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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HERSHEY AREA PLAYHOUSE TO HOST AUTHOR OF
*THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER***

HERSHEY, Pennsylvania—November 7, 2008 – In a few short weeks, Hershey Area Playhouse will present the modern classic, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. The show will open on Thursday, December 4, 2008 and run through Sunday, December 14, 2008. Thursday through Saturday performances will begin at 8:00 pm with Sunday matinees at 2:00 pm.

Additionally, the Playhouse will be honored to host the author, Barbara Robinson, who will attend the final performance on Sunday, December 14. A few tickets remain for this particularly special event.

According to Karen Dundore-Gulotta, director, “When I think about the characters of the Herdman children, central characters in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, I think of the message the author might have wanted us to consider and I flash back to my childhood and elementary school years.”

Ms. Dundore-Gulotta continues, “There was a family of children that attended my school, who very well could have been the Herdmans. In the play the Herdman children, for various reasons, are very hard to love. No one wants to sit near them or associate with them in any way, let alone invite them to

church. That situation changes as the play progresses and we get to know them better. Come to our show; get immersed in the story and season, and somewhere along the way you'll see why."

"In my own life," the director goes on to say, "as I matured I realized that sometimes the children who are hardest to love need our love the most. Come to the theatre and meet the Herdmans and our endearing cast of characters. You just might find there's someone in your life that that needs your love and understanding."

After each Sunday matinee, audiences can enjoy cocoa and goodies with the cast for a free-will donation. Performances will be held at Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows, located on Sand Hill Road at Cherry Drive in Hershey. Tickets are \$15 for adults/teens and \$13 for children 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased by visiting HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com or visiting the Box Office at the theatre on Tuesdays between noon and 4:00 pm. This production is generously sponsored by The Hershey Company.

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Hershey Area Playhouse (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 32 productions at numerous venues around the Hershey area. In April 2007, the Playhouse opened its new permanent home, Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows.