



## HEARTLAND THEATRE COMPANY

Think. Feel. Live.

### Highlights of Last Season (2010-2011) July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Heartland Theatre continues to meet its mission...and your expectations with:

- 1) Fresh new venue that's all-the-buzz
- 2) Consistent, quality performances
- 3) The best talent in the region

- **Donations and Flex Passes Surpass Goal.** Still in an "iffy" economy, especially for the arts, Heartland broke all past season records for amount of donations and number of season tickets sold, and passed our goal. It is truly a beautiful thing that in a year with grants disappearing, our patrons stepped up to cover that gap so we can continue to provide the quality of theatre Heartland is known for.
- **Young at Heartland Maintains Class Size of Thirty.** The only program of its kind in Central Illinois, Young at Heartland enters its eighth season of classes and performances in the community! Heartland's Senior Acting Program sends seniors out in the community, performing for other seniors. And boy, do they perform! The class size reached 30 in our 2010-2011 Season and Ann White is holding to that class size this year, with D. Ann Jones as our fabulous instructor. See what this group is all about at their June 24<sup>th</sup> showcase on Heartland's stage.
- **Nearly 1,000 attend our Annual 10-Minute Play Festival (The Hotel Lobby).** Each year Heartland welcomes new playwrights from across the country and beyond to our Annual 10-Minute Play Competition. In June, 2010, everyone found out "the Inns & Outs" of the hotel lobby. That was our ninth year of staging 10-Minute Plays, eight plays chosen from 151 submitted. With our 2011 Festival, it will be ten years since our first festival, fondly referred to as "The Porch Plays." Our new season's festival opens June 9th this year and takes us full circle to "The Back Porch." Eight winning plays will be performed, selected from 225 submissions. Heartland's 10-Minute Plays have proven to be a doorway to Heartland for new audiences, directors and actors. Always a great way to kick off our season!
- **Volunteers are the heart of Heartland.** 370 Artists and Volunteers gave their time to Heartland in 2010-2011, donating nearly 17,000 hours, compared to 7,577 hours in our 2003-2004 season. Everyone from actors to ushers, marketing to fundraising, board members to play competition committees. If you have some time to give, join us!
- **Annual One-Act Play Competition is Saved.** In May of 2010, our fourth annual one-act play competition was funded in part by the Town of Normal Harmon Arts Grant and Paul and Sandra Harmon, as it had always been. Phil Olson was our visiting playwright from Los Angeles, who held a workshop with the playwrights and an open forum for interested playwrights. And we presented staged readings of the three winning plays. This coming May, we will present our fifth year of "New Plays from the Heartland" one-act plays from eight Midwest states solely funded by the Harmons and their Circle of Sponsors – dedicated patrons who wanted to see this important project continue when its grant funding was frozen. Staged readings (well, much-much more than staged readings) of the three winning plays are this May 13 and 14. Ben Viccellio, currently on faculty at Kenyon College, will hold a master class with the playwrights; and he'll speak at a special forum on playwriting May 12 which is open to the public.
- **Show Sponsors Kick Up Production Values.** Our Show Sponsorship Program continues to bring new friends to our theatre and helps kick up our production values a notch. Our deep appreciation to last season's generous sponsors: **Deanna Frautschi & Alan Bedell, Ruth Ann & Stephen Friedberg, Laura & Ken Berk, Laurie & Ray Bergner, Jan Elfline & Drake Zimmerman, Peggy Hundley, Nancy Niebur-Parente, Mary Anne Schierman & James Keeran and Paul & Sandra Harmon.** If you'd like to know more about our sponsor program, talk to a board member!

Thank you for supporting *theatre that matters*. We hope you thoroughly enjoy our new season!

Mike Dobbins, Managing Artistic Director, and the Board of Directors of Heartland Theatre Company

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