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STAGES: The Performing Arts Academy for Kids Announces Move to South Portland and a Focus on Producing Children's Theater

FOR IMMEDIATE WEB RELEASE (www.stagesacademy.com)

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(Scarborough, ME) STAGES: The Performing Arts Academy for Kids is moving to South Portland! Co-owners Stacey Koloski and Hollye Seddon announce today that the current STAGES location in Scarborough, Maine will close at the end of this year, and that the company will re-open in January, 2010 in the Hutchins School building located at 24 Mosher Street in South Portland.

The Hutchins School has been the new home of Mad Horse Theater Company since mid-2009. Koloski and Seddon are thrilled that STAGES will share space with the 24-year old resident professional theater company, and to be within blocks of many other arts organizations including Lyric Music Theater and The Portland Players.

When STAGES re-opens in January, the company will focus more time and resources on producing quality children's theater for kids ages kindergarten through high school. Students ages 5 through 9 will have the opportunity to participate in age-appropriate, costumed and set productions culminating in private presentations for family and friends. Older students (ages 10+) will continue to take on challenging full-length plays and musicals, and present them as professional-quality public performances in Greater Portland artistic venues.

“STAGES’ commitment to process-based performing arts education has never been stronger,” says Koloski. “Our move enables us to bring our nurturing, non-competitive approach from the classroom into the rehearsal environment. We are honored to be able to meet more of the demand for performance – and pre-performance – opportunities for kids of all ages, while still honoring our promise to keep programming kid-focused and fun.”

In addition to the rehearsals taking place in the Hutchins School building, STAGES will continue to offer regular weekly classes in Falmouth, and hopes to expand to additional satellite locations later in 2010. STAGES will also continue to bring music and drama programming into area schools as part of their STAGES in The Schools outreach initiative, currently serving 400 students each week.

Until the end of the year, STAGES will continue to offer regular weekly classes in the existing Scarborough Studio (183 U.S. Route 1), closing just before the Christmas holiday. Holiday class series begin the last week of October, and are currently open for registration.

(continued next page)

Upcoming productions include *Disney's Mulan* (for students ages 10-14 years), *Disney's Aristocats Kids* (for students ages 7-9yrs), an original adaptation of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* (for students ages 5-6yrs), and a teen production of the musical, *Footloose*. The STAGES Shakespeare Academy will present STAGES first Shakespearean play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, in June 2010. In summer, 2010, the STAGES Student Repertory Theater Program will celebrate the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber with productions of *CATS*, *Evita*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

For more information about the South Portland relocation, STAGES productions, or any other programming questions or concerns, please call STAGES at (207) 510-6050.

ABOUT STAGES: Now in its third year, STAGES: The Performing Arts Academy for Kids provides movement, music and theater education to students of all ages in Southern Maine. STAGES currently reaches 500 kids, ages preschool through high school, each week as part of regular weekly classes, professional-quality theatrical productions, and an innovative "STAGES in the Schools" outreach program. Visit www.stagesacademy.com for more information, or call the STAGES Studio at (207) 510-6050.

For More Information about Mad Horse Theater Company: www.madhorse.com

For More Information about Lyric Music Theater: www.lyricmusictheater.org

For More Information about The Portland Players: www.portlandplayers.org

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