

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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SKALD 10 STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

**Workshops and competition spin yarns and share whale tales
in the 10th Annual Festival at the Chicago Cultural Center
June 20-27, 2009**

WNEP Theater and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs present the tenth Annual **SKALD Storytelling Festival**, a week-long event celebrating the art of storytelling. The workshops and competitions offer adults and children (ages 8-14) the chance to try their own hand and then watch the professionals. Events will take place at the Chicago Cultural Center, located at 77 E. Randolph Street, from June 20 through 27, 2009. This year's SKALD 10 performance on June 27 will be hosted by Steve Edwards of WBEZ Chicago Public Radio.

Rooted in the oral traditions of nearly every organized society, storytelling is theater stripped of all its 'dazzle camouflage' and focuses strictly on the qualities of the story and the teller. The name "Skald" refers to an ancient Scandinavian poet, bard or storyteller.

Tickets for **SKALD** events range from \$10 to \$20 for select events, with a \$5 discount on tickets for students and seniors. The Workshops during the week are free, but reservations are required. All tickets and reservations 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 schedule of **SKALD** events is:

STORYTELLING WORKSHOPS FOR KIDS AND ADULTS

Kids (Ages 8-14)

Saturday, June 20, 12 – 2 p.m. and 3 – 5 p.m.

Adults (Ages 15 and up)

Monday, June 22, 7 – 9 p.m.

Admission is free, reservations required by calling 312.742.TIXS (8497)

WNEP's Founding Director Don Hall teaches the fundamentals of "spinning a yarn" in two separate workshops for kids on Saturday, June 20. On Monday, June 22, the adults get their turn when Hall and Company Members Stephanie Hoemer and Amanda Rountree teach the art of storytelling and open the floor for participants to share their own stories.

PERFORMANCES

KIDSKALD

Wednesday, June 24, 7:30 p.m.

Studio Theater

Tickets are \$10

Ten student storytellers compete for prestige and prizes.

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MAELSTROM

Friday, June 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Studio Theater

Tickets are \$15

Six storytellers improvise stories based on audience suggestions—and the audience votes for the winner.

SKALD 10 with host Steve Edwards of WBEZ Chicago Public Radio

Saturday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Studio Theater

Tickets are \$20

Ten professional storytellers compete for prestige and prizes for a panel of expert judges.

WNEP Theater has been holding the **SKALD** Storytelling Competition annually since 1999 and has been creating unexpectedly imaginative and original theater in Chicago for fifteen years. Guest judges of previous **SKALD** competitions have included the late Martin DeMaat, Live Bait Theatre's Sharon Evans, local critic Jack Helbig, Stage Left Theatre's Jessi D. Hill, Wild Chicago's Ben Hollis, American Idol Finalist Leslie Hunt, Acorn Theatre's Kim Clark, Columbia College Instructor Joe Janes, Living Oprah's Robyn Okrant, and Chicago Tribune's Kerry Reid.

The theaters in the Chicago Cultural Center, along with the Storefront Theater, its companion theater located across the street at 66 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 January to June 2010 season are now being accepted through May 15, 2009.

For more information about **SKALD** and other upcoming Chicago DCA Theater events, visit www.dcatheater.org or call 312-742-TIXS (8497).

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