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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **An Evening with Darko Tresnjak –Tony Award-Winning Director Discusses the Power of the Graphic Novel**



HARTFORD, Connecticut (October 6, 2014) – As a key event in the Hartford Public Library’s *One Book/One Hartford* annual series of programs this fall, Tony Award-winning director Darko Tresnjak, together with Hartford Public Library CEO Matthew K. Poland, will lead the audience in a lively discussion of Art Spiegelman’s powerful graphic novel about 9/11, *In the Shadow of No Towers* and how well the format of the graphic novel works in the telling of this story.

Recognizing the boundary-bending nature of the graphic novel, Hartford Public Library is bringing emphasis and attention to the genre for this year’s *One Book/One Hartford*.

“The graphic novel has become an extremely important part of America’s book culture,” said Poland. “As part of our *One Book/One Hartford* programming for this year, we wanted to both build on American Library Association support for the graphic novel, and create a program that would allow us to examine a major national and international event through Darko Tresnjak’s eyes. He is a citizen of the world, and brings that perspective to the discussion, but is also deeply involved in the world and culture of Hartford as artistic director at Hartford Stage.”

**The 6 p.m. event scheduled for Thursday, October 23, in the Atrium of the Downtown Library, is free and open to all,** and will focus on Spiegelman’s novel examining the events of September 11, 2001, when the World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan was attacked by terrorists.

Darko Tresnjak has been the artistic director of the Hartford Stage Company since 2011, and earlier this year won a Tony Award for his direction of *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, currently on Broadway. He grew up in Yugoslavia, Poland, and the United States, and previously served as artistic director at the Old Globe Shakespeare Festival in San Diego.

"I was intrigued from the moment I heard the title of Art Spiegelman's book because in September 2001, I lived in the West Village, literally in the shadow of the towers. I look forward to talking about this book," said Tresnjak.

Pulitzer Prize-winner Spiegelman's large-format illustrated novel was published in 2004 by Pantheon Books, and was described by Salon as a "dark, troubling and sometimes hilarious comic" that may be "the finest and most personal work of art to emerge from the tragedy." The New York Times praised it as "an intimate memoir of the attacks on the World Trade Center." No stranger to controversial topics, Spiegelman won the Pulitzer Prize in 1992 for his book *Maus*, the story of his family and the Holocaust told through the medium of a comic book.

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As a finalist for the 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century as an innovative and stimulating place where people can learn and discover, explore their passions, and find a rich array of resources that contribute to a full life. Hartford Public Library provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Serving the residents of Hartford and beyond at its nine branches and Downtown location, Hartford Public Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org).

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