfta.org.

Contact:
Julie Dukes
Communications Manager
(989) 631-5930 x 1602
dukes@mcfta.org

#

Midland Center for the Arts • 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd. • Midland, MI 48640 • (989) 631-5930 • (989) 631-7890 fax • www.mcfta.org