

News Release

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11, 2007

TIMELINE THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS THE CHICAGO PREMIERE OF DOLLY WEST'S KITCHEN BY FRANK MCGUINNESS, JANUARY 22 – MARCH 22

TimeLine Theatre Company continues its 2007-2008 season with the Chicago premiere of ***Dolly West's Kitchen*** by Frank McGuinness. The play, directed by Kimberly Senior, runs January 26 through March 22, 2008 (previews January 22 through January 25) at TimeLine Theatre, 615 W. Wellington Ave., Chicago. Press Opening performances are Saturday, January 26 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, January 27 at 2 p.m. **To purchase tickets, visit timelinetheatre.com or call 773.281.TIME (8463).**

During World War II in Ireland's County Donegal, the close-knit West family has love and laughter in the safety of Dolly's kitchen to distract itself from fears of the war nearby. But their plan to escape involvement is shattered when one of their own brings British and American soldiers across the border and into their midst. Soon clashes over issues of loyalty, jealousy, sexual identity and love invade the neutrality of Dolly West's kitchen. This hilarious and poignant play, originally produced in Ireland at the Abbey Theatre in 1999 and in Great Britain at the Old Vic Theatre in 2000, was nominated for several Olivier Awards, including Best New Play.

"*Dolly West's Kitchen* tackles issues of identity, from sexual to national," said director Kimberly Senior. "It's exciting to tell this story in a time when we are feeling increasingly alienated from our world, our government, our peers and ourselves. By examining similarly 'ordinary' people in another time, Frank McGuinness takes us on a poignant, and often comic, journey to the heart of who we are and what we believe in."

The cast for *Dolly West's Kitchen* features **Cliff Chamberlain** (Alec), **Aaron Golden** (Jamie), **Sara Hoyer** (Anna), **Danica Ivancevic** (Esther), **Kat McDonnell** (Dolly), **Niall McGinty** (Justin), **Mark Richard** (Ned), **Joshua Rollins** (Marco) and **Kathleen Ruhl** (Rima).

Performance Schedule/Events

Preview performances are Tuesday, January 22 through Friday, January 25 at 8 p.m. *Dolly West's Kitchen* opens on Saturday, January 26 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, January 27 at 2 p.m. and then runs Wednesdays (2/27, 3/5, 3/12 and 3/19 only) and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Saturday, March 22, 2007.

Dolly West's Kitchen will run approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes, including one intermission.

POST-SHOW DISCUSSIONS: Free post-show discussions led by a TimeLine Company Member and featuring the production dramaturg and members of the cast on Thursday, January 31; Sunday, February 3; Thursday, February 7; Thursday, February 14; and Sunday, February 17.

SUNDAY SCHOLARS SERIES: An hour-long panel discussion with experts on the themes and issues of the play after the performance on Sunday, February 10, moderated by TimeLine Board Member Peter Kuntz, managing director of programs and production for the Chicago Humanities Festival. Tickets to the Sunday Scholars Series are \$10; \$5 for TimeLine subscribers.

DISCUSSION WITH TIMELINE COMPANY MEMBERS: Free post-show discussion with TimeLine Company members on Sunday, February 24.

Buying Tickets

Tickets are \$25 (Wednesday – Friday) or \$30 (Saturday & Sunday). Preview tickets are \$15. Student tickets are \$15 with valid ID. Group rates for groups of 10 or more are available. 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.**

Audience Resources

Dramaturgical lobby displays, a production Study Guide and other information will be made available at timelinetheatre.com. A streaming video preview will be available at StageChannel.com.

Sponsors

TimeLine's 2007-08 season is sponsored in part by **Humana, Inc.**

Location/Transportation/Parking/Accessibility

TimeLine Theatre is located at 615 W. Wellington Ave., inside the Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ building, near the corner of Wellington and Broadway in Chicago's Lakeview East neighborhood. CTA El stops at Wellington (Brown/Purple lines) and Belmont (Red Line) are nearby. CTA busses #36-Broadway, #76-Diversey, #77-Belmont, #22-Clark and #8-Halsted stop nearby. There is limited street parking, but several paid parking facilities are located nearby. Visit timelinetheatre.com for complete directions and parking information. There are two flights of stairs totaling 18 steps between the street and the theater space, with no elevator.

