

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
NEWS RELEASE

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**“THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN MARBLES
AND HIS ACTING SQUAD”**

**The popular children’s musical that originated in
Chicago’s Hull House in the 1960s returns to the city.**

Book by William H. Macy and David Kovacs

Music by Alaric Jans

Lyrics by Alaric Jans and John Stasey

Chicago DCA Storefront Theater

November 1 – December 14, 2008

The Adventures of Captain Marbles and his Acting Squad, a series of episodic musicals that originally delighted children and adults from the 1960s to the 1980s, returns to Chicago! This production, presented by Provision Theater in association with the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, comes to Chicago DCA Theater’s Storefront Theater, at 66 E. Randolph Street, from November 1 – December 14, 2008. The cast includes multiple Jeff award-winner Alaric Jans, the show’s composer and lyricist, in the role of Rocko, the Marble Squad’s on-stage pianist. Provision’s Tim Gregory directs. Members of the press are invited to the performance on Sunday, November 2, at 12 noon.

Performances of **Captain Marbles and his Acting Squad** will be offered on Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 12 noon. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$12 for children under 13, and \$12 for students and seniors. Discount rates are available for groups of 10 or more. All tickets are available by calling 312.742.TIXS (8497), visiting www.dcatheater.org, or stopping by the box office, open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m., Sundays, noon to 4 p.m., and one hour prior to each performance.

The storied history of **Captain Marbles and his Acting Squad** dates back to Chicago’s Hull House Theater in 1964. Writer/Director John Stasey created the characters: a Ballerina, an Astronaut, a Witch, and others who love to act and dance and sing, led by a Captain who perpetually loses his fuzzy red marbles. New adventures premiered every few weeks, under the musical direction of Rokko Jans (then a teenager). Sadly, the Squad dissolved in 1966 after the death of Mr. Stasey.

During the mid-1970s, Jans began working with the St. Nicholas Theater, collaborating with writers William H. Macy and David Kovacs to create a series of new episodes based on the Squad’s production of *The Comedy of the Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*.

Playing to sold-out audiences and critical acclaim, the new episodes ran in repertory at St. Nicholas, on tour, and in the 1980s in Mayor Byrne's *Summertime Chicago* series.

Chicago theater critics raved about **Captain Marbles and his Acting Squad**, noting that it was a musical for children that equally entertained adults. Richard Christiansen, writing in the *Chicago Daily News*, hailed the first installment as "The sweetest, sunniest, funniest little show in Chicago." He called the second episode "...a very neat bit of fun and foolishness" and "...a charming world of childlike delight..." adding "...best of all are the songs, composed and played on piano by Alaric "Rocko" Jans. The *Chicago Tribune* called the first episode "...one of the funniest and cleverest children's shows..." and stated that the second episode was "...sunny and equally as funny...lovable...fast-paced, foolish fun..."

Alaric Jans, David Kovacs and William H. Macy have reunited and revamped **Captain Marbles and his Acting Squad** for a new generation, and an off-Broadway production is planned for 2009.

The Chicago cast features Christine Barnes, David Dastmalchian, Sean Fawcett, Govind Kumar, Dan Loftus, Dana Tretta, and Alaric Jans.

Provision Theater is devoted to producing works of hope, reconciliation, and redemption; works that challenge us to explore a life of meaning and purpose. The company, which burst onto the Chicago theater scene in March 2004, has produced several highly-praised and Joseph Jefferson Award nominated shows including *Cotton Patch Gospel*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Boys Next Door*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *The Gospel of John*, *Beast on the Moon*, and *Smoke on the Mountain*. From November 5 to December 21, the company is premiering the adaptation of Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory & The Thanksgiving Visitor* at The Royal George Theatre.

The Storefront Theater and the Studio Theater, its companion theater located in the Chicago Cultural Center at 77 E. Randolph Street, comprise Chicago DCA Theater, an anchor of the downtown theater district. Chicago DCA Theater offers downtown audiences an off-Loop theater experience with an exciting look at the vibrant emerging and developing theater companies that call Chicago home. Proposals for creative and innovative productions for the July to December 2009 season are now being accepted until October 17, 2008.

Discounted parking is once again available at Wabash Randolph Self Park at 20 E. Randolph. Patrons can receive the \$14 rate by validating their ticket at the Storefront Theater box office.

For more information about **Captain Marbles and his Acting Squad** and Chicago DCA Theater, call 312.742.TIXS (8497) or visit the recently relaunched www.dcatheater.org. The enhanced website features more information about DCA Theater performances and programs, including a new blog, photo galleries, and visitor information.

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Note to Press: Electronic images available at www.dcatheater.org/press or by request.