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Paramount Players Announce 2014-15 Season and Upcoming Auditions for Cats

Ashland, KY - The Paramount Players, community theatre at Paramount Arts Center, has announced their 2014-2015 community theatre season. The Musical *Cats* will be their first production and will run July 31, August 1 and 2. *Cats* is based on T.S. Elliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" which is a book of poetry. Each musical number is the story of a different jellicle cat (and in many cases taken verbatim from T.S. Elliot). The show begins with all of the cats assembling together from all over. The purpose of this gathering is for "Old Deuteronomy" to choose the most deserving of cats to make the journey up to the "Heavy Side Lair". Only one cat can make this journey. The show is a series of numbers with each cat making his or her case about why they should get to go up. With music by Andrew Lloyd Webber this show held the record for longest running Broadway show for years. It features many well-known songs that are easy recognizable. Auditions will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 27 and 28 at 6 PM. You should have 16 bars of a musical theatre piece prepared with sheet music or in MP3 format. An accompanist will be provided. Those auditioning will also learn a dance combination and possibly be asked to participate in some improvisation. We are looking for a large cast of singers and dancers from teens through adults. A very small number of children ages 10-13 will be cast.

A dinner theatre production of "The Last Five Years" will be September 4-6. *The Last Five Years* charts the five-year relationship of Jamie and Cathy, two 20-something New Yorkers who fall head over heels in love. But in a city where professional and personal passions collide, navigating the waters of love and matrimony can sometimes prove to be too much. This is an adult show and is rated R for language and sexual situations. The show will include dinner and a cash bar for wine and beer.

The Giver will be part of our youth education series and will be performed at the Paramount, tour to local schools and have a public performance at the Paramount. *The Giver* based on the Newberry Award-winning book by Lois Lowry. **Jonas' world is perfect. Everything is under control and safe. There is no war or fear of pain. There are also no choices. Every person is assigned a role in the community. But when Jonas turns 12, he is chosen for special training from the Giver – to receive and keep the memories of the community. The Giver is the only person who holds the memories of real pain and real joy. Now Jonas will learn the truth about life – and the hypocrisy of his Utopian world. Through this moving story you will discover what it means to grow up, grow wise and take control of your own destiny.** Cast of

approximately 10 including a 7-9 year old girl, several 11-13 year old boys and girls and several lead adult roles. Audition date is August 25 and the show will tour in late October.

A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas will also be part of our youth education series, travel to local schools and be performed at the Paramount. In their poorest winter ever, when the crops have been devastated by locusts and the family must deal with the death of baby Freddie, Charles Ingalls backtracks his family to Burr Oak, Iowa, to take over the running of a hotel. And if things weren't bad enough, Ma tells Laura that she must be nice to Johnny Steadman, "The worst boy in Iowa". When wealthy Ms. Starr asks for Laura as a companion to read to her in the afternoons, Laura is overjoyed to be invited into such a fine house, but when she overhears Ms. Starr offer to adopt Laura to ease the burden of so many children, Laura is certain that ma and pa will give her up. This original play presents the poignant story of the "missing" two years in the life of the Ingalls family – the only substantial period that Laura chose not to write about in her Little House books. Told with period Christmas music, humor and depth of character, this story tells of healing that celebrates the importance of enduring family bonds. Cast of seven including 3 adults, 3 female children ages 7-12 and 1 male child age 10-12. Audition dates will be October 13 and 14.

The mainstage Christmas show will be the beloved musical *White Christmas*. Veterans Bill Wallace and Bill Davis have a successful song and dance act after World War 2. With romance in mind, they follow a pair of beautiful singing sisters on their way to a singing gig in a Vermont lodge, which just happens to be owned by Phil and Bob's former army commander. Comedy, romance and a general feel-good feeling comes with this large cast musical featuring ages 8-adult. Auditions will be held on October 13 and 14 and the production will be December 18-20.

The Players spring youth education touring show will be *Stuart Little*. Based on the book by EB White, this is the endearing story about a mouse named Stuart, who is born into an ordinary New York family. The many adventures – both big and small – of Stuart Little are brought vividly to life in this story-theatre presentation. The acting ensemble plays many human and animal roles in a series of scenes that make up the marvelous maneuvers of a mild-mannered mouse trying to survive in a "real people's world" A flexible cast size and ages. Auditions will be held January 19 and the production will tour in mid – late February.

The spring musical will be the classic *Singin' in the Rain* . In 1927, Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont are a famous on-screen romantic pair. Lina, however, mistakes the on-screen romance for real love. Don has worked hard to get where he is today, with his former partner Cosmo. When Don and Lina's latest film is transformed into a musical, Don has the perfect voice for the songs. But Lina - well, even with the best efforts of a diction coach, they still decide to dub over her voice. Kathy Selden is brought in, an aspiring actress, and while she is working on the movie, Don falls in love with her. Will Kathy continue to "aspire", or will she get the break she deserves? Featuring many popular songs and amazing tap dance sequences this show features a cast ages 14 through adult. Auditions will be held January 5 and 6 and the production will be March 19-21.

The Players season will conclude with *The Great Gatsby*. Based on the book by F. Scott Fitzgerald, it is the story of Jay Gatsby, a self-made millionaire who passionately pursues the elusive Daisy Buchanan. Nick Carraway, a young newcomer to Long Island, is drawn into their world of obsession, greed and danger. Cast of 4-5 men and 4-5 women. Auditions will be February 24 and the production will be April 9-11.

For additional information or to be placed on the Paramount Players email list please send your name and email to Melanie@paramountartscenter.com.