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SEATTLE THEATRE GROUP Develops Performing Arts Component Through Partnership with MEREDITH MATHEWS YMCA Black Achievers Program

SEATTLE— Seattle Theatre Group (STG), non-profit operators of Seattle’s historic Paramount and Moore Theatres, announces a new partnership with Meredith Mathews YMCA to develop a performing arts component for the Black Achievers Program (BAP). BAP offers opportunities for local African-American high school students to explore career options, develop leadership skills, prepare for college and participate in social activities. BAP has been offered free of charge to participants for the past 15 years.

STG will enhance BAP by providing performing arts experience in conjunction with workshops dance and music engagements at The Paramount and Moore Theatres that feature prominent African or African-American artists. Components include:

- **Participatory Workshops** – Local artists teach workshops in dance, music and theatre.
- **Careers in the Arts workshop** – Students attend presentations about booking, marketing, education and technical careers along with a tour of the historic Paramount theatre.
- **Performances** – Students attend performances at The Paramount and Moore Theatres including: Heddy Maalem, McCoy Tyner, Oprah Winfrey Presents THE COLOR PURPLE, Blue Note Records 70th Anniversary, Savion Glover’s *Bare Soundz* and Disney’s THE LION KING.

The STG and BAP partnership is made possible by The Mayor’s Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs and the City of Seattle. “The arts are an important learning tool that nurture our youth and help them sharpen their creative and critical thinking skills. Programs such as yours offer teens a safe environment to shine, to express themselves and to develop positive goals for the future,” said Greg Nickels, Mayor of Seattle.

About Meredith Mathews YMCA Black Achievers Program

The YMCA of Greater Seattle Black Achievers Program is based at the Meredith Mathews East Madison YMCA. The program is delivered at the YMCA and at Garfield, Franklin, Cleveland, and Rainier Beach High Schools. BAP offers high school youth opportunities to explore career options, develop leadership skills, prepare for college, and participate in service learning and social activities. Through relationships with local business professionals and high quality programming, the youth learn to set educational goals, understand professional standards, and strengthen developmental assets.

About STG

Seattle Theatre Group is the 501 (c)(3) non-profit arts organization that operates the historic Paramount and Moore Theatres in Seattle, Washington. Our mission is to make diverse performing arts and education an integral part of our region’s cultural identity while keeping these two

landmark venues alive and vibrant. STG presents a range of performances from Broadway, off-Broadway, dance and jazz to comedy, concerts of all genres, speakers and family shows – at both historic theatres in Seattle and venues throughout the Puget Sound and Portland, Oregon.

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