



## **NEAR WEST THEATRE TO HOST ANNUAL BENEFIT AT “ENCHANTED” TRINITY CATHEDRAL**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Cleveland, OH (January 25, 2010)– Near West Theatre (NWT) welcomes guests to step into a world of fantasy, music, and more at their Annual Benefit, “An Evening in the Enchanted Cathedral,” on Saturday, February 13, 2010 at Trinity Cathedral in Downtown Cleveland. The event will raise funds for Near West’s community building theatrical programs, honor arts advocates, Kathy & Dennis Barrie, and feature a brief performance by a vibrant group of Near West actors.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. with the event concluding at 10:00 p.m. Individual tickets can be purchased for \$75 and sponsorships are available starting at \$1,000. For ticket information, please call (216) 961-6391 or visit [www.nearwesttheatre.org](http://www.nearwesttheatre.org).

This year’s honorees, Kathy and Dennis Barrie, are pioneers in the world of arts and culture—in the creation of museums and new exhibits and revitalization of cities through the arts. Collectively their accomplishments include the development of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum; Cleveland Public Art; the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC; Las Vegas’ Mob Museum; and cultural planning for urban districts such as Cleveland’s downtown, Warehouse District, and University Circle.

This delightful evening will welcome guests to mingle with a variety of fantasy characters and witness a live performance featuring a diverse group of Near West alumni. Benefit attendees can spend their evening bidding on a silent auction full of one-of-a-kind local fare and VIP experiences, enjoy dancing and partake in delicious hors d’oeuvres, drinks and decadent desserts—all in the enchanted Cathedral.

Near West Executive Director, Stephanie Morrison-Hrbek, described the relevance and importance of the event saying, “Every year, this event generates critical revenue for our programming and operations, as well as creates a wonderful intersection of diverse people: hundreds of Near West’s participants and volunteers meeting and interacting with our supporters. This year’s event deepens the encounter as our intergenerational group of actors, volunteers and supporters will dance together, play together, and more!”

For more than 30 years, Near West Theatre has focused on producing quality large-scale musicals that not only entertain but bring together individuals from all walks of life to share in an experience that strives to build self-esteem and strengthen community.

Programs are free to participants and tickets are kept affordable (\$8 adults/\$6 children) in an effort to remain accessible to those who may not otherwise have the opportunity to experience live theatre. Through the Gordon Square Arts District collaboration, Near West Theatre plans to build its new theatre at W. 67<sup>th</sup> and Detroit. This will increase Near West's accessibility to all members of the community and strengthen its ability to carry its legacy into the future.

Major support for Near West Theatre's Annual Benefit comes from our generous sponsors & underwriters which include Jan Roller & Dave Abbott; Jonathan Adams & Pamela Conover; American Greetings; American Limousine Service; Cathleen Bolek LLC; Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP; Consolidated Graphics Group; Davis & Young Co. LPA; Dominion East Ohio; Veronica & Ray Kalich; Eric Kennedy; KeyBank; La Boca Restaurant & Bar; Lutheran Hospital; Rita & Charles Maimbourg; PNC; Porte Wright; Reminger Co. LPA; Deborah Lewis Hiller & Alan J. Ross; Joyce & Kevin Shaw; Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP; Tucker, Ellis & West LLP; and Ulmer & Berne LLP.

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