

News Release

Contact: Lara Goetsch, Director of Marketing and Communications
773.281.8463 x25; lara@timelinetheatre.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TIMELINE THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES 10 PERFORMANCES OF *TRUMBO*
BY CHRISTOPHER TRUMBO, STARRING TONY AWARD NOMINEE HOWARD WITT**

TimeLine Theatre Company will present the play ***TRUMBO*** by Christopher Trumbo, based on the letters of Dalton Trumbo and starring Tony Award-nominated actor Howard Witt (*Death of a Salesman*) in the title role. The production will be directed by TimeLine Associate Artist Louis Contey and will also feature TimeLine Company member David Parkes in the two-person cast.

TRUMBO will run for 10 performances only, opening Sunday, May 4 at 8 p.m. and running Sundays and Mondays at 7 p.m. through June 2, 2008, at TimeLine Theatre, 615 W. Wellington Ave., Chicago. Press Opening performances are Sunday, May 4 at 8 p.m. and Monday, May 5 at 7 p.m. Running time is approximately one hour and 30 minutes, with no intermission.

All tickets are \$15. Advance purchase is recommended as performances may sell out. **To purchase tickets or for more information, call 773.281.TIME (8463) or visit timelinetheatre.com.**

Subtitled "***Red, White and Blacklisted,***" ***TRUMBO*** is based on the letters of Dalton Trumbo, the legendary screenwriter who stood up to the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1947 and was subsequently jailed and blacklisted as one of the "Hollywood Ten." Through his brilliant and razor-sharp letters to friends, former friends and family, *Trumbo* is a fascinating and often spellbinding look at how the author of *Spartacus*, *Roman Holiday* and *Exodus* took on Congress, Hollywood and the Red Scare — and won. *The New York Times* called *Trumbo* "thrilling, ferocious and hilarious," and *Variety* raved that the play "positively sizzles with wit ... sweet, sad and ultimately uplifting, *Trumbo* is a great history lesson and a reminder that, many years ago, people wrote letters, and, on occasion, the craft of those letters ascended to art."

"TimeLine is delighted to present this special engagement of one of the most talked-about plays of the last few years," said TimeLine Artistic Director PJ Powers. "Through the remarkable letters of Dalton Trumbo we see him as a larger-than-life character, and we're thrilled to welcome larger-than-life and legendary Chicago actor Howard Witt to TimeLine for the first time. Paired with TimeLine regulars David Parkes and Lou Contey, *Trumbo* promises to be a terrific event for Chicago audiences this spring."

Howard Witt (*Dalton Trumbo*) makes his TimeLine Theatre debut in the title role played in previous productions by Paul Newman, Brian Dennehy, Joe Mantegna and Nathan Lane, among other luminaries. Witt recently played The Fool in the Goodman Theatre's production of *King Lear* and toured with Steppenwolf Theatre's *The Time of Your Life* in the role of Kit Carson. He is a Tony, Drama Desk and Ovation Award nominee for his performance as Charlie in the Goodman and Broadway productions of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*, which also played in London for eight months. He is a Lucille Lortel Award nominee for his performance Off-Broadway in Rebecca Gilman's *Boy Gets Girl*. He also appeared on Broadway in the role of Shelley in the original production of David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross*. He has appeared in most major U.S. regional theaters, including 10 years at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., playing 50 roles. He is an alumnus of The Theatre School at DePaul University.

David Parkes (*Narrator*) is a Company member of TimeLine Theatre Company, where he has appeared in more than a dozen productions, most recently *Widowers' Houses* and the world premiere of Brett Neveu's *Harmless*. Also at TimeLine, he originated the role of Martin Heidegger in the world premiere and subsequent remount of Kate Fodor's award-winning *Hannah and Martin* and was awarded a Joseph Jefferson Citation for Supporting Actor for his performance as Warden Whalen in the Midwest premiere of Tennessee Williams' *Not About Nightingales*. Other work in Chicago includes *Ella* at Northlight

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Theatre; *One Arm* at Steppenwolf Theatre, directed by Moises Kaufman; and productions with American Theater Company, Eclipse Theatre, Apple Tree Theatre, Streetsigns, Footsteps Theatre, Greasy Joan & Co. and the Piven Theatre Workshop.

Christopher Trumbo (*Playwright*), the son of Dalton Trumbo, was born in Los Angeles in 1940. A graduate of Columbia College in New York City, he began working in motion pictures in 1960 as an assistant director on Otto Preminger's production of *Exodus*. For the last 35 years he has worked as a writer, primarily in the motion picture and television industries. He shared a writing credit with his father on the television film *Ishi: The Last of his Tribe*, completing the project after his father died. His play *Trumbo* premiered in 2003 in New York City and went on to be performed across the United States in regional theaters and on tour. Trumbo also adapted the play into a documentary feature in 2007.

Louis Contey (*Director*) is an Associate Artist at TimeLine. He received a Joseph Jefferson Citation for Outstanding Direction of the company's 2002 production of Clifford Odets' *Awake and Sing!*, and a Jeff Citation nomination for his direction of TimeLine's *It's All True* in 2004. Other TimeLine productions include *Paradise Lost*, *The General from America*, *Pravda* and *Copenhagen*. He has directed more than 60 plays, among them *Requiem for a Heavyweight*, *A View from the Bridge*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Judgment at Nuremberg* and *Meet John Doe*. He is an 11-time Joseph Jefferson nominee and has received seven Joseph Jefferson Citations. He has worked at The Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Theatre at the Center, Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Shattered Globe Theatre, Provision Theatre, Eclipse Theatre and American Theater Company, among others. He received his M.F.A. in directing from The Theatre School at DePaul University, where he is currently an adjunct instructor.

Other members of the production staff are still to be determined.

Directions/Parking/Accessibility

TimeLine Theatre is located in Chicago's Lakeview East neighborhood, easily accessible via car, taxi and public transportation. Nearby CTA El stops are the Wellington stop on the Brown and Purple lines and the Belmont stop on the Red Line. CTA busses #36-Broadway, #76-Diversey, #77-Belmont, #22-Clark and #8-Halsted stop nearby. There is very limited street parking available. Drivers should beware of posted neighborhood permit restrictions. There are several paid parking lots nearby. There are two flights of stairs totaling 18 steps between the street and the theatre space, with no elevator.

Also Playing

TRUMBO will be presented on off-nights opposite TimeLine's production of the musical *FIORIELLO!*, book by Jerome Weidman and George Abbott, music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, directed by Nick Bowling with musical direction by Doug Peck. *Fiorello!* runs April 17 – June 15, 2008 (previews 4/13, 4/15 & 4/16), at TimeLine Theatre, 615 W. Wellington Ave., Chicago. **To purchase tickets, visit timelinetheatre.com or call 773.281.TIME (8463).**

About TimeLine Theatre Company

TimeLine was founded in April 1997 by six graduates of The Theatre School at DePaul University. The company's mission is to present stories inspired by history that connect with today's social and political issues. TimeLine's first 10 seasons featured 30 productions, including five world premieres and seven Chicago premieres. Praised as "a must-see company" (*Chicago Sun-Times*) and a "fast-rising Chicago company" (*The New York Times*) and recipient of the 2006 Alford-Axelson Award for Nonprofit Managerial Excellence, TimeLine has received 36 Joseph Jefferson Citations, including a Citation for Outstanding Production six of the past seven years: *Not About Nightingales* (2001); *The Crucible* (2002), *Awake and Sing!* (2003), *Hannah and Martin* (2004), *This Happy Breed* (2005) and *Fiorello!* (2007).

Company members are Nick Bowling, Janet Ulrich Brooks, Lara Goetsch, Juliet Hart, David Parkes, Maureen Powers, PJ Powers and Benjamin Thiem. TimeLine is a member of the League of Chicago Theatres, Theatre Communications Group and the Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce.