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**HERSHEY AREA PLAYHOUSE SUMMER DRAMA CAMP
CONCLUDES WITH THREE PRODUCTIONS**

HERSHEY, Pennsylvania—July 2, 2008 – More than 40 students from Central Pennsylvania recently completed Hershey Area Playhouse’s two-week summer acting camp. Young actors from ages 5 through 18 participated in exercises and games that fostered various acting techniques and then produced three separate theatrical productions.

The acting classes were led by Cory Wilkerson, a local acting coach and director. She trained in theatre for young people in the United Kingdom and holds dual degrees in education and theatre, and has directed several plays at the Playhouse. She was assisted by Jennifer Feldser, a long time member of the Playhouse, current board member, and writer and director of the Playhouse’s first original production, *The Other Woman*, and Natalie Keil, a former student of Wilkerson’s, who will be attending Carnegie Melon to study voice.

Wilkerson noted, “During the sessions the students learned how to create characters and truly bring them to life. The results were astounding – a full evening of entertainment with performances ranging from the adorable kindergarten prince to the hilarious middle school melodramas and culminating in moving high school character portraits – what an experience for the audience and the students!”

Classes were held in three groups: Kids Camp for the elementary children a Middle School Studio and a High School Drama camp. The camp culminated with a performance for a full house of family and friends from each of the groups on the stage of the Playhouse. Kids Camp opened with its fractured fairy tale, followed by the middle school melodramas, and then the high school students’ illustration of theatre’s progress through time.

“The students we worked with these past two weeks have all been exceptional, very bright and eager to learn. To do what each of them did- memorize multiple lines in such a short time frame is quite impressive,” said Feldser.

This fall, Hershey Area Playhouse Theatre Academy will debut its Theatre Academy Players for students in seventh through twelfth grades. Visit HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com to download a registration form. For more information please contact Playhouse board member Randy Cline at rkc4@comcast.net or 717.497.2315. Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows is located on Sand Hill Road at Cherry Drive in Hershey, PA.

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Hershey Area Playhouse (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 29 productions at numerous venues around the Hershey area. In April 2007, the Playhouse opened its new permanent home, Hershey Area Playhouse at Country Meadows.