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VITTUM THEATER RECEIVES AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOR THEATRE IN EDUCATION AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING NEW CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY.

CHICAGO – Vittum Theater at Northwestern University Settlement House is the proud recipient of the prestigious 2007 Zeta Phi Eta-Winifred Ward for Outstanding New Children's Theatre Company Award from The American Alliance for Theatre in Education. The award, given by Zeta Phi Eta, a national arts fraternity, honors a theatre company serving young audiences which has been in operation at least two full years, but not more than five years. The company must have attained a high level of artistic production, sound management practices, and must have stimulated community interest in its endeavors.

Tom Arvetis, Vittum Theater Producing Artistic Director, says: "We are extremely honored to have been chosen for this award. I'm really proud that our work has been recognized on a national scale, and this achievement is really a testament to the commitment made by the Northwestern Settlement House to provide a rich and substantive arts experience for young people in Chicago. I'm excited for what comes next."

The American Alliance for Theatre & Education (AATE) is the leading national professional organization for theatre educators, theatre artists and educators who use drama and/or theatre in the classroom. AATE is the national voice for Theatre & Education, and their growing visibility helps build partnerships with policy makers and institutions.

Vittum Theater creates dynamic theatre for young audiences that activates the imagination, inspires dialogue and celebrates community among families, educators and artists. Vittum strives to become Chicago's premiere source for theatrical programming designed for young people ages 8-14 and their families. As educators, Vittum endeavors to be a model for professional development through workshops, residencies and other resources that offer concrete ways to infuse theatre in the classroom. As artists, Vittum seeks to produce renowned stories as well as cultivate new work.

Vittum Theater's Season for Young Audiences includes three productions a year and is preparing to enter its fourth season. Each production includes weekday performances primarily for school groups, as well as weekend matinees for the general public. All performances include a post-show audience talkback with the cast. Vittum Theater also conducts a pre-show Weekend Workshop Series at 1pm for children ages 8-12.

Vittum Theater is a program of Northwestern University Settlement House, the oldest continually operating settlement house in Chicago. Throughout its 116-year history, the Settlement has remained committed to providing resources that empower our neighbors to overcome the obstacles of poverty. Vittum Theater extends this mission by presenting Chicago's young audiences, educators and families with an affordable artistic experience rooted in performance. Last season, Vittum Theater served nearly 13,000 children from 112 schools and numerous households throughout the Chicagoland area.

All shows are performed at Vittum Theater, 1012 N. Noble St., in the heart of Chicago's West Town neighborhood. Free parking is available, and the theater is close to the Noble St. stop on the #56 Milwaukee bus line and the Division stop on the CTA Blue Line. The theater is wheelchair accessible.

Tickets for all shows are \$17.00, \$14.00 seniors, \$10.00 children aged 12 and under, \$9.00 previews and \$8.00 school groups. The weekend workshops are \$5 per child. Other group discounts also available. Flex passes available beginning late August. For tickets or more information on our upcoming 2007-2008 season, call (773) 342-4141 or visit www.vittumtheater.org.

For questions about this press release, please contact Jennifer Mathews, Vittum Theater Marketing & Public Relations Manager, at (773) 209-3889 or jennifer@vittumtheater.org.

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