

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saint Michael's Playhouse

Greater Burlington's Professional Summer Theater

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Season of American theater in music & comedy, June 17 to August 9
Saint Michael's Playhouse block-buster 2008 season:
Barnum, Moonlight & Magnolias; Almost, Maine, and Pump Boys & Dinettes

--Subscription sales start May 1--

Colchester, VT -- Four shows resounding with high entertainment will fill the Saint Michael's Playhouse stage for the summer 2008 season. Starting June 17 and running till August 9, the professional Actors' Equity theater company will present BARNUM, MOONLIGHT & MAGNOLIAS; ALMOST, MAINE, and PUMP BOYS & DINETTES. The Playhouse performs on the stage of the McCarthy Arts Center on the campus of Saint Michael's College.

"Our company and crew of some 80 professional theater artists bring full-scale custom-produced productions, not one-night touring stops," said Chuck Tobin, producing artistic director of Saint Michael's Playhouse. "In the past four seasons, the Playhouse has had an astounding 50 percent increase in attendance with over 15,000 audience members seeing a show each season," he said. "This season we've assembled a line-up of exciting productions with something for everyone, including the big entertainment factor that our audiences love and have come to expect," Tobin said.

The four shows of the 2008 summer, bringing "more joy, music, laughter, and insight than ever before," said Tobin, will be these "blockbuster, crowd-pleasing hits":

June 17-28, BARNUM, the high-flying Tony-Award winning Broadway musical based on the amazing life of Phineas Taylor Barnum. Music by Cy Coleman, Lyrics by Michael Stewart, Book by Mark Bramble. Directed and choreographed by Keith Andrews with circus and aerial training by Bobby Hedglin-Taylor, BARNUM traces the life of P.T. Barnum from humble beginnings to The Greatest Show on Earth. Broadway actors John Patrick Hayden as Phineas Taylor Barnum and Bill Carmichael as The Ringmaster star. "With awe-inspiring circus performers, breathtaking acrobatics, circus-ring staging and buoyant songs, BARNUM is a perfect show for the entire family."

July 1-12, MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIAS, the hilarious mad-cap behind-the-scenes Hollywood show-biz comedy about the making of *Gone with the Wind*, by Ron Hutchinson, to be directed by Broadway, television and film veteran Kenneth Kimmins. "It's 1939 and Hollywood is abuzz. Legendary producer David O. Selznick has shut down production of his new epic, *Gone with the Wind* to rewrite the screenplay. This fascinating farce comes to vivid life as three icons of the film industry struggle over what becomes one of greatest movies ever made."

July 15-26, ALMOST, MAINE, called "Love in the Time of Frostbite," an enchanting new romantic comedy set in the far northern town of Almost, Maine. Written by Tony Award nominee John Ciani, directed by Sarah Carleton, and featuring a cast of four stellar actors including Kate Wetherhead from Broadway's *Legally Blonde*, ALMOST, MAINE, visits the

human heart through magical realism with laughter and hope. "On a cold, clear, moonless night in the middle of winter, all is not quite what it seems in the remote town of Almost, Maine. As the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, Almost's residents find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and hilarious ways in this delightful midwinter night's dream."

July 29-August 9, PUMP BOYS AND DINETTES, the high-octane Broadway Musical that celebrates life's simple pleasures, by John Foley, Mark Hardwick, Debra Monk, Cass Morgan, John Schimmel, Jim Wann, to be directed and choreographed by Keith Andrews. "Enjoy a feel-good evening of musical theater when you meet the good folks at the Double Cupp Diner and Pump Station. Performed by six actors who play all the musical instruments, this Broadway hit is a crowd-pleasin', toe-tappin', knee-slappin' mixture of country, rock and western-swing that's hotter than a fresh batch of buttermilk biscuits."

Season subscriptions go on sale May 1, and may be purchased on-line at www.saintmichaelsplayhouse.org (24 hours a day, 7 days a week), by phone (802) 654-2617, or in person at the walk-up window at the Playhouse Box Office in the McCarthy Arts Center on the campus of Saint Michael's College. The box office hours, starting May 1, are Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Call (802) 654-2281 to request a Playhouse brochure. Subscribers save 20% off the regular ticket price. Evening series, 4 ticket subscription \$104; matinee series, 4 ticket subscription \$84. Single tickets available June 2, evenings \$33 per ticket; matinees \$27 per ticket.

PLAYHOUSE JUNIOR: The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, directed by New York actor, director, and theater educator Marc Tumminelli, will be staged June 21 at 11 a.m. and June 22 at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Jack and the Beanstalk, also directed by Marc Tumminelli, will be staged July 5 at 11 a.m. and July 6 at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. All children's show tickets are \$8. A Broadway Workshop, with theater professional Playhouse stars, for youngsters ages 7 to 14 will be held June 29 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost \$75. For more information about the Broadway Workshop go to www.thebroadwayworkshop.com .

Saint Michael's Playhouse is Greater Burlington's professional summer theater, celebrating live theater, nationally renowned Equity actors, and a professional theater internship program in the heart of Northern Vermont's liveliest community. From its humble beginnings in 1947, Saint Michael's Playhouse has blossomed into an eight-week theater season housed in one of Vermont's finest theater venues, Saint Michael's McCarthy Arts Center. As the area's only professional summer theater, Saint Michael's Playhouse features stellar talent from Broadway, Off-Broadway, and regional theaters nationwide, hiring actors and stage managers who are members of Actor's Equity Association – the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States. Each season approximately 14,000 theatergoers experience the opportunity to see live, professional New York-caliber theater, produced and presented right here in Vermont. More information is available at www.saintmichaelsplayhouse.org.

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Saint Michael's Playhouse, a professional theater company, is owned and operated by Saint Michael's College in service to the arts and the community.