

Village Theatre

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MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET'S LEVI KREIS WINS TONY FOR BEST FEATURED ACTOR

Levi Originated The Role On Village Theatre's Mainstage

Issaquah, WA—*Million Dollar Quartet's* Levi Kreis took home a Tony Award at the 64th Annual Tony Awards Ceremony last night for BEST FEATURED ACTOR IN A MUSICAL.

Million Dollar Quartet was originally part of Village Theatre's 6th Annual Festival of New Musicals in 2006. The show was met with such great applause it swiftly became the 2007-2008 Mainstage season opener in September 2007, boasting four of the cast members that are now on Broadway, including Levi Kreis as Jerry Lee Lewis. To date, the production is Village Theatre's largest selling new musical, bringing in over \$1 million in overall ticket sales.

From Village Theatre the commercial producers, MDQ, LLC, shepherded the show on its journey to Chicago where it is still enjoying a successful run after more than a year at the Apollo Theatre. This past April 2010, *Million Dollar Quartet* was called to Broadway, opening at the Nederlander Theatre on April 11, and shortly thereafter it was nominated for three Tony Awards including Best Musical.

Broadway cast members that have been with the show since the Mainstage production in Issaquah include Tony Award-winner Levi Kreis (Jerry Lee Lewis), Lance Guest (Johnny Cash), Rob Lyons (Carl Perkins), and Corey Kaiser (upright bassist, Jay Perkins).

Of the Tony nominations from several weeks ago, Levi Kreis commented, "To hear about *Million Dollar Quartet's* nomination for Best Musical was the nomination that moved me to tears, because I consider that a blanket recognition of everyone who has placed their imprint on this piece—from the abundance of love it received at Village Theatre, to its reception on Broadway. I hope everyone who has had a part in MDQ's development takes a bit of ownership in this wonderful moment!"

For more information or to schedule individual interviews, please contact Michelle Sanders at (425) 392-1942 x124 or msanders@villagetheatre.org.

About Village Theatre

Based in Issaquah, WA, with operations in Everett, Village Theatre is a leading producer of musical theatre in the Pacific Northwest. Producing entertaining quality productions for the entire family since 1979, Village Theatre has grown into one of the region's best-attended Equity theatres, with over 18,000 subscribers and 170,000 projected total attendance each season. Through its Village Originals program, Village Theatre is nationally recognized for its contribution to the development of new musicals, having launched over 80 new works to date. Village Theatre also takes pride in nurturing tomorrow's audiences through its youth education programs, Pied Piper and KIDSTAGE, serving over 54,000 young people, families, and schools annually.