

Theatre Aspen Announces New Artistic Director, Executive Director and
Development and Communications Associate

October 15, 2007 (Aspen, Colo.) — Theatre Aspen announced today the completion of its organizational restructuring with the addition of a new Artistic Director, an Executive Director to head up the organization and a Development and Communications Associate.

Paige Price will be assuming the newly re-structured position of Artistic Director for Theatre Aspen. Price, a Broadway actress and producer, starred in *Saturday Night Fever* and was in the original cast of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* as well as *Smokey Joe's Café*. Most recently she wowed audiences as the star of Theatre Aspen's 2007 production of *The Last Five Years*. She has performed off-Broadway on numerous occasions as well as in regional theatre, national and international tours. She has shared the stage with stars such as Tony Bennett, Lou Rawls, Ben E. King, Pam Tillis, Jane Monheit and Gladys Knight. Price has also worked in film and television and has hosted the Tony Awards' live Red Carpet web casts since 2002.

As a producer, Price's credits include "The Eyes Are The First Thing To Go," (now, "Midlife: The Crisis Musical!" which played this fall in Boulder) selected for the inaugural 2005 New Musicals Festival in NYC. She produced the critically acclaimed concert (in its fifth year) now set on the Great Lawn in Central Park called *Broadway Under the Stars*, with a 30-piece orchestra and stars from the entertainment business, *Broadway Meets Country*, presented at *Jazz at Lincoln Center* in 2005, and many other large productions around the country and abroad. Price is also currently First National Vice President of Actors' Equity and has years of high-level experience negotiating with theatre producers on behalf of performers.

Shirley Tipton will lead Theatre Aspen as its newly appointed Executive Director. Possessing over twenty years experience working in public policy at the county and state levels, Tipton also brings experience in non-profit arts management, as well as considerable involvement in Aspen's arts scene and community theatre. Tipton was the director of the Red Brick Center for the Arts, Operations Manager for Theatre Aspen, and the Production Stage Manager for Aspen Community Theatre (ACT), in addition to performing in ACT productions. Shirley's impressive management skills and knowledge of the arts position her well to lead Theatre Aspen through its organizational restructuring as it builds on the success of the 2007 season.

Moving forward with ambitious plans for 2008, Kate Webber has been hired as Development and Communications Associate for the organization. A graduate of Wake Forest University, Kate comes to Theatre Aspen from San Diego bringing extensive development and non-profit operational skills to the organization. Kate worked in development, volunteer coordination and event planning with the Museum of Contemporary Art, the ANGELS program, and the *Race for the Cure* on the west coast.

Katherine Sand, Co-president of the Theatre Aspen Board said: "We could not be more excited about our new staff, and we are extremely grateful to have women the caliber of Shirley, Paige, and Kate joining our veteran Director of Education, Marisa Post. We have absolute confidence that with these impressive additions to our staff, we will continue to make notable quality

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improvements. It is our goal to have Theatre Aspen take its place among the crown jewels in Aspen's cultural scene and be an institution that this community can be proud of."

Theatre Aspen is committed to collaborating with Aspen's local theatre community in its many excellent forms. Co-president Melanie Sturm adds, "The impressive array of theater arts organizations in Aspen expands the theater-going audience and creates opportunities to partnership. We look forward to strengthening our relationships and to bringing the very best possible performances and educational offerings to Roaring Fork Valley residents."

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Theatre Aspen's mission is to create first class professional theatre and first class theatre education programs in Aspen and the Roaring Fork Valley. We believe theatre provides a unique opportunity for audiences and artists to share experiences that can be enjoyable, uplifting, thought provoking, and life changing. It is the goal of Theatre Aspen to produce the highest level of professional theatre for the enjoyment and inspiration of our audience. Visit www.theatraspen.org for more information.