Playwright/Director/Cast/Production Staff

Frank McGuinness (Playwright) was born in Buncrana, County Donegal, and now lives in Dublin and lectures in English at University College, Dublin. His play *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* was nominated for both the Olivier and Tony Awards, and won the New York Critics Circle Award for Best Foreign Play and the Writers Guild Best Play Award. His play *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme* won the London Evening Standard Most Promising Playwright Award, the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, Harvey's Best Play Award, Cheltenham Literary Prize, Plays and Players Award for Most Promising Playwright, Ewart-Briggs Peace Prize and the London Fringe Awards for Best Playwright and Best Play. His adaptation of Ibsen's *A Doll's House* won four Tony Awards including Best Revival, and the Outer Critics Circle Award. His adaptation of Sophocles' *Electra* was nominated for three Tony Awards including Best Revival. McGuinness' other plays include *The Factory Girls*, *Baglady*, *Innocence*, *Carthaginians*, *Mary and Lizzie*, *The Bread Man*, *The Bird Sanctuary*, *Mutabilitie* and *Gates of Gold*. His translations include Ibsen's *Rosmersholm*, Lorca's *Yerma*, *Peer Gynt*, Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, Brecht's *The Threepenny Opera*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, Sophocles' *Electra*, Ovstrovsky's *The Storm*, *Miss Julie*, Euripides' *Hecuba*, his adaptation of Du Maurier's *Rebecca* and his version of *Phaedra*. McGuinness' latest play, *There Came a Gypsy Riding*, was produced by the Almeida Theatre in 2007. Film and television credits include, for BBC Television, *Scout* and *Henhouse* and the feature film adaptation of Brian Friel's play *Dancing at Lughnasa*.

Kimberly Senior (Director) is the founder of Collaboraction Theatre Company and an artistic associate with Strawdog Theatre and Next Theatre, where she recently directed *The Busy World is Hushed*. Other recent productions include *Eye of the Storm* at Adventure Stage Chicago, *Narnia* at Emerald City Theatre, the world premiere of *Feast* at Chicago Dramatists and *Three Sisters* in a world premiere translation by Curt Columbus for Strawdog and Theater on the Lake. She has directed for Estrogen Fest, Maxwell Street Historic Preservation Coalition, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, Shakespeare's Motley Crew, Northlight Theatre, Roadworks Productions, Northwestern

University, College of DuPage, National Louis University and WFMT Radio, among others. Senior is a member of the adjunct faculty at DePaul University and Columbia College Chicago, and she has taught and/or run programs at Steppenwolf, Court, Northlight, Roadworks and Redmoon theaters, among others.

The cast for *Dolly West's Kitchen* features **Cliff Chamberlain** (Alec), **Aaron Golden** (Jamie), **Sara Hoyer** (Anna), **Danica Ivancevic** (Esther), **Kat McDonnell** (Dolly), **Niall McGinty** (Justin), **Mark Richard** (Ned), **Joshua Rollins** (Marco) and **Kathleen Ruhl** (Rima).

The production staff for *Dolly West's Kitchen* includes **Brian Sidney Bembridge** (Scenic Design), **Christine Conley** (Costume Design), **Charles Cooper** (Lighting Design), **Tamara Roberts** (Sound Design), **Galen Pejeau** (Properties Design), **Becky Perlman** (Dramaturg), **Ana Espinosa** (Stage Manager), **Seth Vermilyea** (Production Manager), **Bob Groth** (Technical Director), **Julie Wilms** (Master Electrician), **Eva Breneman** (Dialect Coach), **Megan Shuchman** (Assistant Director), **Robert Coleman** (Graphic Designer), **James Keister** (Lobby Display Designer), **Lara Goetsch** (Director of Marketing and Communications), **PJ Powers** (Artistic Director) and **Elizabeth K. Auman** (Managing Director).

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).

The final production in TimeLine's 2007-08 season is:

- A remount of TimeLine's 2006 production of **FIORELLO!**, book by Jerome Weidman and George Abbott, music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, directed by Nick Bowling, musical direction by Doug Peck, April 17 – June 15, 2008 (previews 4/13, 4/15 & 4/16)

Company members are Nick Bowling, 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.

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