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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**HERSHEY AREA PLAYHOUSE TO HOLD  
AUDITIONS FOR *THE KING AND I***

HERSHEY, Pennsylvania—April 20, 2009 – Hershey Area Playhouse is pleased to announce auditions for its upcoming production of Rogers and Hammerstein's *The King and I*. This production will be directed by veteran director and lead teacher for the Playhouse's Theatre Academy, Cory Wilkerson, and produced by theatre professional Megan Janel Zimmer.

Auditions will be held on May 8 and 9, 2009 at Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows, located on Sand Hill Road at Cherry Drive in Hershey, PA. Audition forms can be downloaded and additional information can be found by visiting [HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com](http://HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com). Auditioners are asked to come prepared with sheet music for at least 32 measures of a song. In addition, the audition will include reading from a script, performing the prepared song and learning a few dance steps.

This beloved musical where east meets west is an unusual love story about two strong-willed people who grow closer than lovers ever could: the King of Siam and his children's English tutor Anna Leonowens. Their struggle to understand and respect each other is cast against the turbulent times of 19th century Siam – a country emerging from a feudal era that is struggling to fend off British colonization. Anna becomes the King's chief advisor, the one who will help him prove to the world that he is not the barbarian King some believe him to be.

Auditions will be held for adults and teens (including the role of Prince Chulalongkorn – ages 14 and up) on Friday May 8, 2009 from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm and again on Saturday May 9, 2009 from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Although we welcome all who wish to try out, Asian actors are especially encouraged to attend and audition for the roles of the King, the Prince, the King's wives and his castle guards and advisors.

Auditions for children (including the role of Louis – ages 4 – 13) will be held on Saturday May 9, 2009 from 9:00 am – noon at the Playhouse. Although we welcome all who wish to try out, Asian actors are especially encouraged to attend and audition for the roles of the King's children.

Callbacks will be held Monday May 11 beginning at 7:00 pm by invitation only. The show is family entertainment at its finest, with pageantry to delight and memorable moments in song and dance. The large cast includes numerous roles for a large ensemble of singers and dancers ages 7 to 70+, a select dance troupe who will train in Asian dance forms and eleven featured roles. More details can be found at [HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com](http://HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com).

The production will run from July 9 – 19, 2009 at Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows, located on Sand Hill Road at Cherry Drive in Hershey, PA.

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Hershey Area Playhouse ([www.HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com](http://www.HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com)) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing residents of the community with an opportunity to participate in the creation and production of a theatrical experience. Since its inception in 1999, Hershey Area Playhouse has staged 33 productions at numerous venues around the Hershey area. In April 2007, the Playhouse opened its new permanent home, Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows.