



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jayme Powers
Director of Communications

732.345.1400 ext 830

jpowers@trtc.org

Two River Theater Company Declares Record-Breaking Season

(Red Bank, NJ) Two River Theater Company celebrated the final revenue and attendance figures from a **record-breaking season** at the company's annual Board of Trustees meeting last night. The 2007/2008 season lauded **unprecedented attendance** and **record-breaking ticket sales revenue** generated by a hit season that landed five of the season's eight shows within the Top Ten best-selling shows in the 14-year history of the theater – three of them in the Top Five. **Teller** and **Aaron Posner's** smash hit horror show *Macbeth* and **Posner's** bluegrass musical comedy *A Murder, A Mystery & A Marriage* finished first and second respectively. Last season's productions of *The Underpants* and *Ain't Misbehavin'* hold the third and fourth slots. And rounding out the Top Five best-selling shows is *The Glass Menagerie*.

During the 2007/2008 season, **ticket sales revenue increased by 48% - topping the \$1.1 million mark. Attendance was up by 37%**, with 42,000 patrons seeing a play at Two River Theater Company this season - **11,500 of whom had never been to the theater before**. The theater company is enjoying double digit increases for the second consecutive season. The 2006/2007 season garnered a **34% increase in overall ticket sales revenue** and a **30% increase in attendance**.

TRTC also increased attendance in its **No Seats Empty** program by **150%**. **No Seats Empty** is an arts-in-education initiative targeting economically disadvantaged students in Monmouth, Ocean and Middlesex counties. More than **3,000 students** from eligible New Jersey Districts received all of the benefits of the student matinee series, including transportation when needed, at no cost.

"It was a wild ride," said Two River Theater Company's artistic director, **Aaron Posner**. "More shows, more audiences, more risks, more fun. We are very fortunate. This is an exciting moment for Two River Theater Company. People are taking notice in a whole new way. We are taking risks and they are paying off. We trust our audiences to be daring, intelligent and eager to be challenged, and they are rising to it in wonderful ways. We took some very bold steps in our programming this year and the critics, our audiences, our funders, and the national theater community have responded with amazing enthusiasm. This past year was our boldest and most ambitious season so far. But, then again, we will be able to say that next year, too..."

Two River Theater Company announced its 2008/2009 season in May. The season begins next month with Chicago's The Neo-Futurists' *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind*. In September, visionary

artist **Martha Clarke** recreates her groundbreaking masterpiece ***Garden of Earthly Delights*** for a limited, exclusive engagement before opening in New York. The subscription season opens with the brilliantly funny comedy ***Art*** by **Yasmina Reza** directed by **Kirsten Kelly**. Artistic Director **Aaron Posner** follows up with **George Bernard Shaw's *Heartbreak House*** in November. TRTC celebrates the holidays with a delightful family musical ***A Year with Frog and Toad*** directed by **Jackson Gay**. The New Year begins with the world premiere of ***ReEntry*** by **Emily Ackerman** and **KJ Sanchez**, directed by **KJ Sanchez**. The heartbreaking love story ***Mary's Wedding*** by **Stephen Massicotte** featuring **Erin Weaver** and **Joe Binder** is slated for February. William Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* is reimagined by **Craig Wright** in ***Melissa Arctic*** directed by **Aaron Posner**. Rounding out the season is a sultry, spicy, Latin-flavored interpretation of ***Private Lives*** by **Noel Coward** directed by **KJ Sanchez**.

Subscriptions for the 2008/2009 season are available at a discounted rate of at least **20% off** single ticket prices. Subscription prices range from \$136-\$240 depending on performance date and time. GenY (21 years and younger) subscriptions are available for \$90. Subscribers may include the three special event productions – *Garden of Earthly Delights*, *A Year with Frog and Toad* and *ReEntry* – in their Gold Series subscription package for an additional \$102-\$124.

Individual tickets go on sale Tuesday, July 1, 2008.

Details about Two River Theater Company's upcoming season can be found on the website at **www.trtc.org** or by calling the box office at **732.345.1400**.

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TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY is a professional not-for-profit regional theater company, providing outstanding plays and educational programs for audiences of central New Jersey and beyond. TRTC was founded in 1994 by Robert and Joan Rechnitz and over the past 13 seasons has grown into one of the most vital and dynamic arts organizations in the region. Since opening its new theater in May of 2005, TRTC has hosted a number of luminaries and award winners, including Bruce Springsteen, Olympia Dukakis, Jackson Browne, Jon Bon Jovi, Edward Albee, and Sheldon Harnick. In 2006, the company received "Theatre of the Year" awards from both *The Star-Ledger* and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance. TRTC is supported in part by grants from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and contributions from hundreds of local and national corporations, foundations, businesses and individuals. Continental Airlines is TRTC's official airline. Two River Theater Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance.