

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **ATI presents family fun musical with “A Year with Frog and Toad”**

*Actors Theatre of Indiana is Central Indiana's newest professional equity theatre company founded in 2005. The founders consist of three New York City professionally trained actor-singer-dancers who recently relocated to Central Indiana and formed ACTORS THEATRE OF INDIANA. ATI will offer the Central Indiana Premiere of A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD at the Zionsville Performing Arts Center.*

ZIONSVILLE, IN August 10 - 20, 2006 -- Actors Theatre of Indiana, Central Indiana's newest professional equity theatre company, presents a musical treat for the entire family, the Central Indiana Premiere of **A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD!**

**Arnold Lobel's** well-loved characters hop from the page to the stage in **Robert and Willie Reale's** musical *A Year With Frog And Toad*. Conceived by Mr. Lobel's daughter, **Adrienne Lobel**, *A Year With Frog And Toad* remains true to the spirit of the original stories as it follows two great friends, the cheerful and popular Frog and the rather grumpy Toad through four fun-filled seasons. Waking from hibernation in the spring, they proceed to plant gardens, swim, rake leaves and go sledding, learning life lessons along the way, including a most important one about friendship and rejoicing in the attributes that make each of us different and special.

The story of *A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD* begins in 1970, when Arnold Lobel's classic book *Frog and Toad are Friends* was first published. Lobel received a Caldecott Honor award, and went on to publish three additional volumes of Frog and Toad adventures. In 1973, *Frog and Toad Together* was named a Newbery Honor book, making Lobel one of only a handful of authors to have received honor citations from both of children's literature's highest awards.

In 2002, Adrienne Lobel, the author's daughter, and a successful designer and producer in her own right, commissioned a musical based on her father's most beloved characters. *A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD*, which incorporates stories from all four books, premiered at the Children's Theater Company of Minneapolis on August 23, 2002. The next stop was the off-Broadway New Victory Theater, specializing solely in family-oriented fare. After stellar reviews and a sold out run, the show transferred to Broadway, where it opened at the Cort Theater on April 13, 2003. *A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD* received three Tony nominations, including Best Musical. *A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD* promises to be the summer's biggest family-oriented production ever as Actors Theatre of Indiana continues its successful 2<sup>nd</sup> season of professional theatre and arts education in the Central Indiana area.

ATI's Artistic Director **Judy Fitzgerald** directs this stellar cast which stars famed Atlanta actor **Hugh Adams** as “Frog” and Off-Broadway veteran **Don Farrell** as “Toad”. The cast is complete with the amazing talents of **Jon Lambert** (ATI's *MY WAY & FOREVER PLAID*), **Jana Lugar-Samples** (Beef & Boards' *GREASE & CRAZY FOR YOU*), and **Melissa Schott** (ACT's *ALWAYS PATSY CLINE*). The production is presented August 10 – 20, 2006 at the Zionsville Performing Arts Center, 1000 Mulberry Street, Zionsville, IN 46077. Tickets are Thurs \$14-\$27, Fri -Sun \$19-\$32, Children under 5 FREE! with special discounts for groups of 10 or more and may be purchased by either calling the Box Office at **317-669-7983** or online at [www.actors theatreofindiana.org](http://www.actors theatreofindiana.org).

Actors Theatre of Indiana is Central Indiana's newest professional equity theatre company. For more information, call us at 317-669-7983 or visit our website at [www.actors theatreofindiana.org](http://www.actors theatreofindiana.org)

"The best new musical on Broadway! A kind of magic last seen when Jerome Robbins sent Mary Martin flying across the [stage](#) in *Peter Pan*."

- **The Wall Street Journal**

"Children shriek with delight. Adults have been known to weep. And those in search of a saccharin-free, kid-friendly Broadway blockbuster at last have their wish." - **New York Magazine**

Contact:

Don Farrell, Producing Artistic Director  
Actors Theatre of Indiana  
317-669-7983 phone  
317-669-8083 fax  
dfarrell@actorstheatreofindiana.org  
<http://www.actorstheatreofindiana.org>

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