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TONY® AWARD TRIUMPH FOR CASEY NICHOLAW, CATCH ME IF YOU CAN, AND THE 5TH AVENUE THEATRE

(Monday, June 13, 2011, SEATTLE, WA) Seattle viewers of the 2011 Tony® Awards leaped to their feet last night with cheers all around for the credit brought to The 5th Avenue Theatre. Tony® audiences were treated to rousing performances complete with high-caliber, high-kicking choreography from the cast of this year's Best Musical nominee *Catch Me If You Can*, a show which had its pre-Broadway engagement at The 5th Avenue Theatre in 2009 while last year's Best Musical winner (and 5th Avenue baby) *Memphis* brought young musical theater fans dancing into the aisles for a soaring rendition of "Steal Your Rock 'N' Roll."

Casey Nicholaw, director of The 5th Avenue Theatre's highly anticipated production of Disney's *Aladdin*®, accepted the Tony® Award for Best Director alongside *South Park* creator Trey Parker for his work on the smash Broadway hit *Book of Mormon*. Nicholaw received his first professional gig as a choreographer at The 5th when he staged the dance sequences *The Prince and the Pauper* in 2001. On Broadway, Nicholaw has won praise as the choreographer of *Spamalot*, and as director/choreographer of *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *Elf: The Broadway Musical*, garnering three previous Tony® nominations for his work.

The 5th Avenue Theatre Executive Producer and Artistic Director David Armstrong said, "In addition to producing and developing exciting new musicals, The 5th Avenue Theatre is in the business of identifying and developing new talent, both on stage and behind the scenes. I am very proud that we were instrumental in launching the career of Casey Nicholaw and we are thrilled that he is now coming back to our stage at this exciting time in his professional life."

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With a particularly heartfelt speech, star of *Catch Me If You Can* **Norbert Leo Butz** brought tears to the eyes of many when he accepted the Tony® Award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Musical for his portrayal of FBI agent Carl Hanratty, a role he originated at The 5th. Butz took the stage and said in a moment of giddy sincerity, "This award doesn't mean that I'm the best at anything, but it might mean I'm the most grateful man in the room."

More about The 5th Avenue Theatre

The 5th Avenue Theatre is one of the nation's best incubators for new musicals. In the past decade, it has produced ten premiere musicals, five of which have been produced on Broadway, and two of which have won Tony® Awards for Best Musical (*Hairspray* and *Memphis*). The 5th Avenue Theatre is also known for its world class, critically acclaimed productions of musicals chosen from both the contemporary canon and the Golden Age of Broadway.

Unique in its Chinese-inspired design, this exquisite theater opened in 1926 as a venue for vaudeville and film. In 1980, the non-profit 5th Avenue Theatre began producing and presenting top-quality live musical theater. Today, under the leadership of Executive Producer and Artistic Director David Armstrong, Managing Director Bernadine Griffin and Producing Director Bill Berry, The 5th Avenue Theatre attracts an annual attendance of more than 287,000 and ranks among the nation's largest and most respected musical theater companies.

In addition to its main stage productions, The 5th Avenue Theatre is also committed to encouraging the next generation of theatergoers through its extensive Educational Outreach Program which includes: The Adventure Musical Theatre Touring Company, The 5th Avenue High School Musical Theatre Awards, the Student Matinee Program, and Spotlight Nights. For more information about The 5th Avenue Theatre, its season and its programs, please visit www.5thavenue.org.

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