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COURT'S CHICAGO PREMIERE PRODUCTION OF *CAROLINE, OR CHANGE*
REACHES RECORD-BREAKING TICKETS SALES

Due to ticket demand, performances have been added through October 26, 2008

Chicago, IL– Artistic Director Charles Newell and Executive Director Dawn Helsing announce the addition of new performances dates for the Chicago Premiere production of ***Caroline, or Change*** by Tony Award-winner **Tony Kushner** and **Jeanine Tesori**, directed by **Charles Newell**. The production has been extended through **Sunday, October 26, 2008**, at Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Avenue.

Tickets for the week-long extension are now on sale through the box office, www.courttheatre.org and (773) 7534472. The production **must close October 26, 2008**.

The coins that 8-year-old Noah carelessly leaves behind in his pockets are more than just spare change to Caroline Thibodeaux, an African American housekeeper working in a stifling basement laundry room in Louisiana in 1963. Blending blues, gospel, and traditional Jewish melodies in a breathtaking score, this deeply personal story from Pulitzer Prize-winner Tony Kushner (*Angels in America*) is drawn from the playwright's own childhood. The vast social change taking place in 1960s America is the perfect backdrop for a powerful story that the *New York Times* proclaimed "an extraordinary new musical."

Title:	<i>Caroline, or Change</i>
Book	
& Lyrics by:	Tony Kushner
Music by:	Jeanine Tesori
Directed by:	Artistic Director Charles Newell
Musical	
Direction by:	Doug Peck
Featuring:	E. Faye Butler as Caroline Thibodeaux, Kate Frye, Rob Lindley, Byron Glenn Willis, Micah Dejon Williams, Malcolm Durning, Jacqueline Williams, Harriet Nzinga Plumpp, Jack Mulopulos, Iris Lieberman, Peter Kevoian, Dennis Kelly, Donica Lynn Henderson, Donavan Epison, Barbara Myers, Starr Busby and Melanie Brezill.
Dates:	Previews: September 11 – September 19, 2008 Press opening: Saturday, September 20, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. Regular run: September 21- October 26, 2008
Schedule:	<u>Wednesdays & Thursdays:</u> 7:30 p.m. <u>Fridays:</u> 8:00 p.m. <u>Saturdays:</u> 3:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. <u>Sundays:</u> 2:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Location: **Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Ave.**
Tickets: **\$40-\$60**
Box Office: **Located at 5535 S. Ellis Avenue, Chicago; (773) 753-4472 or online**
www.CourtTheatre.org

Tony Kushner (*Book and Lyrics*) Plays include *A Bright Room Called Day*; *Angels In America, Parts One and Two*; *Slavs!*; *Homebody/Kabul*; and *Caroline, or Change*, a musical with composer Jeanine Tesori. He has written adaptations of Corneille's *The Illusion*, S.Y. Ansky's *The Dybbuk*, and Brecht's *The Good Person of Sezuana* and *Mother Courage and Her Children*; as well as the English-language libretto for the opera *Brundibar* by Hans Krasa. He wrote the screenplay for the Mike Nichols' film of *Angels In America* and for Steven Spielberg's film *Munich*. Recent books include *Brundibar*, with illustrations by Maurice Sendak; *The Art of Maurice Sendak, 1980 to the Present*; and *Wrestling With Zion: Progressive Jewish-American Responses to the Palestinian/Israeli Conflict*, co-edited with Alisa Solomon.

Jeanine Tesori (*Music*) has written three Tony-nominated scores for Broadway: *Twelfth Night* at Lincoln Center, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (lyrics, Dick Scanlan) at the Marquis, and *Caroline, or Change* (lyrics, Tony Kushner) at the Eugene O'Neill. The production of *Caroline or Change* at the National Theater in London received the Olivier Award for Best New Musical. Her first off-Broadway musical, *Violet*, written with Brian Crawley, received the New York Drama Critics Circle Award in 1997. She has been the recipient of many other honors including Drama Desk and Obie awards, and was cited by ASCAP as being the first woman composer to have "two new musicals running concurrently on Broadway." Ms. Tesori has composed concert material for Kristin Chenoweth, Sutton Foster, and Audra MacDonald. Her composition, *The River is Wide*, was hailed by the New York Times as "a remarkable interplay of music, dance and words...both requiem and celebration, reflecting the cross-currents of emotion that hang in the air of Lower Manhattan." She composed the music for The New York Shakespeare Festival's production of Brecht's *Mother Courage*, as translated by Tony Kushner and starring Meryl Streep and Kevin Kline. She has written songs for the movie *Shrek The Third*, and is the composer for the forthcoming Dreamworks Broadway production of *Shrek The Musical*. Her film scores include *Winds of Change* for ABC, *Show Business*, and *Wrestling With Angels*. She has composed songs for Disney DVD releases *Mulan II*, *Lilo and Stitch II*, and *Little Mermaid III*. She has produced sixty CD's for Silver-Burdett Ginn's *Making Music* and the original cast albums for *Twelfth Night*, *Violet*, and *Caroline, or Change*.

Exclusive Corporate Sponsor of *Caroline, or Change* is Hyde Park Bank.

Court Theatre, the professional theatre in residence at the University of Chicago, is located at 5535 S. Ellis Ave. in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood. To purchase single tickets for *Caroline, or Change* or to receive more information, call the Court Theatre Box Office at (773) 753-4472, or visit Court's website at www.CourtTheatre.org.

Court Theatre's 54th Season, under the leadership of Artistic Director Charles Newell and Executive Director Dawn J. Helsing, is generously supported by Richard and Barbara Franke, Hyde Park Bank, The Joyce Foundation, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Polk Brothers Foundation, Shubert Foundation, and the University of Chicago. Court Theatre is also funded in part by grants from CityArts Program IV of the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs; and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

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