



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ADVENTURE STAGE CHICAGO PRESENTS GAYLE CORNELISON'S STAGE
VERSION OF THEODORE TAYLOR'S AWARD-WINNING NOVEL *THE CAY***

Saturdays & Sundays at 2pm Jan. 26 – Feb 17 (no show Jan. 27) at Vittum Theater, 1012 N. Noble St.
Tickets: \$17 adults, \$14 seniors, \$10 children 14 and under, \$9 previews, \$8 school groups, \$5 workshops.
For further info or to purchase tickets, call (773) 342-4141 or visit www.adventurestage.org.

CHICAGO – The award-winning Adventure Stage Chicago at Vittum Theater (Outstanding New Children's Theatre Company for 2007 from the American Alliance for Theatre & Education) presents the second production in their 2007-2008 season: Gayle Cornelison's stage adaptation of Theodore Taylor's children's novel *THE CAY*.

Separated from his family by a German sea attack during World War II, eleven-year-old Phillip finds himself blind and stranded on a deserted island. His only companion is an elderly West Indian named Timothy. Phillip's mother has warned him about black natives, but he is forced to depend completely on Timothy in order to survive. As weeks—and then months—pass by with no rescue, the boy grows strong under the tutelage of his unlikely mentor and discovers there is much more to Timothy than the color of his skin.

Director Amanda Delheimer stages *THE CAY* with dialogue and dance, employing kokens (black-suited actors in the tradition of Japanese Kabuki theatre) choreographed by Allison Kurtz and original music composed by ASC resident sound artist Mikhail Fiksel. This play is recommended for all audiences age 8 and older.

THE CAY RUNS JAN. 26 THROUGH FEB. 17

Previews: 10:30 a.m. Jan. 23-24.

Family Matinees: 2:00 p.m. every Sat. and Sun. (no Sun. show 1/27).

Education Matinees: 10:30 a.m. every Tues.-Fri. (no show 2/12).

Press are invited to attend the opening performance Saturday, Jan. 26 at 2pm. Please RSVP to Jennifer Mathews at 773.209.3889 or jen.mathews1@gmail.com.

Weekday shows are primarily performed for school groups, but public tickets are also available for purchase. All performances include a post-show Curtain Conversation with the cast. ASC also conducts a pre-show Saturday Workshop Series at 1pm for children ages 8-12 at an additional ticket cost of \$5.

PERFORMANCE EXTRAS

January 26: Ice Cream Social!

Audience members are invited to remain after the show for free ice cream provided by Oberweis Dairy.

February 3: Enter To Win!

Audience members are automatically entered in a drawing to win a Cay Gift Pack, which includes a copy of the novels *The Cay* and *Timothy and the Cay*, a poster signed by ASC's *THE CAY* cast and passes to the Chicago Children's Museum.

February 10: Behind-the-Scenes Day!

After the show, audience members may come on stage to examine the set and props and receive a backstage tour of Adventure Stage. This performance is also American Sign Language interpreted.

DISCUSS THE BOOK *THE CAY* AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Adventure Stage Chicago has also partnered with the Chicago Public Library, Evanston Library, Oak Park Public Library and Skokie Public Library to host book discussions of the novel *THE CAY* throughout the month of January. Participants gather to talk about themes from the novel, and they then receive 2-for-1 ticket coupons to see *THE CAY* live on ASC's stage. The discussions are free and open to the public, although reservations are strongly recommended. The schedule is as follows:

Evanston Library, Main Branch:

Sat., Jan. 12, 2pm. Reservations at 847-448-8610.

Evanston Library, North Branch:

Mon., Jan. 14, 7pm. Reservations at 847-448-8610.

Skokie Public Library:

Wed., Jan. 16, 6:30pm. Reservations at 847-324-3149.

Chicago Public Library, Bucktown-Wicker Park Branch:

Thurs., Jan. 17, 6:30pm. Reservations at 312-744-6022.

Oak Park Public Library, Main Branch:

Sat., Jan. 19, 3pm. Reservations at 708-452-3420.

Chicago Public Library, Sulzer Regional Branch:

Wed., Jan. 23, 6:30pm. Reservations at 312-744-7616 x3.

Evanston Library, South Branch:

Thurs., Jan. 24, 7pm. Reservations at 847-448-8610.

