

## StageWest Theater Company

---

At the Civic Center's Stoner Theater, 221 Walnut Street, Des Moines

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Ron Lambert, Producing Artistic Director  
(515) 309.0251

E: [ron@stagewestiowa.com](mailto:ron@stagewestiowa.com)  
[www.StageWestIowa.com](http://www.StageWestIowa.com)

**The 2009.10 StageWest Season – Premiere Experiences for Artists and Audiences. Exploring stories of love, family and American theater icons! Join us on the edge!**

Five-show subscription series – four productions at the Civic Center's Stoner Theater, our home venue, and one collaboration with the Des Moines Playhouse, performed at the Playhouse.

**“Forbidden Broadway”** by Gerard Alessandrini. **September 18 – October 4, 2009.** (Iowa premiere production) Directed by Karla Kash Music Direction by Paul Dieke

In this long-running, award-winning, Off-Broadway musical revue, Broadway's greatest musical legends meet Broadway's greatest satirist in this hilarious, loving and endlessly entertaining tribute to some of the theater's greatest stars and songwriters! A perfect fit for StageWest, you'll experience “Les Miserables,” “Phantom of the Opera,” “Annie,” “Chicago,” and many more all-time musical favorites, like you never imagined before!!

**“Dead Man's Cell Phone”** by Pulitzer Prize finalist, Sarah Ruhl. **November 6-15, 2009.** (Central Iowa premiere production) Directed by Stacy Brothers

Sarah Ruhl is one of the most exciting and original voices in current American theater. Her play, “The Clean House,” was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and she is the winner of the MacArthur “Genius” Grant. “Dead Man's Cell Phone” is the wildly imaginative and funny odyssey of a woman forced to confront her own assumptions about morality, redemption, and the need to connect in a technologically obsessed world. Satire is Sarah Ruhl's oxygen – her play delivers a fresh and humorous look at the times we live in. The premise – an incessantly ringing cell phone in a quiet café. A dead man – with a lot of loose ends. A stranger at the next table who has had enough ... so begins the journey!

**“Beyond the Rainbow”** by William Randall Beard. **January 29 – February 14, 2010** (Iowa premiere production – a co-production with the Des Moines Playhouse, performed at the Playhouse) Directed by Deena Conley

For the third time (“The Exonerated,” “Metamorphoses”), StageWest and the Des Moines Playhouse team up for an exciting and entertaining co-production. “Beyond the Rainbow” shines the spotlight on the life and legacy of American musical icon, Judy Garland, during one of her legendary concerts at Carnegie Hall. As she sings all of her most famous songs – including

“When You’re Smiling,” “The Trolley Song,” “Over the Rainbow,” “Stormy Weather,” “For Me and My Gal” – reflections of her life as Frances Ethel Gumm take center stage.

**“Almost, Maine”** by John Cariani. **February 19-28, 2010.** (Central Iowa premiere production) Directed by Brad Dell

A romantic comedy, reminiscent of the TV series “Northern Exposure” – known for its quirky, off-beat and original sense of humor. On a cold, clear, moonless night in the middle of winter, all is not quite what it seems in the remote, mythical town of Almost, Maine. As the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, Almost’s residents find themselves magically falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend – almost – in this delightful midwinter night’s dream.

**“Torch Song Trilogy”** by Harvey Fierstein. **June 18-27, 2010.** (Central Iowa premiere production) Winner of the Tony Award for Best Play. Winner of the Drama Desk Award for Best Play. Directed by Todd Buchacker

A collection of three plays: “International Stud.” “Fugue in a Nursery.” “Widows and Children First.” The story centers on Arnold Beckoff, a torch-song singing drag queen of the 70s, and his quest for love, marriage and family. A landmark play in contemporary American theater ... perhaps more timely than ever with the current national discussion on same-sex marriage and the Iowa Supreme Court case on the definition of marriage. Political theater in scope – personal relationships and human connections at its heart.

**StageWest is the resident theater company of the Civic Center’s Stoner Theater**, located in downtown Des Moines at 221 Walnut Street. We are dedicated to bring Central Iowa theater artists and audiences new experiences, bold and invigorating storytelling, compelling and energizing views of the world we live in. Your view of the world depends on where you are standing ... join us on the edge. The view is exhilarating!

**Season subscriptions are now on sale.** Order by May 1 and receive a complimentary ticket to a “bonus” production in the spring of 2010 – title to be announced soon. Visit our web site at [www.StageWestIowa.com](http://www.StageWestIowa.com) for complete details.

NOTE: a 6<sup>th</sup> major StageWest production – not part of the subscriptions series – will be announced soon. Spring 2010.

Performances at the Stoner Theater: Wed. thru Sat. at 7:30. Sun. at 3:00

Performances at the Des Moines Playhouse: Wed/Thur. at 7:30. Fri/Sat. at 8:00. Sun. at 2:00.

StageWest Information: 515.309.0251 or [www.StageWestIowa.com](http://www.StageWestIowa.com)

###