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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **PLAYHOUSE ON THE GREEN AND RYASAP ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP ON ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM “PLAYHOUSE GREENHOUSE”**

Bridgeport, CT— Playhouse on the Green, a not-for-profit theater company in downtown Bridgeport, and RYASAP, an urban/suburban youth and community development coalition serving the Greater Bridgeport region, are proud to announce a **joint arts education program, “Playhouse Greenhouse”**, which had its first classes in late October/early November 2008. The program builds on the success of this past summer’s “Project Broadway” musical theater program and by working together the Playhouse and RYASAP hope to reach as many local youth as possible while keeping costs low for participating families.

**“Playhouse Greenhouse” offers the very best in theater, dance, and voice training for the Greater Bridgeport Community at an affordable cost.** The **“Triple Threat Workshop”** program consists of classes for young thespians between the ages of 7-18 that boost confidence, cooperation & self-control while teaching acting, singing & dance. A **“Teen Acting Class”** teaches the fundamentals of acting for high school students: voice, movement, monologues & scene study. Both programs feature theater games and improvisation exercises that keep students on their toes and entertained while learning valuable skills.

Playhouse on the Green Producing Artistic Director Matt Schicker says “It has been our hope to collaborate closely with other area not-for-profits and we are very proud to partner with as important and respected an organization as RYASAP, which is doing so much to strengthen the community through its work with youth.”

Paige Nelson, Director of Youth Development and Training for RYASAP says “RYASAP is thrilled to be working with The Playhouse on the Green in putting such wonderful opportunities in the hands of our area’s youth. This is a prime example of how positive youth development can build leadership skills, provide high-quality and fun activities, and support our local artistic talent—and all within the beautiful and inspiring space of Playhouse.”

Classes and Workshops are taught by teaching artists **Alisson Wood and Beth Fauerbach** of this past summer’s “Project Broadway” summer musical theater program at Playhouse on the Green. Guest teaching artists also will participate in specific workshops.

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**Triple Threat Workshop Series** meets 4:30PM-6PM on the following Wednesdays: 11/5 (Vocal Workshop), 11/19 (Acting Workshop), 12/3 (Dance Workshop), 12/17 (Triple Threat: acting, music, and dance put together). The registration fee for the Triple Threat Workshop is \$30 per workshop or all 4 for \$100.

In November-December 2008, **Teen Acting Classes** take place from 4:45PM-5:45PM the following Wednesdays: 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 12/3, 12/10, and 12/17. Class fee is \$20 per class.

**To sign up for any of these classes or for questions, please e-mail [greenhouse@playhouseonthegreen.org](mailto:greenhouse@playhouseonthegreen.org).**

**Playhouse on the Green** is a 54-year-old 501(c)(3) not-for-profit theater company in residence at a beautiful 228-seat jewel-box theater in the heart of downtown Bridgeport, Connecticut. Playhouse on the Green's mission is to enrich Bridgeport's cultural life by providing an eclectic variety of live stage entertainment and arts education programs at an affordable cost, as well as providing opportunities for area artists. Among these programs are its mainstage season of plays and musicals; "Playhouse Greenhouse" and "Project Broadway", it's arts education programs for kids and teens; a Sunday evening series of music and comedy; and the "Page to Stage New Play Reading Series", which brings the new work of Connecticut playwrights to the stage. More information can be found at [www.playhouseonthegreen.org](http://www.playhouseonthegreen.org).

**RYASAP** mission is *to build healthier and safer communities free of the harm of substance abuse, crime and violence*. Since its inception in 1985, RYASAP has worked to build the capacity of youth and adults, utilizing an asset-based youth and community development approach that seeks to identify and mobilize the talents, skills and resources of citizens, associations and institutions in the community. Through RYASAP's YouthSPEAK group, students from area high schools implement a pro-active agenda or youth-created, youth-driven activities in an effort to increase understanding and awareness between diverse young people and to promote positive community change. The group's goal is to involve more young people as leaders in local and state initiatives, and to design and implement projects aimed to address social issues affecting teens in their communities through education and community involvement.

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