Theodore Taylor's novel *The Cay* was published in 1969 to critical acclaim and went on to win, among others, the Jane Addams Book Award and Lewis Carroll Shelf Award. The book was adapted as a TV movie in 1974, and in 1993 Taylor published the sequel *Timothy of the Cay*. During his long career, Taylor authored more than 50 fiction and non-fiction books for young adult readers, including *The Weirdo* (Edgar Award for Best Young Adult Mystery), *Ice Drift*, *The Bomb*, *Sniper* and *Rogue Wave*. He passed away in October 2006 at age 85.

Playwright Gayle Cornelison is the founder and general director of California Theatre Center. Under his leadership, the company has twice been awarded Best Children's Theatre in America. He has written more than 25 plays, and his adaptations include such classics as *Tom Sawyer*, *Heidi*, *Just So Stories*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *A Little Princess* and Arnold Lobel's *Frog and Toad* books. Cornelison has a Ph.D. in Theater and has sat on the American Theatre Association Board, the California Theatre Council and the Children's Theatre Association of America.

THE CAY is directed by Amanda Delheimer, who previously directed *Sideways Stories from the Wayside School*, *And Then They Came For Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank* and *The Ash Girl* for Vittum Theater and is an Adventure Stage Chicago teaching artist. She has a Masters in Theater and Spanish from the University of Chicago and has directed, designed, choreographed and/or taught for various theater companies throughout Chicago, including Steppenwolf, Court, Pegasus Players, Collaboraction, Strawdog and Redmoon.

THE CAY features cast members Zach Laliberte, Eugene Parker, Meghan Brown and Allisa-Zee Hartmann. Production staff consists of Jackelyn Normand (stage manager), Mikhail Fiksel (sound designer/composer), Courtney O'Neill (stage designer), Kat Powers (props designer), Jared Moore (lighting designer), Laura Kollar (costume designer), Tanera Marshall (dialect coach), Allison Kurtz (choreographer) and Erin Miller (technical director).

Adventure Stage Chicago (ASC) was formerly known as Vittum Theater, and this is the first season under its new name. ASC's mission is to create dynamic theatre for young audiences that activates the imagination, inspires dialogue and celebrates community among families, educators and artists. ASC strives to become Chicago's premiere source for theatrical programming designed for young people ages 8-14 and their families.

On August 4 of this year, ASC received the prestigious 2007 Zeta Phi Eta-Winifred Ward for Outstanding New Children's Theatre Company Award from The American Alliance for Theatre & Education. The award, given by national arts fraternity Zeta Phi Eta, 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 so awarded must have attained a high level of artistic production and sound management practices, and must have stimulated community interest in its work.

As artists, Adventure Stage Chicago seeks to produce renowned stories as well as cultivate new work. In April 2008, ASC will present Jason Tremblay's new play *Katrina: The Girl Who Wanted Her Name Back* as part of The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' New Visions/New Voices 2008 biennial festival, an intensive workshop that presents rehearsed readings of plays and musicals for young audiences to theater professionals, educators and others interested in the field. ASC is one of only seven theatres this year selected from around the world to present their new work. *Katrina* is tentatively planned to be produced as part of ASC's 2008-2009 season.

As educators, Adventure Stage Chicago endeavors to be a model for professional development through workshops, residencies and other resources that offer concrete ways to infuse theatre in the classroom. To that end, ASC is proud to be a 2007-2008 Neighborhood Bridges National Dissemination Project Partner. A program of the Tony Award-winning Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis (CTC), the year-round Neighborhood Bridges project brings teaching artists into affiliated classrooms on a weekly basis to work collaboratively with classroom teachers. Through theater games, storytelling, improvisation and creative writing, students develop their abilities to write, speak and think critically. CTC disseminates the project to 12 sites across the country, and ASC has been chosen as the Chicago site for this national project.

Adventure Stage Chicago 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 neighbors to overcome the obstacles of poverty. ASC extends this mission by presenting Chicago's young audiences, educators and families with an affordable artistic experience rooted in performance. Last season, ASC (under the name Vittum Theater) served nearly 13,000 students from 112 schools throughout the Chicagoland area.

THE CAY tickets are \$17.00, \$14.00 seniors, \$10.00 children aged 14 and under, \$9.00 previews, \$8.00 school groups and \$5.00 for Saturday pre-show workshops (ages 8-12 only). Other group discounts also available. The Passport to Adventure is available for savings of up to 50%. For tickets and more information, call (773) 342-4141 or visit www.adventurestage.org.

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.

For questions about this press release, please contact Jennifer Mathews, ASC Marketing & Public Relations Manager, at (773) 209-3889 or jen.mathews1@gmail.com