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**NASHVILLE CHILDREN'S THEATRE HOLDS
SEVENTH ANNUAL GRAND DAY**

Topnotch Grandmothers Jean Stumpf and Betty Gwinn To Be Honored

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Nashville Children's Theatre (NCT) will hold its seventh annual Grand Day benefit on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 2:30 p.m.

Proceeds from Grand Day support NCT education outreach and help provide free and reduced-price tickets for schools with students who need financial support to come to the theater.

“More than 70,000 kids come to the theater each year, and many would not have that opportunity if not for the generous donations at past events,” said Allison Dillon, NCT managing director. “This year we chose to recognize two women who started this great event to benefit children.”

NCT will honor two grandmothers — Jean Stumpf and Betty Gwinn – both longtime patrons of NCT and helped to launch the first Grand Day in 1999.

In addition to her work with NCT and other Nashville arts programs, Stumpf is an advocate for grandparents and other seniors throughout the city through her work with Senior Citizens, Inc., the Council on Aging and the Jean G. Stumpf Fund for the Aging at The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

Gwinn is a past volunteer with Meals on Wheels and has supported the arts through the Blair School of Music, Cheekwood and the Nashville Symphony. The Gwinn family has also played an important role in NCT's history: Brush & Gwinn Architects designed NCT's current home in downtown Nashville in 1960.

Grand Day begins with a special performance of *Seussical*, followed by a patron's reception where children can have their pictures made with the cast and participate in special activities. Co-chairs for the event are Kathy Berhow and Maria TeSelle.

Scot Copeland directs the production, with music direction by Paul Carrol Binkley, scenic design by Sean Williams, lighting design by Scott Leathers, costume design by Patricia Taber and sound design by Kitchen Sink, Inc. A live band will be on stage. *Seussical* has music by Stephen Flaherty, lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, and book by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty. It was co-conceived by Lynn Ahrens, Stephen Flaherty and Eric Idle and is based on the works of Dr. Seuss.

General admission ticket prices for the event are \$15 per child (ages 2-17) and \$45 per adult. Patron tickets range from \$100 to \$1,000. To order tickets please call (615) 254-9103 or see an online form at www.nashvillechildrenstheatre.org. Donations in honor of grandparents or grandchildren will also be accepted.

NCT 2005-06 Season Sponsors are The City Paper, Graffiti Indoor Advertising, Inc. and Nashville Parent Magazine. *Seussical* is proudly sponsored by Publix Super Markets Charities.

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, recently hailed by *TIME* magazine as one of the top five children's theaters in the country, was founded in 1931 by the Junior League of Nashville and is recognized as the oldest children's theater in the country. A national leader in professional theater arts and education programs for young people, NCT introduces them to the magic of live theater through a full lineup of stage productions and related educational programs. For more information visit www.nashvillechildrenstheatre.org.

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