

# Village Theatre

## KIDSTAGE

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**KIDSTAGE COMPANY ORIGINALS WRITES AND PRODUCES  
NEW MUSICAL, *THE LAST SHOT***

**Issaquah, Wash.** — Village Theatre’s KIDSTAGE Company Originals has written and produced its 7th musical in Issaquah. This new work is titled *The Last Shot* and will have **only one reading** at the Francis J. Gaudette Theatre on April 12 at 7:30 PM.

Set in present day Western Washington, *The Last Shot* explores how the healing power of art can help people overcome fears and find strength and peace, while telling the story of a high school senior/aspiring filmmaker who takes a cast of fellow students to shoot a movie over Memorial Day weekend. When the filmmaker's best friend screws-up, the group has to relocate to an old, abandoned, and possibly haunted hotel. The students are forced to confront their worst fears about the future, while still trying to complete the film.

In October 2009, writing mentor Suzy Conn, also the mentor for last year’s *Save As...*, began work with the four student writers part of this year’s Company Originals program. Conn studied the principles of dramatic writing with the students as they began to develop the themes, characters, and storyline that were soon to become *The Last Shot*. In January 2010, the actors came in, embellishing their characters, working on improvisations, and bringing new energy to the table.

Conn commented on the Company Originals experience with, “The Company Originals program is one of the most inspiring projects I’ve ever worked on. Whether the kids are a part of the writing team or the cast, the process of creating a new musical in six months challenges them in a unique way. The Company Originals setting is an extremely safe place where these kids feel comfortable opening up, and embracing difficult ‘hot making’ issues because they are pursuing a

common goal – the show. And when they see they have created a piece of art where there once was nothing, well, that’s pretty cool.”

KIDSTAGE continually strives to offer its student *skills for theatre and skills for life* and Company Originals does just that for its students. Alena Karkanias, a student writer comments, “I was inspired to become a part of this program by many things...I would say it was by my friends during Company last year, not only because they had confidence in my abilities, but because of the great dynamic we had. Company isn't just a program; its friendship and work and family and even a life lesson. I wanted to be on the writing team this year because I wanted to create something for them, the people who had helped me believe in myself.”

Created by teens, for teens, *The Last Shot* strives to depict the teen experience honestly and authentically. The goal is that the issues raised will provoke thought and discussion among teens and their families, and move teens toward stronger communication, deeper understanding, and better choices. *The Last Shot* features four writers and fourteen actors, ages 14-20, from Bellevue, Black Diamond, Issaquah, Mercer Island, Renton, Sammamish, Seattle, Snoqualmie, and Woodinville.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Michelle Sanders, Communications Manager at (425) 392-1942 x124 or at [msanders@villagetheatre.org](mailto:msanders@villagetheatre.org). Pre-production photos will be available on our website after **Tuesday, February 17, 2009**.

**What:** *The Last Shot*  
Book by the 2010 KIDSTAGE Company  
With Mentorship by Suzy Conn  
Songs by Suzy Conn and Orlando Morales

**Where:** Francis J. Gaudette Theatre  
303 Front Street North  
Issaquah, WA 98027

**When:** April 12, 2010 **ONLY**  
Monday – 7:30 PM

**Tickets:** \$10 – **ON SALE NOW**  
Box Office: (425) 392-2202 or  
[www.villagetheatre.org](http://www.villagetheatre.org)

**About Village Theatre KIDSTAGE:**

Designed to encourage teamwork, personal integrity, self-esteem, and a life-long appreciation for live theatre,

KIDSTAGE is a year-round performing arts training program in Issaquah and Everett for young people ages 4-20. KIDSTAGE students participate in classes, workshops and full-scale KIDSTAGE productions. All performances are by KIDSTAGE students and classes are taught by professional theatrical instructors.

### **About Village Theatre**

Village Theatre is a leading producer of musical theatre in the Pacific Northwest. What began in 1979 with the vision of a small group of dedicated theatre artists has grown into one of the region's best-attended resident theatres, with over 18,000 Subscribers to the current season and 182,000 projected total attendance, youth education programs serving over 54,000 young people, families, and schools annually, and a nationally recognized program that has enabled the development of over 85 new musicals. Serving an expanding and diverse community, Village Theatre has experienced phenomenal growth in recent years with the start of our contract as the resident performing and management company at the Everett Performing Arts Center in 1998.

#### *Mission of Village Theatre:*

- To be a regionally recognized and nationally influential center of excellence in family theatre
- To promote a season of top quality productions
- To commission and produce new musicals that achieve national exposure
- To train young people in theatre skills for career opportunities and enriched lives
- To develop a broad based appreciation for live theatre
- To promote positive values through art

*KIDSTAGE is made possible, in part, by City of Issaquah, Everett Cultural Commission, Fluke, Kobe Foundation, Snohomish County Tourism, Tulalip Tribes, US Bancorp, and Washington State Arts Commission.*

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