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FESTIVAL OF TREES

Returns To The Rialto Square Theatre

Joliet - The 2008 Christmas holiday season will mark the return of one of the area's most anticipated events, the Festival of Trees, which will once again call the Rialto Square Theatre home. This week long event will be presented under the banner of the Rialto and will be known as the Rialto's Festival of Trees.

In making this announcement, the Rialto's General Manager Randy Green explains how this decision came to be made. "One of the most repeated stories I have heard is how much people enjoyed coming to the Rialto for the Festival of Trees." "People described an almost magical feeling when entering the Rialto when the Festival of Trees was held at the theatre for six years." To accommodate a larger number of trees the event was then moved to the Louis Joliet Westfield Mall. Green affirms, "When it became impossible for the Festival of Trees to continue, I felt it was time to once again create the holiday magic at the Rialto."

Beginning in 1991, Cornerstone Services produced this holiday extravaganza with its proceeds supporting their mission of providing progressive, comprehensive services for people with disabilities. Cornerstone's President and CEO Jim Hogan shares, "We are all delighted that the Rialto Square Theatre will be bringing Festival of Tress back to Joliet next year. It's quite an honor to know that an event Cornerstone Services started seventeen years ago has become such a tradition in this community. We wish them the best of luck, and look forward to attending as guests next year!"

"It is important for the Rialto to become the producer of this event as we continue to find ways to support the vitality of the theatre and extend our service to the community." comments Green. "Like the Barton Grand Theatre Pipe Organ or the 'Dutchess' chandelier, the Rialto Festival of Trees will become an important part of the Rialto's community assets."

The Rialto's Festival of Trees will return to its original time period of Thanksgiving week thereby establishing this 7 day period as the official start to the Christmas holiday season. More announcements will be made shortly about the return of the Festival of Trees to the Rialto in the next few weeks. For more information or to be a part of the 2008 Rialto Festival of Trees, contact Tina Postel, Director of Development for the Rialto Square Theatre at 815.726.7171, ext. 206.

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