

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Paramount Theatre First To Offer Open Captioning

Remainder of 2008 Broadway Musicals to Feature Service

SEATTLE—Seattle Theatre Group (STG) and Broadway Across America (BAA) offer a new service for select Broadway engagements at the historic Paramount Theatre: open captioning for patrons with hearing loss. Through a partnership with Theatre Development Fund's accessibility program, this service is the first of its kind in the Northwest and began with a successful test-run on August 10, 2008 during A CHORUS LINE.

The service helps theatre goers with mild to severe to complete hearing loss enjoy theatre attendance as never before. Performances with this service features a text display located to the side of the stage that scrolls the dialogue and lyrics in synchronicity with the performance. Individuals who enjoy captioned television, videos and movies can now enjoy this option at the theater to help catch quick punch lines, fast-patter lyrics and hushed dialogue.

"Our patrons responded with overwhelming excitement to the open captioning service for A CHORUS LINE," said STG Executive Director, Josh LaBelle. "Our mission is to provide diverse performing arts to our community and make those performances available to all audiences, which includes patrons with all severities of hearing loss."

Upcoming Opening Caption Performance Dates:

- The Phantom of the Opera – Wednesday, October 1, 2008 at 7:30 PM
 - *Spring Awakening – Sunday, October 19, 2008* at 6:30 PM
 - *The Color Purple – Sunday, December 28, 2008* at 6:30 PM
- *special rate available for open caption seating

"We're thrilled to bring open captioning to the Pacific Northwest," says Lisa Carling, Director of the New York based not-for-profit organization, Theatre Development Fund's Accessibility Programs, which awarded STG and BAA a grant to provide the open captioning service for one Broadway performance per engagement for the remaining 2008 season. "We've had great success expanding this service in New York, from Broadway and Off-Broadway to shows across the country! It's great to see theater become part of the lives of so many who were unable to attend prior to open captioning."



THE HISTORIC PARAMOUNT AND MOORE THEATRES

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Tickets are available at www.theparamount.com, by phone at 206-292-ARTS (2787), at The Paramount and Moore Theatre Box Offices and at Ticketmaster outlets. Groups of 10 or more call 888-214-6856. The Paramount Theatre is located at 911 Pine Street in downtown Seattle.

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 variety of shows from Broadway, off-Broadway, dance and Jazz or comedy, concerts of all genres, speakers and family shows – at both historic theatres in Seattle and at venues throughout Puget Sound and Portland, Oregon.

About TDF

The captions are provided by c2 (Caption Coalition) Inc., a not-for-profit provider of professional live performance captioning. Major funding for the Theatre Access Project is provided by SAP, The Theodore H. Barth Foundation, Goldman, Sachs & Co., Louise and Arde Bulova Fund, Inc.; Laurence W. Levine Foundation, Inc. and Newman's Own Foundation.

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