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NEWS RELEASE

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STAGES ST. LOUIS TAKES YOU ON A JOURNEY ACROSS TIME TO BRING BROADWAY TO ST. LOUIS IN 2010 SEASON

(ST. LOUIS) – STAGES ST. LOUIS proudly announces its 24th season! The adventure begins in the year 1839 in Hannibal, Missouri with the Tony Award-winning musical *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, continues as we jet to New York’s Madison Avenue in the 1960s with Neil Simon’s *Promises, Promises*, and ends with true romance on the midway in 1940s Iowa in *State Fair*. The season kicks off May 28 and runs through October 3. In addition, the 2010 season for Theatre for Young Audiences presents *Disney’s The Aristocats*, beginning August 4.

Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

May 28 – June 27

Celebrate the 175th anniversary of the birth of Missouri’s favorite son, Mark Twain! Bursting from the pages of Mark Twain’s classic novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, this Tony Award-winning musical features bluegrass and country music in the style of the famous novel.

STAGES is known for bring Broadway-quality musical theatre to St. Louis, and [Big River](#) is the production that proves the rule. The 2010 season opener features the most sophisticated stage design STAGES has ever attempted, a \$70,000.00 investment, with full-stage decking and a multi-tiered set that allows scenes in multiple locations to bring the epic adventures of Huck and Jim to life.

Join Huck, Tom Sawyer, and Jim as they take you on a thrilling journey down the mighty Mississippi. *Big River* features a score by Roger (“King of the Road”) Miller that reminds us the quest for freedom and seduction of a new frontier lives in every American soul. Music and lyrics by Roger Miller; book by William Hauptman, adapted from the novel by Mark Twain.

Promises, Promises

July 16 – August 15

So nice, they named it twice! It’s Manhattan in the ‘60s and STAGES will have you tapping your toes to the Burt Bacharach beat with Neil Simon’s [Promises, Promises](#). This smart and sexy musical adapted from Billy Wilder’s 1960 Oscar-winning film *The Apartment* is set in the *Mad Men* era of Manhattan’s Madison Avenue and focuses on a rising executive who tries to curry favor with his superiors by letting them borrow his apartment for romantic trysts. Music by Burt Bacharach; lyrics by Hal David; book by Neil Simon, adapted from the screenplay *The Apartment* by Billy Wilder and I.A.L. Diamond.

State Fair

September 3 – October 3

With a soaring score by Rodgers and Hammerstein, [State Fair](#) invites you to travel with the Frakes as they leave behind the routine of the family farm in 1946 for three days of adventure at the annual Iowa State Fair. Featuring the lilting melodies of “It’s a Grand Night for Singing” and the Academy Award-winning song “It Might As Well Be Spring,” *State Fair* is a tuneful treat for the entire family. Music by Richard Rodgers; lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II; book by Tom Briggs and Louis Mattioli, based on the screenplay by Oscar Hammerstein II and the novel by Phil Strong.

Disney's The Aristocats
August 4 – 15

Thomas O'Malley and his rag-tag Alley Cats come to the rescue of the cat-napped Duchess and her Aristokittens! [The Aristocats](#), a modern update of the beloved Disney classic features the jazzy beats of "Scales and Arpeggios," and "Ev'rybody Wants to Be a Cat." At just 50-plus minutes, it's the perfect show for children of all ages. Music and lyrics by Richard M. Sherman, Robert B. Sherman, Al Rinker, Floyd Huddleston and Terry Giklyson. Music adapted and arranged and additional music by Bryan Louiselle. Book adapted and additional lyrics by Michael Bernard. Based on the 1970 Disney film *The Aristocats*.

Tickets are now on sale. STAGES performs in the intimate, 384-seat Robert G. Reim Theatre at the Kirkwood Civic Center, 111 South Geyer Road in St. Louis, MO. For more information or to purchase tickets call 314-821-2407 or visit www.stagesstlouis.org.

Each mainstage production will run for a total of five weeks with matinee and evening performances Tuesdays through Sundays. The Theatre for Young Audiences performs Wednesday through Sunday for two weeks.

The recipient of the 2008 Excellence in Arts Award from the Arts & Education Council, eight Kevin Kline Awards in 2008, and six in 2009, STAGES was founded in 1987 and is dedicated to producing the indigenous American art form of musical theatre. The mission of STAGES is to become the leading company for musical theatre performance and education in the Midwest.

Editor's Note: Photography and renderings of sets and costumes are available for each show at www.stagesstlouis.org. Media interested in interviews with show directors or cast may contact Megan Gibson at 636.530.5959 or mgibson@stagesstlouis.org, or Julia Bishop-Cross at (314) 681-2094 or jbishopcross@sbcglobal.net.

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