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**THE 5TH CELEBRATES MUSICAL THEATER
WITH FREE EVENTS AND FREE PERFORMANCE OF
*RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S OKLAHOMA!***

5th Avenue Free Community Day: February 4, ALL DAY
Free Performance of Oklahoma: February 5, 7:00 PM

GET TICKETS TO THE FREE SHOW SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, ONLY

(Friday, January 13, 2012 – SEATTLE, WA) In conjunction with its new production of *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma!*, the quintessential American musical, The 5th Avenue Theatre is throwing open its doors to Seattle with a fantastic, fun-filled weekend (February 4-5).

FREE PERFORMANCE OF OKLAHOMA! 7:00 PM, February 5, 2012

PLEASE NOTE: Tickets to the free performance of *Oklahoma!* (4 per household) may ONLY be picked up in-person on Saturday, January 21, between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

The 5th will welcome brand new audience members to a **FREE performance of *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma!* at 7:00 PM on February 5**, Super Bowl Sunday. A total of 2,100 tickets will be given away to those who come in person to The 5th Avenue Theatre Box Office on **Saturday, January 21, beginning at 8 AM** (limit 4 tickets per household). Additionally, the first 100 people in line will get a free poster for *Oklahoma!* Attendees are expected to range from families who may never have been to the theater, to members of underserved populations who could not otherwise afford a ticket, to wives and children desperate to escape the football mania.

THE 5TH AVENUE COMMUNITY DAY 10 AM – 5 PM, February 4, 2012

The 5th Avenue Theatre is thrilled to invite Seattle residents to a free **Community Day** on **Saturday, February 4**. As our great American art form, musical theater belongs to everyone. Come to The 5th and experience the magic, perhaps for the first time!

Media Contact: Bridget Summers Public Relations Manager
The 5th Avenue Theatre • 1308 5th Avenue Seattle, Washington 98101
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Improve Your Skills

Community Day visitors will have the opportunity to step into the spotlight themselves. Participants of all ages and performers of all skill levels can **learn a song** from *Oklahoma!* or take a spin at **country line dancing** in the cast's rehearsal space!

Go Behind the Scenes

Visitors will get the opportunity to see how the creative team for *Oklahoma!* brings the show to life with costume sketches and set designs on display. The display will also explore the history of Oklahoma as it became a state, and the history of the musical from its first production in 1943 to today.

Additionally, participants will have the chance to tour The 5th Avenue Theatre. Built in 1926 with a design inspired by royal sites in China, the theater is a stunning piece of Seattle history. Tours will take place on Saturday morning beginning at **10 AM**.

Get Educated

Attendees will have the chance to hear from community experts, as well as students from The 5th Avenue's *Oklahoma!* Project, who will discuss musical theater in all its entertaining and historical context. Richard Rodgers scholar Professor Geoffrey Block, along with members of the *Oklahoma!* creative team and the 5th Avenue staff, will explore the significance of American musical theater on the stage and in popular culture.

Watch a Performance

The 5th Avenue Theatre's Adventure Musical Theatre Touring Company will be visiting over 90 elementary and middle schools this coming spring with their production of *Klondike*. This original (and educational) musical adventure follows miners from Seattle to the wild Yukon during the days of the Gold Rush. Witness the hardships, struggles, and triumphs experienced by those on the frontier, and learn how the Klondike Gold Rush shaped our region forever. Community Day visitors will be among the first to see the acclaimed production before it leaves Seattle to go on tour.

MORE ABOUT THE 5TH AVENUE'S OKLAHOMA!

WHAT: There's a bright golden haze in Seattle, and it's coming from the lights of **The 5th Avenue Theatre!** The famed home of Broadway-quality musicals in the Pacific Northwest is partnering with Tony Award-nominated choreographer **Donald Byrd** and his acclaimed **Spectrum Dance Theater** to bring a glorious reinvention of ***Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma!*** to big-hearted, high-kicking life.

WHEN: **February 3 – March 4, 2012**
Show times vary; please visit the website for details.

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The 5th Avenue Theatre offers Free Events around *Oklahoma!*

3 | Page

WHERE: **The 5th Avenue Theatre** (1308 5th Avenue, Seattle)

TICKETS: Single tickets start at \$29.00. For information, please visit www.5thavenue.org or call the Box Office at (206) 625-1900. Tickets may also be purchased at (888) 5TH-4TIX.

Special thanks to The 5th Avenue Theatre 2011-12 season co-sponsors Safeco Insurance and US Bank, and media sponsor *The Seattle Times*. Additional thanks to *Oklahoma!* production sponsors The National Endowment for the Arts and KCTS.

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