

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
NEWS RELEASE

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July 21, 2008

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“SCENES FROM THE BIG PICTURE”

**Seanacháí Theatre Company presents
21 characters in 40 scenes
at the Chicago Cultural Center Storefront Theater
August 28 – October 5, 2008**

Seanacháí Theatre Company, in association with Chicago DCA Theater, brings its tradition of Irish storytelling to the Midwest premier of **Scenes from the Big Picture**. The play, written by Owen McCafferty, smashes the “big picture” into vivid snapshots of intimate groups of people. Moving from shops to pubs to life on the street, the urban story masterfully weaves together the lives of twenty-one characters in forty scenes into a 24-hour slice of contemporary Belfast life. The production comes to Chicago DCA Theater’s Storefront Theater, at 66 E. Randolph Street, from August 28 to October 5, 2008. Members of the press are invited to the performance on Saturday, August 30, at 7:30 p.m.

In snippets and pieces, the play introduces twenty-one characters and examines how they interact, injure, and love one another. Local kids look for love and excitement, a shopkeeper and his wife contemplate their place in the world, two old friends attend a funeral, a husband and wife fight over whether to have children, one father mourns the death of his son, drug deals, estranged brothers, an affair — all of life in a single evening.

Performances are Thursdays through Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm with matinees on Sundays at 3 pm. Post-show discussions will follow the performances on Sundays, September 7, 14, 21, and 28.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for students and seniors. Discount rates are available for groups of 10 or more. The preview performances on August 28 and 29 cost only \$10. 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.

Scenes from the Big Picture is directed by Scott Cummins, who returns from Los Angeles, where he received a Los Angeles Stage Alliance Ovation Award for Tracy Letts’ “Killer Joe” and Back Stage West Garland Award honorable mentions for Ann Noble’s “And Neither Have I Wings To Fly” and Tracy Letts’ “Bug.”

The large ensemble cast features Seanacháí Theatre Company members Jeff Christian, John Dunleavy, Barbara Figgins, Thomas Vincent Kelly, Anne Sunseri, Sarah Wellington. Scene design is by Joey Wade, with lighting design by Nick Matonich, costume design by Laurie Ledford, and sound design and original music by Rob Steel.

Seanacháí (*pronounced SHAWN-uh-kee*) is the Gaelic word for *storyteller*. The company was formed in 1995, after the highly successful world premiere production of *And Neither Have I Wings to Fly* written by Ann Noble. Thirteen years later, the Chicago theater steeped in Irish storytelling is producing its 15th show. The company has presented four world premieres and is the recipient of five Joseph Jefferson Awards for its productions of *Journey's End*, *Dylan*, and *The Pagans*.

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 the best 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 **Scenes from the Big Picture** and Chicago DCA Theater, visit 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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