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For Immediate Release

Dual programs offer variety in theatre this summer

University of Southern Indiana (USI) will offer theatre productions at two Indiana locations starting in June. Patrons of professional theatre and enthusiasts of outdoor musical drama will both be satisfied with the summer offerings.

The New Harmony Theatre (NHT) is an Actors Equity theatre in Posey County produced by USI. Theatre professionals from New York and other theatre venues come to New Harmony in the summer to present quality productions of classic and contemporary theatre. Summer 2002 is the 15th anniversary season for The New Harmony Theatre.

Lincoln Amphitheatre, a covered outdoor stage in Lincoln State Park in Spencer County, also is produced by USI. The actors at Lincoln Amphitheatre are professional actors and college theatre majors from Indiana and across the country.

“This season we offer a stunning variety--Noel Coward’s *Private Lives*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Anna Christie* by Eugene O’Neill, and the popular feel-good Broadway musical *Pump Boys and Dinettes*,” said Scott LaFeber, artistic director at The New Harmony Theatre.

Actors for *Private Lives* are Jane Bodle, a veteran of Broadway stage who was in the original Broadway company of *Les Miserables*; Marc Moritz, who appeared on Broadway in *Merrily We Roll Along* and most recently was seen in the Willow Cabin Theatre Company’s production of *A Child’s Christmas in Wales*; and Jeremy Holm, recently featured in Milwaukee Repertory Theatre.

Private Lives opens on Friday, June 7. For opening weekend, the show runs Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. with a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee. The show continues for two weeks on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The Thursday show begins at 7:30 p.m. *Anna Christie* opens Friday, July 5 and *Pump Boys and Dinettes* opens on Friday, July 26. Details about the performances and dates are available online at www.newharmonytheatre.com.

The NHT productions are staged in Murphy Auditorium in historic New Harmony. Tickets for *Private Lives* and *Anna Christie* are \$18, adult and \$16, senior (60+). Tickets for *Pump Boys and Dinettes* are \$20 and \$18. The

toll-free box office number is 1-877/648-7469 or 812/682-3115. Group rates and season subscriptions are available.

Young Abe Lincoln, the story of Abraham Lincoln's childhood and young adult years in Indiana, is in its 16th season at Lincoln Amphitheatre. The show opens on June 21 at 7:30 p.m. and runs Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through June 30; in July and August, *Young Abe Lincoln* runs in repertory with *The Sound of Music*. Audiences enjoy seeing how a pioneer boy formed the values which would make him an extraordinary American.

The Sound of Music, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, opens at Lincoln Amphitheatre on July 6 and runs in repertory with *Young Abe Lincoln* through August 10.

Elliot Wasserman is artistic director at Lincoln Amphitheatre.

The Lincoln Amphitheatre resident company also will offer *Rutherford Wolf* in the Theatre for Young Audiences, a children's theatre on July 20 and August 10 at 2 p.m., and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a dance adaptation of the Shakespeare classic, in Lincoln Kaleidoscope on July 31 and August 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the amphitheatre. Full details of these special events are on the Web site at www.lincoln-amphitheatre.com.

Tickets at Lincoln Amphitheatre are \$15, adult; \$13 for senior (60+); and \$8 for child (under 18). Sunday is family night at Lincoln Amphitheatre and tickets are \$8 per person. Corporate and group rates are available. The box office number is 800-264-4ABE.

The School of Liberal Arts at the University of Southern Indiana produces both summer seasons. The theatre offerings serve the mission of the University. Dr. Iain Crawford, dean of the School of Liberal Arts, said the summer offerings fit the USI tradition of partnering with the community to foster the arts and cultural awareness in southwestern Indiana.

USI is a comprehensive university located in Evansville, Indiana. Established in 1965, USI enrolls over 9,300 students in five academic schools. Graduate and undergraduate programs are available.

Sent to: Ferdinand News; Huntingburg Press; Jasper Herald; Perry County News; Spencer County Journal-Democrat; Posey County News; Mt. Vernon Democrat; Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer; Gleaner; Louisville Courier Journal-IN; Madisonville Messenger; Union County Advocate; Carmi Times; Mt. Carmel Daily Republican-Register; Harrisburg Daily Register; Lawrenceville Illinois Record; Our Times; Petersburg Press-Dispatch; South Gibson Star-Times; Princeton Clarion; Warrick Newspapers; WNIN-FM; Terre Haute Tribune-Star; Bloomington Herald-Times; Indianapolis Star; Albion Illinois Journal Register; University Notes; Web