



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**CHICAGO'S VITTUM THEATER OFFICIALLY CHANGES NAME TO
ADVENTURE STAGE CHICAGO AND ANNOUNCES 2007-2008 SEASON:**

**Charles Way's U.S. Premiere Adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*
Gayle Cornelison's Stage Version of Theodore Taylor's Award-Winning Novel *The Cay*
World Premiere Work from Acclaimed Playwright José Cruz González**

Tickets: \$17 adults, \$14 seniors, \$10 children 12 and under, \$9 previews, \$8 school groups.
For further info or to purchase tickets, call (773) 342-4141 or visit www.adventurestage.org.

CHICAGO – The award-winning Vittum Theater (2007 Outstanding New Children's Theatre Company Award from the American Alliance for Theatre and Education) is entering their fourth season with a brand new name: **ADVENTURE STAGE CHICAGO** (ASC).

Adventure Stage Chicago's newly-updated mission is to create dynamic theatre for young audiences that activates the imagination, inspires dialogue and celebrates community among families, educators and artists. In keeping with this mission, three exciting productions for audiences 8 and older comprise ASC's 2007-2008 season:

NOV. 3 – DEC. 6, 2007

U.S. Premiere!

EYE OF THE STORM

by Charles Way

Adapted from William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*

Directed by Kimberly Senior

Sorcerer Prospero lives alone with his daughter Miranda on an enchanted island. Now 14, Miranda knows nothing of the outside world and longs for answers about her past. Frustrated by her father's silence, Miranda conjures a terrible storm that washes ashore two strangers. For the first time, Miranda forms a relationship with someone other than her father—but are the strangers what they seem? Who can Miranda really trust? And if to truly love someone, you must set them free...when is the right time to let go?

Previews: 10:30 a.m. Nov. 1 & 2.

Family Matinees: 2:00 p.m. every Sat. and Sun. during run (no Sun. show 11/4 or 12/2).

Weekdays (school groups and single tickets): 10:30 a.m. Nov. 6, 7, 15, 16, 20, 27, 29, 30, Dec. 4, 6.

JAN. 26 – FEB. 17, 2008

THE CAY

by Gayle Cornelison

Adapted from the novel by Theodore Taylor (Jane Addams Book Award, Lewis Carroll Shelf Award and Commonwealth Club of California Award)

Directed by Amanda Delheimer

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.

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

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

Weekdays (school groups and single tickets): 10:30 a.m. every Tues.-Fri. during the run (no show 2/12).

APRIL 5 – MAY 3, 2008

World Premiere!

THE BLUE HOUSE

by José Cruz González

Directed by Tom Arvetis (Producing Artistic Director, Adventure Stage Chicago)

Acclaimed playwright and Childsplay (AZ) Associate Artist José Cruz González premieres a thrilling new work set in the local Chicago neighborhood of Pilsen. A contemporary children's ghost story told in English and Spanish, THE BLUE HOUSE follows the adventures of a young Latina girl as she encounters the spirit of a mysterious African-American woman. Inhabiting a fantastical world of dreams and nightmares, this exhilarating tale is sure to inspire audiences of all cultures to discover and celebrate the untapped strength that lies within all of us.

THE BLUE HOUSE is co-commissioned by the Children's Humanities Festival—a program of the Chicago Humanities Festival, which creates year-round opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds and circumstances to explore and enjoy the arts and humanities. The Children's Humanities Festival celebrates children's powers of self-expression and their desire to communicate their life experiences with each other and adults. THE BLUE HOUSE will go through a community-based development process involving children and adults from Chicago in the creation of the story. This process will inform the playwright of the cultural heritage important to the audience for whom he writes.

Previews: 10:30 a.m. April 2-4.

Family Matinees: 2:00 p.m. every Sat. and Sun. during run (no Sun. show 4/6).

Weekdays (school groups and single tickets): 10:30 a.m. April 8-10, 15, 16, 22, 24, 29, May 1, 2.

Adventure Stage Chicago strives to become Chicago's premiere source for theatrical programming designed for young people ages 8-14 and their families. As artists, ASC seeks to produce renowned stories as well as cultivate new work. On August 4 of this year, ASC (under the former name of Vittum Theater) received the prestigious 2007 Zeta Phi Eta-Winifred Ward for Outstanding New Children's Theatre Company Award from The American Alliance for Theatre and 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

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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.

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 our 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 served nearly 13,000 students from 112 schools throughout the Chicagoland area.

Each Adventure Stage Chicago production presents weekday performances primarily for school groups, as well as weekend matinees for the general public. All performances include a post-show conversation between the cast and the audience. Adventure Stage Chicago also conducts a pre-show Weekend Workshop Series at 1pm for children ages 8-12 at an additional ticket cost of \$5.

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. Other group discounts also available. Flex passes are available beginning in mid-September. For tickets or more information, call (773) 342-4141 or visit www.adventurestage.org.

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

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