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PRESS RELEASE

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WILLIAM F. BROWN PARTICIPATES IN POST-SHOW Q&A ABOUT HIS TONY AWARD® WINNING SHOW *THE WIZ* SUNDAY, APRIL 26 AT PLAYHOUSE ON THE GREEN

Production, which runs April 24-May 10, is reset in Bridgeport with Brown's permission.

Bridgeport, CT— Playhouse on the Green, Bridgeport's not-for-profit community theater, is pleased to announce that the author of the book to the Tony Award® winning musical *The Wiz*, **William F. Brown of Fairfield**, will participate in a **post-show Q&A** session about the show and his career on Broadway and off on **Sunday, April 26, 2009, following the 3PM matinee performance**. The Q&A is free to ticket holders for the April 26 matinee. Matt Schicker, Producing Artistic Director of Playhouse on the Green, moderates.

William F. Brown's career in theater includes four shows on Broadway. *The Wiz* (1975), which ran four and a half years, won 7 Tony Awards and Brown himself was nominated for a Tony for Best Book to a Musical and won a Drama Desk Award. His play *The Girl With the Freudian Slip* also played Broadway, and he penned the book to the musical *A Broadway Musical* and was head writer for *New Faces of 1968*. His Off-Broadway and Regional credits include the books to *How to Steal an Election*, *Damon's Song*, *Twist*, and *The Nutley Papers*. He provided sketches and lyrics for nine Julius Monk revues at Upstairs at the Downstairs and Plaza Nine, as well as the revues *Coconuts*, *Straight Up with a Twist*, *Secrets Every Smart Traveler Should Know*, and others. For television, he worked on Jackie Gleason's *American Scene Magazine*, Max Liebman CBS Specials, *World War II: G.I. Diary*, and *Spies*, and provided special material for Joan Rivers, Georgie Kaye, Joey Foreman, Lesley Gore, and Joel Grey, among others. As a syndicated cartoonist, he created the comic strip *Boomer* for United Feature Syndicate.

***The Wiz* runs for 10 performances only at Playhouse on the Green, April 24 through May 10, 2009.**

The 1975 contemporary re-telling of *The Wizard of Oz* has music and lyrics by Charlie Smalls and book by

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William F. Brown, who, for this production only, granted permission for the story to be set in Bridgeport. A cast of more than 30 actors, singers, and dancers from the area will portray the familiar characters of Dorothy, the Scarecrow, Tin Man, the Lion, the Wicked Witch of the West, and the rest in this version of L. Frank Baum's classic American tale featuring gospel, soul, and r&b styled music.

Matt Schicker, Producing Artistic Director for Playhouse on the Green, co-directs with **Beth Fauerbach**, who also choreographs. **Eli Newsom** and **Christy McIntosh** are Associate Producers; **Kelly Martin** is Musical Director; **Edward Morris** is Set Designer; **Michael Jarett** is Lighting Designer; **David Withrow** is Costume Designer; **Jim DeVivo** is Sound Designer; **Natalie Inzero** is Production Stage Manager.

The principal cast includes: 13-year-old **Rajane' Katurah Brown** of Bridgeport as Dorothy, **LaWanda Black** of Bridgeport as Glinda, **Brian Michael Riley** of Bridgeport as Lord High Underling, **Kitty Robertson** of Fairfield as Addaperle, **Cameron Phillips** of Fairfield as the Scarecrow, **Kevin Thompson** of Stamford as the Tin Man, **Andrew Kepka** of Bridgeport as the Lion, **Sampson Denny** of Bridgeport as The Wiz, and **Jessica Ferraday** of Milford as Evillene. **People's United Bank** and the **Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District** are co-sponsors of *The Wiz*.

Adult single tickets are \$32. Senior Citizens tickets (65 and older) are \$29. Tickets for those 21 years and younger are \$18. **Tickets can be purchased 24/7 on-line at www.playhouseonthegreen.org or by calling TheaterMania at (866) 811-4111 (phone hours 9-9 weekdays, 10-6 weekends).**

Playhouse on the Green is located at 177 State Street between Main Street and Markle Court in downtown Bridgeport. Free, secure parking one block from the theater is available. For more information visit www.playhouseonthegreen.org or call 203-333-3666.

The Wiz

Book by William F. Brown

Music and Lyrics by Charlie Smalls

Performances Schedule:

Friday, April 24 at 8PM – Opening Night

Saturday, April 25 at 8PM

Sunday, April 26 at 3PM – post-show Q&A with William F. Brown

Friday, May 1 at 8PM

Saturday, May 2 at 8PM

Sunday, May 3 at 3PM

Friday, May 8 at 8PM

Saturday, May 9 at 3PM

Saturday, May 9 at 8PM

Sunday, May 10 at 3PM

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