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**Hartford Public Library Announces ArtWalk Exhibit Celebrating
50th Anniversary of Hartford Stage**

Hartford, Connecticut (August 13, 2013) — Hartford Public Library is pleased to announce their upcoming ArtWalk exhibit presented in partnership with Hartford Stage. *STAGECRAFT: 50 Years of Design at Hartford Stage* will open with a reception on Friday, September 6 at 6 p.m. at the Downtown Library (500 Main Street). Event is free and open to the public. The exhibit will run through Friday, September 27 and is available for viewing during the hours the Library is open.

In celebration of Hartford Stage's 50th Anniversary Season, the STAGECRAFT exhibit consists of a selection of costumes, props and scenic elements from the company's extensive collection. A hallmark of the theatre's work is the quality of the work that appears on stage, all of which is built here in Hartford. Scores of locally-based artists, craftspeople, and technicians created these pieces to animate the visions of some of the world's most prominent theatrical designers.

Hartford Stage has earned many of the nation's most distinguished awards, including a Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre, the Margo Jones Award for Development of New Works, OBIE awards, and two New York Critics Circle Awards, and has produced nationally renowned titles, including the New York transfers of *Enchanted April*, *The Gershwin's Fascinating Rhythm*, *The Carpetbagger's Children*, *The Orphans' Home Cycle*, *Tea at Five* and *Resurrection (Through the Night)*.

Michael Stotts, Managing Director at Hartford Stage, said, "Hartford Stage designs, and the execution of those designs, have been highlighted and featured in national trade publications for decades. We have 50 years of history that have been in storage, that we are now bringing out to show to the world. It is especially important that our local audiences and constituencies know and recognize the unique contributions Hartford Stage has made to the American Theatre."

“Our 50th Anniversary season should be a time during which everyone in our community takes pride in the rich cultural assets we have in our community. Our set, costume, lighting and sound designs are world class. We owe a debt of gratitude to our supporters and donors for helping us to realize our dreams, and in doing so, keeping this regional theatre at the forefront of the American Theatre,” he said.

The celebration continues throughout the fall and winter and into next spring with a series of library talks featuring Hartford Stage’s Senior Dramaturg and Director of New Play Development Elizabeth Williamson and guests. Three lunchtime talks in the Atrium at the Downtown Library will explore themes of select productions for the upcoming season. Classical Repertory for a New Generation, *La Dispute* in repertory with *Macbeth*, will open the series on Wednesday, October 9 at 12 p.m. Next is *A Song at Twilight* on Wednesday, February 26, 2014, at 12 p.m. The final talk will be about *Somewhere* on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 12 p.m.

Hartford Public Library cardholders will receive a special discount on tickets during Hartford Stage’s 50th Anniversary season. Cardholders can use the promo code LIBRARY10 for \$10 off any Hartford Stage 2013-14 production (not valid on Super Saver rates). Mention code when booking or simply use code online at www.hartfordstage.org, and show your HPL card when picking up your tickets to receive the discount.

“We are thrilled to partner with Hartford Stage to celebrate 50 years of great theater and community service,” said Matthew K. Poland, the Library’s chief executive officer. “And to offer this treasure for free to the public makes this project a stunning example of a collaborative effort between two of Hartford’s anchor institutions.”

About [Hartford Public Library](#)

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 865,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. According to a recent editorial in *The Hartford Courant*, “Indeed, the Library has established itself as the center of the community in Hartford.” To learn more about the library, please see www.hplct.org.

About Hartford Stage

Hartford Stage is one of the nation's leading resident theatres and has produced 345 productions in 49 years. Known for producing innovative revivals of classics and provocative new plays and musicals, including 68 world and American premieres, the theatre also offers a distinguished education program which reaches 21,000 students annually.

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50 Years of Design at Hartford Stage