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**Chicago Theatre community to honor Mike Nussbaum
with the Lifetime Achievement Award,
Free Street Theater with the Tribute Award,
and Aguijón Theater with the Artistic Achievement Award
at the League of Chicago Theatres Annual Gala**

**Derrick Sanders and Allstate Insurance Company to receive
Special Tribute Award on 10th Anniversary of August Wilson Monologue Competition**

Monday, May 20 at the Palmer House Hilton

CHICAGO (March 4, 2019) – The League of Chicago Theatres, now celebrating its 40th Anniversary, announces the 2019 Annual Gala, an elegant event that brings together friends of Chicago theatre to raise funds for programs to support Chicagoland's more than 250 member theatre companies. The event will be held **Monday, May 20, 2019** at the **Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe St. in Chicago**. Cocktails will begin at 5:30pm with an elegant dinner, entertainment and awards at 6:30pm.

The Chicago theatre community will honor **Mike Nussbaum** with the Lifetime Achievement Award, **Free Street Theater** with the Tribute Award, and **Aguijón Theater** with the Artistic Achievement Award. A Special Tribute Award will be given to **Derrick Sanders** and **Allstate Insurance Company** on the 10th Anniversary of the **August Wilson Monologue Competition**. The winner of the Broadway In Chicago Emerging Theatre Award is to be announced.

Tickets are available for \$350 per person, and all proceeds benefit the League of Chicago Theatres which promotes, supports, and advocates for theatre in Chicago. To purchase tickets, or for sponsorship opportunities and participation information, visit www.chicagoplays.com or call 312-554-9800.

The winner of the Broadway In Chicago Emerging Theatre Award is to be announced and will be presented at the event on May 20. Nominated by a committee of industry professionals, educators and League of Chicago Theatres board members, five finalists are selected each year, and from those, a majority vote from the League membership determines the winner. Broadway In Chicago provides a \$5,000 cash prize and marketing support, including a substantial advertising package. Previous award recipients include: Broken Nose Theatre, Route 66 Theatre Company, Sideshow Theatre Company, Jackalope Theatre Company, Oracle Productions, The House Theatre of Chicago, Silk Road Theatre Project (now Silk Road Rising), the side project, Steep Theatre, The New Colony, Theatre Seven of Chicago and 16th Street Theater.

2019 Year of Chicago Theatre

The City of Chicago and the League of Chicago Theatres have designated 2019 as the ‘Year of Chicago Theatre.’ This citywide, year-long focus on theatre is the first of its kind in the U.S. The initiative includes performances and special events throughout the city – including theatre-themed events in all 77 community areas, as part of the Chicago Park District’s ‘Night Out in the Parks’ series. The City of Chicago and its partners will also launch a marketing campaign; provide additional financial grants to theatre projects; encourage dialog around inclusion and equity; and call on civic, philanthropic, arts and business leaders to support the theatre community. To truly fall in love with Chicago, you must go to our theatres. This is where the city bares its fearless soul. Home to a community of creators, risk-takers, and big hearts, Chicago theatre is a hotbed for exciting new work and hundreds of world premieres every year. From Broadway musicals to storefront plays and improv, there’s always a seat waiting for you at one of our 200+ theatres. Book your next show today at ChicagoPlays.com.

About Chicago theatre

Chicago theater is the leader in the U.S. with more than 250 theaters throughout Chicagoland, comprising a rich and varied community ranging from storefront, non-union theaters to the most renowned resident theaters in the country, including 5 which have been honored with Regional Tony Awards, and the largest touring Broadway organization in the nation. Chicago’s theaters serve 5 million audience members annually and have a combined budget of more than \$250 million. Chicago produces and/or presents more world premieres annually than any other city in the nation. Last year alone Chicago theater companies produced more than 100 world premiere productions and adaptations. Each year Chicago theaters send new work to resident theaters across the country, to Broadway, and around the world.

League of Chicago Theatres’ Mission Statement

Theatre is essential to the life of a great city and to its citizens. The League of Chicago Theatres is an alliance of theatres which leverages its collective strength to support, promote, and advocate for Chicago’s theatre industry. Through our work, we ensure that theatre continues to thrive in our city.

For a comprehensive list of Chicago productions, visit the League of Chicago Theatres website, ChicagoPlays.com. Half-price tickets to the current week’s performances as well as future performances are available at HotTix.org and at the two Hot Tix half-price ticket locations: across from the Chicago Cultural Center at Expo72 (72 E. Randolph) and Block Thirty Seven (108 N. State).

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