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**NASHVILLE CHILDREN'S THEATRE WILL HOST A
SPRING FESTIVAL FOR THE OPENING OF *STILL LIFE WITH IRIS***

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Nashville Children's Theatre (NCT) will host a free Spring Festival on Saturday, May 2, 2009 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. to kick off the weekend performances of *Still Life with Iris*.

NCT's Spring Festival is a free outdoor event for families to enjoy a number of fun, creative entertainments. Organizations involved in the festival include The Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville Public Library's Wishing Chair Productions, Howard Pink and his Musical Garden Hoses, Playing by Air, Nashville Symphony, Youth Speaks and Bill Crosby Music. The Spring Festival will take place at NCT. Should the weather be poor, festival events will be moved indoors. A festival performance schedule can be found at www.nashvillechildrenstheatre.org.

Tickets for NCT's 1 and 4 p.m. performances of *Still Life with Iris* on day of the Spring Festival will be half price as part of the Target Family Time Series. Children attending these Target-sponsored performances will receive a free gift.

Still Life with Iris begins April 28 and runs through May 17, 2009. Iris lives in the Land of Nocturno, and while we sleep, the Flower Painters, Bug Sculptors, Thunder Bottlers and other citizens of that land busily prepare the next day for our world. In Nocturno, Iris, who is the Finder of Lost Things, is taken from her home against her will and placed into a collection of The Best of the Best Things. So that she will not be sad, the memories of her family are taken from her, all except one. Compelled by this lone memory and assisted by the beautiful young Anabel Lee and the 11-year-old Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, this determined Finder of Lost Things finds herself, her father and her way home.

Still Life with Iris is written by Steven Dietz, and features Lisa Kimmey Winans as Iris. The cast also includes Evelyn Blythe, Ross Brooks, Rona Carter, Jamie Farmer, Buddy Raper, Peter Vann, Patrick Waller and Bobby Wyckoff. Scot Copeland, NCT producing director, will direct the production. Set design is by Erica Edmonson, lighting design is by Mitch Massaro, and costume design is by Patricia Taber.

Weekend performances are scheduled at 1 and 4 p.m. on Saturday, May. 2, 9 and 16; and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 3, 10 and 17. School performances are Monday through Friday at 10 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. All performances are open to the public, and reservations are recommended. Individual ticket prices are \$12 per child (ages 2 to 17), and \$17 per adult. Group discounts are available. A sign-interpreted performance is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, at 1 p.m.

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For more information, visit www.nashvillechildrenstheatre.org or call (615) 254-9103.

About Nashville Children's Theatre

Nashville Children's Theatre is an ensemble of professional artists who bring unique vision and compelling voice to the creation of meaningful theater for Nashville and Middle Tennessee audiences. We strive to make the imaginative celebration of our hopes, struggles and joys a vital part of the shared experience for young people, families and our community. NCT was founded in 1931 by the Junior League of Nashville and is recognized as the oldest professional children's theater in the country. A national leader in professional theater arts and education programs for young people, NCT was ranked by *TIME* magazine as one of the top five children's theaters in the country.

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