

# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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## SKALD 11 STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

**Workshops and competition spin yarns and share whale tales  
in the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival at the Chicago Cultural Center  
May 10 – 15, 2010**

WNEP Theater and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs present the eleventh 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 78 E. Washington Street, from May 10 to May 15.

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 \$15 to \$20 for select events. The KIDSKALD performance and the weekday workshops are free, but reservations are highly recommended. All tickets and reservations are available by calling 312.742.TIXS (8497), visiting [www.dcatheater.org](http://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)**

Monday, May 10, 3 – 6 pm

5<sup>th</sup> floor Washington Room of the Chicago Cultural Center

#### **Adults (Ages 15 and up)**

Tuesday, May 11, 5 – 10 pm

Studio Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center

Admission is free for both workshops, but 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. First, a workshop for kids is Monday after school. Then, on Tuesday night the adults get their turn when Hall and WNEP Company Members Stephanie Hoemer and Amanda Rountree teach the art of storytelling and open the floor for participants to share their own stories.

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### PERFORMANCES

#### **MAELSTROM**

Friday, May 14, at 7:30 pm  
Studio Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center  
Tickets are \$15

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

#### **KIDSKALD**

Saturday, May 15, at 3 pm  
Studio Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center  
Tickets are free, but reservations are recommended

Ten student storytellers compete for prestige and prizes.

#### **SKALD 11**

Saturday, May 15, at 7:30 pm  
Studio Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center  
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, the 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 2011 season are now being accepted through May 15, 2010.

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

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