

February 14, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Sondra Ward, Director of Strategic Marketing, Fairfield Arts & Convention Center, (641) 472-2000, Sondra@fairfieldacc.com

Randy West, Artistic/Executive Director, Stephen Sondheim Center for the Performing Arts, (641) 472-2000, rwest@sondheimcenter.com

SONDHEIM CENTER OFFERS THREE WORKSHOPS AS PART OF SPRING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

FAIRFIELD, IOWA – The Stephen Sondheim Center for the Performing Arts will offer three workshops as part of the theatre's spring educational program. The three workshops are How to Audition for Musical Theatre, On-Camera Acting Class and Musical Theatre Appreciation.

Randal K West, Artistic Director of The "Way Off Broadway" Theatre Company and Executive Director of The Stephen Sondheim Center for the Performing Arts, is bringing to Fairfield for the first time his popular "How to Audition for Musical Theatre" workshop. West has been doing this workshop for theatres, colleges and universities for over 20 years. The workshop covers resumes, headshots, audition forms, song selection, and performing the song and dance auditions. West takes the entire audition process and "unbundles" it for the performer. The workshop starts with a lecture about the audition process and ends with a mock audition. In this "audition" participants will have the opportunity to bring their headshot and resume, sing up to two song selections, and complete the process with a dance audition.

"The audition process can be intimidating, and in this workshop, we try to explain and evaluate away much of that anxiety," says West. Space is limited so advance registration is recommended. The fee is a \$40 per person. The payment for all three workshops will go toward creating underwriting for area school students to attend our musicals in the future. The audition workshop is February 26 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM and February 28 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

The second of the three workshops is "On-Camera Acting" for both youth and adults. West was the Creative Director for Hawthorne Direct, Fairfield's National Television Advertising Company, for 6 years and has been directing television for over 20 years. West has directed hundreds of television commercials and infomercials as well as award winning shorts and documentaries. He writes for Video Maker Magazine and

has taught on-camera classes for the Peak Agency in Des Moines, for the Correll Agency, Plaza Three and Clair Sinnett and Associates. Randy has won over 100 National awards for television projects he has produced or directed.

Two versions of the class are being offered, one for young people age 8 -12 and one for ages 13 and older. The class size is limited so early registration is required. This course will include resumes and headshots, agents and agencies, helping to define your strongest look or appeal on camera, film/TV vocabulary, cold reads, rehearsed reads, interviewing and TV commercials. The youth class is Saturday March 15, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The teen/adult class is March 29, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (both with an hour break for lunch). The fee is \$40 per person for the teens/adults and \$30 per person for the youth class.

The third workshop is Musical Theatre Appreciation. This two-week workshop is an easy overview of musical theatre as an art form. The class will include bits and pieces of famous musicals and some guest performers to highlight and explore this American art form. Jazz music and musical theatre are two of the only performing art forms that can claim American roots. West has been a musical theatre professor and jumps at the chance to share musical theatre with anyone who has an interest. The development of the musical from Showboat to Wicked will be covered. The workshop will cover moments from famous musicals and explore how musicals have developed over the years. Taking notes is not required and no tests are given.

Attendees will learn about the art form that is the core of the new "Way Off Broadway" theatre company at the Sondheim Center. "We'll start with the development of the musical in the 20's and go up to the end of the 50's as one historical segment, we'll then cover the 60's through the 80's as one segment and then the modern musical development from the 90's to date. We will include Rodgers and Hammerstein, Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Sondheim and Webber amongst many other creators of musical theatre," says West. This workshop will be March 11, 13, 18, and 20, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. The fee is \$10 for one evening or \$30 for all four.

Register for all three workshops and receive a special discount package for \$90. For more information or to register for the workshops please call 641-472-2000.

###