

HERSHEY AREA PLAYHOUSE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HERSHEY AREA PLAYHOUSE TO PRESENT NEIL SIMON'S *THE STAR-SPANGLED GIRL*

HERSHEY, Pennsylvania—September 3, 2007 – Hershey Area Playhouse is pleased to announce the cast of Neil Simon's *The Star-Spangled Girl*, scheduled to premiere October 17, 2007. Melissa Austin will portray "Sophie," the newcomer to town who is a swimmer training for the upcoming Olympics. Stosh Snyder will play "Andy" and Scott Schmittel will play "Norman," the two idealists who are publishing a magazine providing social commentary on their times. Melissa Austin and Stosh Snyder were last seen on stage at Hershey Area Playhouse in Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, while Scott Schmittel was in the holiday 2006 production of *A Christmas Story*.

Neil Simon's *The Star-Spangled Girl*, set in San Francisco in the 1960s, is a hilarious comedy about a love triangle among two men and a woman and the politics of its time. Beth Dunham, director of *The Star-Spangled Girl*, was thrilled with the quality of talent that turned out for the auditions held a few weeks ago. "I'm excited to work with this cast to bring Neil Simon's wit and wisdom to life on our stage."

Advance tickets are recommended and can be purchased at www.HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com. Performances begin October 17 – 21 and October 24 – 28,

2007. Wednesday through Saturday performances begin at 8:00 p.m.; Sunday matinees begin at 2:00 p.m. Discounted tickets are available when purchased in conjunction with Hershey Area Playhouse's holiday production of *The Homecoming*

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