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## NEWS RELEASE

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### STAGES ST. LOUIS ANNOUNCES THE 2010 SEASON

(St. Louis, MO) – Stages St. Louis proudly announces its 2010 24th season, which will begin May 28 with *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, followed by the 1960s classic *Promises, Promises*, and conclude with the quintessential Midwest musical *State Fair*. The season will run through October 3, 2010.

Bursting from the pages of Mark Twain's classic novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Big River* (May 28 – June 27) won the 1985 Tony Award for Best Musical with its score by Roger Miller ("King of the Road"). *Big River* brings to life the beloved characters of Huck Finn, Tom Sawyer and the slave Jim as they journey down the mighty Mississippi. Filled with humanity, wisdom and humor, *Big River* is joyous and profound entertainment for the entire family.

*Promises, Promises* (July 16 - August 15) features the music of Burt Bacharach, the lyrics of Hal David and book by Neil Simon. Adapted from Billy Wilder's 1960 Oscar winning film *The Apartment*, *Promises, Promises* focuses on a rising executive Chuck Baxter who tries to curry favors with his superiors by letting them borrow his apartment for romantic trysts. Set in the *Mad Men* era of 1960s Manhattan, *Promises, Promises* remains slick, hip and timeless.

With a soaring score by Rodgers and Hammerstein, *State Fair* (September 3 - October 3) takes us back to a simpler time when winning Blue Ribbons for prized boars, serving up mincemeat and finding true romance on the Midway were annual rites of "Spring Fever." *State Fair* travels with the Frake family as they leave behind the routine of the family farm for three days of adventure at the Iowa State Fair in 1946. *State Fair* features "It's a Grand Night For Singing" and the Academy Award-winning song "It Might As Well Be Spring."

Stages St. Louis Artistic Director Michael Hamilton states, "Our 24<sup>th</sup> Stages season is a magical journey across America and offers three very different eras and three distinct visions of our great country." Executive Producer Jack Lane: "The entire Stages St. Louis organization is extremely excited to be able to present three such varied and excellent musicals. There is truly something for everyone in 2010."

Stages St. Louis 2010 season is made possible with the support of the Regional Arts Commission and is funded in part by the Arts and Education Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. Financial assistance is also provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a State agency.

Season tickets are available November 30 and single tickets go on sale March 30, 2010. Each mainstage production will run for a total of five weeks. Week one performances are Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 4 and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 and 7:30 p.m. The week two schedule is Tuesday through Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 4 and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Weeks three, four and five will have additional performances on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Stages performs in the intimate, 384-seat Robert G. Reim Theatre at the Kirkwood Civic Center, 111 South Geyer Road in St. Louis, MO. For more information or to purchase tickets call 314-821-2407 or visit [www.stagesstlouis.org](http://www.stagesstlouis.org).

Stages was founded in 1987. The mission of Stages is to become the leading company for musical theater performance and education in the Midwest.

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