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“HAUNTED” PLAYHOUSE HOSTS GHOST PLAY FOR HALLOWEEN

LAKE WORTH, Florida (October 19, 2009) – The Lake Worth Playhouse presents a special Halloween production of the spine-chilling ghost story, **THE WOMAN IN BLACK** for two shows only. Performances take place October 30 and 31, 2009 at the Playhouse, located at 713 Lake Avenue in downtown Lake Worth.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK is based on the 1983 novel by Susan Hill and was adapted for the stage by Stephen Mallatratt. Following the form of the classic ghost story in the tradition of Charles Dickens, Henry James and Edith Wharton, **THE WOMAN IN BLACK** is a gripping mystery that features dynamic characters, shadowy surroundings, supernatural happenings and a chilling plot line that taps into our most primal fears. Mallatratt’s stage adaptation is the second longest running show in London and the winner of multiple awards, including the Los Angeles Times Critics Choice Award and four Drama Critics Circle Awards.

The play is set on England’s bleak East Coast in a quiet town where Mrs. Alice Drablow, a stern and cruel woman, lived and died alone. When a young Arthur Kipps, a junior solicitor, is ordered by his firm’s senior partner to travel up from London to attend her funeral and sort out her estate, his lonely task seems uncomplicated at first. He eventually discovers there are tragic secrets that lie behind the shuttered windows of Mrs. Drablow’s house. But it’s what lies beyond those windows that changes Mr. Kipp’s life forever. When he catches a glimpse of a ghostly figure at the church during the funeral, and later, in the graveyard, his pulse races and his mind fills with questions. He describes the figure as a gaunt woman with a wasted face who is dressed all in black. The locals know all too well the apparition he is describing, but they refuse to talk. Years later, Kipps rents a theatre and hires an actor to help him re-enact the ghostly event which befell him many years before. In doing so, he reasons, he will exorcise the haunting image from his mind and soul. But the results of his plan prove to be as horrifying as the experience itself.

The Playhouse production of **THE WOMAN IN BLACK** is directed by Pat Mackin and features local actors, Todd Caster and Mark Fetterly.

Haunted Playhouse?

While no proof of a Playhouse haunting exists, many local patrons who have participated in Playhouse Ghost Hunts conducted by the Florida ghost team believe there is evidence of

paranormal activity within the antique walls of the 85-year-old historic building. Playhouse volunteers also claim to have seen apparitions, heard voices and experienced other unexplained ghostly phenomena, most of which they speculate is the work of the Oakley brothers, Lucien and Clarence, who originally constructed the theatre as a vaudeville house in 1924.

"I can't think of a better venue for hosting a ghost play," says Playhouse Artistic Director Jodie Dixon-Mears, "than a theatre with such a rich history, not to mention plenty of mystery!"

About the Playhouse

Lake Worth Playhouse is a non-profit community theatre with a diverse array of offerings, including award-winning dramas, comedies, musicals, area premieres, Broadway favorites, children's shows, ballets and operas on film, live concerts, improv comedy and alternative programming. In addition to its main stage theatrical fare, the Playhouse presents year-round independent and foreign films in the Stonzek Theatre, an intimate black-box style theatre equipped with a large viewing screen and high-definition projection. The Playhouse is proud to offer a variety of educational programs for adults and children, as well as community outreach initiatives that bring cultural programs into the neighborhoods of underserved youth and also make theatre available free of charge for disadvantaged citizens in the community.

The 57th season of the Lake Worth Playhouse opened with the classic Rodgers & Hammerstein musical **OKLAHOMA!** (October 9-25, 2009). The next main stage production is Neil Simon's bittersweet comedy **BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS** (November 20 – December 13, 2009) followed by Broadway dance sensation **SWING** (January 22 – February 7, 2010), Agatha Christie's **THE MOUSETRAP** (March 5-21, 2010) and Andrew Lloyd Webber's **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT** (April 16 – May 2, 2010).

Schedule

Performances of THE WOMAN IN BLACK take place at **8:00 PM** on Friday, October 30 and Saturday, October 31.

Tickets

Individual tickets are \$25 and \$29 and can be purchased through the Lake Worth Playhouse Box Office at **561-586-6410** or online at **lakeworthplayhouse.org**. Full-season subscriptions are available through October 25, 2009.

Location

Lake Worth Playhouse is located at 713 Lake Avenue in Downtown Lake Worth. It is situated on the south side of Lake Avenue two blocks east of Dixie Highway. Free, well-lighted parking is available on Lake Avenue and surrounding side streets, with free parking lots located behind the Playhouse.

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