



Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival Bacchanalia Gala Dinner + Auction raises \$447,000 for Theatre Company

March 29, 2007 – Vancouver, B.C. (For immediate release) – A special pre-recorded message from two-time Academy Award winning actor and Artistic Director of London’s Old Vic Theatre, Kevin Spacey, opened the Bacchanalia Gala Dinner and Auction on Wednesday night. Spacey urged the attending Vancouver arts supporters and wine lovers to, “bid early and bid often,” which they did, raising a record \$447,000 in net revenue. The Bacchanalia Gala is the crown jewel of the weeklong Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival, which continues through April 1, and is the premier annual fundraising event for the Playhouse Theatre Company.

The auction portion of the evening raised \$334,000 (compared to \$319,000 last year). Additional activities such as corporate sponsorships, cash donations and a raffle for a trip for two to Australia accounted for the rest of the evening’s grand total.

Spacey spoke about the importance of theatre in his remarks, saying, “When people, organizations and foundations begin to understand the scope of this work and how many lives can be affected; the educational opportunities when you use the tools and artists of theatre for kids, well, it’s pretty remarkable how many people start to step up and support your cause. It’s because I share this passion that I’m sending this message tonight in support of the exciting plays that the Playhouse is producing under the artistic directorship of Glynis Leyshon.”

“Each year this truly amazing event surpasses our expectations,” said Playhouse Artistic Director Glynis Leyshon. “My heartfelt thanks go out to Kevin Spacey, our sponsors, donors, staff, volunteers, the many wineries participating in this year’s festival and the enthusiastic bidders at Wednesday night’s event,” said Leyshon. “Their support is integral to our ability to continue to provide Greater Vancouver audiences, including low-income residents, school groups from across the region and seniors, with the very highest quality live theatre.”

The Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival is sponsored by Chubb Insurance Company of Canada and chaired by Sue Adams. The Bacchanalia Gala is sponsored by Goldcorp and chaired by Nancy Burke.

The Playhouse Theatre Company, Western Canada’s largest theatre company dedicated exclusively to producing works of the contemporary repertoire, was founded in 1962 with a mandate to provide the finest possible drama to audiences in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland of British Columbia.

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