

Media: Tickets, photos and interviews available upon request
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Youth Revive Broadway Hit *Oliver!*

NFT Youth Ensemble performs Dickens' classic musical at Pheasant Run Resort
April 5 - 12, 2008

March 2008, St. Charles, IL – The Noble Fool Theatricals' Youth Ensemble is prepared for the challenge of producing the most demanding musical yet with Lionel Bart's beloved musical, *Oliver!*, at Pheasant Run Resort Mainstage Theater (4051 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL; telephone 630-584-6342).

Oliver! will be performed Saturday, April 5, 2008 at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, April 6, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are priced at \$13. Harvest lunch packages and group rates are also available.

While the audition-based program's repertoire has included the hip and modern *High School Musical*, the classic story of *Annie*, and recently the '80s popular dance sensation *Footloose*, the current production of *Oliver* features a record amount of local actors in a show that demands specific dialects, period costumes, and 10-time Tony Award winning music.

"The Noble Fool Theatricals Youth Ensemble is definitely excited to perform *Oliver!* Not only do we have the best aspiring actors locally, but the success of our program has drawn talent from as far away as Villa Park and Hampshire," says Education Coordinator and *Oliver* Director Tracy Whiteside. "This is a unique opportunity for students to appear on the mainstage where professional actors perform. The Youth Ensemble is supported by an experienced theatre staff including stage managers, sound and lighting technicians and directors which results in the most professional kid's theatre experience in the area."

Based on Charles Dickens' novel *Oliver Twist*, Bart's musical version quickly became one of the best loved and most successful staged adaptations. After its debut in London in 1960, it was an instant hit, and shortly after became Broadway's longest-running British musical to date in New York. The show's most memorable songs include "Food, Glorious Food," "Consider Yourself," and "Where is Love?."

Directed by Tracy Whiteside (St. Charles resident) and Music Directed by Ken Jones (Wayne resident), the cast features **St. Charles residents:** Alex Adams, Delaney Carani, Maria Carani, Allison Cook, Jessica England, Michael Fairbanks, Megan Gill, Barbara Homan, David Nichol, Sarah Beth Rabin, Rachel Whiteside, **Geneva residents:** Ally Carrino, Maddy Donatelli, Jennifer Feutz, Rebecca Roy, Jenna Soldati, Joshua Soldati, **West Chicago residents:** Paolo Mazza, Emma Roberts, Elena Tubridy, **Naperville residents:** Hannah Krusinger, Matt Krusinger, Emily Sanderson, Hampshire residents: Adelyn Tabb, Cameron Tabb, Garvin Tabb, Kassondra Tabb,

Carol Stream residents: Sami Lauf, Rebecca Lawler, **Bartlett residents:** Adeline Jurss, Brooke Woltman, **Elgin residents:** Gabriel Harder, Noah Harder, **South Elgin resident:** Amanda Castillo, **Aurora resident:** Amanda Zaeske, **Batavia residents:** Katie Bertness, John Lemon, **Darien residents:** Garrett Weaver, Page Weaver, **LaGrange residents:** Joseph Halpin, Kelsey Patrone, **Winfield resident:** Nadia Pelletier, **Plano resident:** Stirling Joyner, **Elburn resident:** Madison Kleba, and **Sugar Grove resident:** Leah Richards.

The NFT Youth Ensemble is an exclusive, audition-only program for the best and the brightest young talent. Students are responsible for memorizing lines, music, choreography, and learn the craft of theater through the process of preparing for live performances. For more information on upcoming youth opportunities, visit www.noblefool.org/education or call 630-443-0438.

Also playing at Pheasant Run Resort is Noble Fool Theatricals' professional production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, based off of Charles Dickens' unfinished novel. The light-hearted musical mystery and Tony award-winning Broadway comedy runs through Saturday, April 12, 2008. Show times are Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m.

Ample free parking and valet services are available at Pheasant Run Resort. The resort and theaters are wheelchair accessible and hearing amplification systems are available. Ask the box office about lunch packages with Pheasant Run Resort's award-winning Harvest Steak & Seafood Restaurant.

Pheasant Run Resort is located at 4051 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL. For tickets, call the Pheasant Run Box Office at 630-584-6342, or visit www.ticketmaster.com. Additional performance information may be obtained at www.noblefool.org.

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