

Press Release -- August 07, 2007

**STRAY DOG THEATRE UNLEASHES TOWER GROVE ABBEY**

Stray Dog Theatre (SDT) will unleash Tower Grove Abbey -- its new arts, education, and community venue -- with a grand opening gala from 6:00-pm to 10:00-pm on Wednesday, September 05, 2007. The grand opening is cost-free and open to the public, and will feature entertainment, refreshments, and tours of the new venue. SDT will inaugurate the Tower Grove Abbey main-stage the following evening with its opening production of *Suddenly Last Summer* by Saint Louis native Tennessee Williams.

Tower Grove Abbey represents the in-process rehab of a century-old church located in the resurging Tower Grove East neighborhood into a multi-use center for SDT's expanding arts, education, and community programs. The venue is located at 2336 Tennessee Avenue, Saint Louis, Missouri 63104, and offers free, secure parking courtesy of the adjacent Shenandoah Elementary School. The acoustically-superb main-stage area with its breathtaking architecture and stained-glass windows provides seating for approximately 150, while three smaller areas feature seating for smaller functions.

In addition to staging the majority of SDT's theatre productions, the Tower Grove Abbey main-stage will showcase a variety of artists and events, ranging from musicians, poets, and comedians to movies, meetings, and banquets. Tower Grove Abbey will also house many of SDT's Arts/In/Mind education programs, including after-school, weekend, and summer arts camps. The venue will also host a variety of community organizations and events through SDT's Arts/In/Deed community programs, including gatherings of the Tower Grove East Neighborhood Association and other community-focused organizations.

For more information and arts/education/community partnership opportunities, write or call Gary F. Bell:

- 2348 Tennessee Avenue, Saint Louis, Missouri 63104 [mailing address]

- (314) 865-1995 [telephone/facsimile]

- gfbell@StrayDogTheatre.org [e-mail]

or visit:

- www.StrayDogTheatre.org [web site]

- www.TowerGroveAbbey.org [web site]

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SDT is committed to unleashing art, education, and community. Recognizing the arts, at their highest level, have the capacity to touch and move the human spirit, SDT aims to create programs and productions that challenge, educate, entertain, and inspire audiences, artists, and communities alike. Reflecting the human experience by bringing social awareness to universal issues is paramount. Toward these ends, SDT vows to honor diversity and embrace inclusiveness, all the while showcasing local talent, making the arts more accessible, and serving as a creative shelter for artistic freedom, education, and expression. SDT helps promote the goals of local community-focused organizations, and has been making the arts more accessible, educational, and socially meaningful since its July 2003 inaugural production. SDT is... unleashing the art.

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