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Northlight Theatre presents
The Miser
Molière's classic period comedy with a contemporary twist

Chicago, IL— **Northlight Theatre** begins its 33rd season, celebrating BJ Jones' 10th year as Artistic Director, with Molière's *The Miser*, a classic French farce with a contemporary twist. The production, directed by **Mark E. Lococo**, runs **October 3- November 11, 2007**, at Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd in Skokie. **The production officially opens on Wednesday, October 10, 2007, at 7:30 p.m.**

A classic costume comedy gets a fresh, contemporary twist. When an old widower decides to marry off his children against their will, he sets the entire family scheming to steal his fortune. With forbidden romance in the air and the family treasure buried in the backyard, it's a race to see who will come out on top. A hilarious tale of true love—between a man and his money!

"Northlight has a tradition of producing refreshed classic plays—notably, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *The Gamester*, *School for Wives* and *She Stoops to Conquer*," says **Artistic Director BJ Jones**. "We are thrilled to welcome director Mark Lococo to our Theatre for the first time to direct this fresh adaptation of a very funny classic with an accomplished cast and a beautiful set. It's the perfect way to kick-off what we think is sure to be one of our strongest seasons yet."

Director Mark E. Lococo adds, "[Adapter and translator] James Magruder has created a *Miser* that comes alive again with comic possibilities. He's used all the classical set-ups of the original Molière, but written dialogue that's contemporary, hip, sarcastic and smart-aleck. There's a great challenge in producing a period piece that the contemporary significance doesn't get buried under too many hoops, ruffles and powdered wigs. On the other hand, there's a great deal of fun to be found in period conventions that dictate certain behaviors from characters. In this case, we have the best of both worlds—since we're creating a world that's rooted in a period but isn't too firmly tied there."

The cast features **Patrick Clear** (*S. Anselme/M. Simon/Dame Claude*), **Kate Fry** (*Elise*), **Timothy Edward Kane** (*Valere*), **Gene Weygandt** (*Harpagon*), **Jacqueline Williams** (*Frosine*), **Lea Coco** (*Cleante*), **Bob Fairbrook** (*Maitre Jacques*), **Dieterich Gray** (*La Fleche/La Merluche/Commissioner*), **Mark Mysliwicz** (*Brindavoine*) and **Erica Peregrine** (*Mariane*).

The designers are **Tim Morrison** (*Set Design*), **Diane Fairchild** (*Lighting Design*), **Rachel Anne Healy** (*Costume Design*), and **Lindsay Jones** (*Sound Design*). **Rita Vreeland** is the stage manager.

Mark E. Lococo (director) most recently directed *Mountain* for the Apple Tree Theatre in Chicago, where he is an Artistic Associate. Previous productions there include the Midwest premiere of *Dessa Rose* (for which he was nominated for Chicago's Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Direction of a Musical), *Uncle Vanya*, the Chicago premiere of *A Man of No Importance* (winner of the 2004 After Dark Chicago Award

for Best Production of a Musical), *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin*, *Indian Ink*, *Syncopation*, *The Dresser*, *The Swan*, *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*, *Waiting for Godot*, and *Sugar*. Also in 2006 he directed *The Elephant Man* at the Peninsula Playhouse in Wisconsin. In 2005, he directed Shaw's *Misalliance* in a joint production of the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre and the University of Wisconsin Madison's Graduate program, as well as a new musical version of *The Princess and the Pea* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. In 2004, he directed *Trumbo* featuring noted author and Chicago personality Studs Terkel for Steppenwolf Theatre's Traffic Series. He has directed at Peninsula Players, Marriott's Lincolnshire Theatre, Theatre On the Bay in Marinette, Wisconsin (where he was also the Artistic Director from 1997-99), Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, Ocono-Art Theatre, Pegasus Players, City Lit and the Chicago Historical Society. He spent several months in London assisting director David Bell on the West End production of *Hot Mikado*.

Patrick Clear (*S. Anselme/M. Simon/Dame Claude*) appeared at Northlight as Mr. Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*. Other Chicago area appearances include *The Goat*, *Hollywood Arms*, *Arcadia*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Miss Evers' Boys* and *A Christmas Carol* at The Goodman; *Measure for Measure*, *As You Like It*, *King Lear*, *All's Well*, *Henry IV, pts. 1 & 2*, *Henry V*, *Timon of Athens* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at Chicago Shakespeare; *Song of Jacob Zulu* and *Secret Rapture* at Steppenwolf; *Uncle Vanya* and *A Man of No Importance* at Apple Tree; and *Pygmalion* and *House of Blue Leaves* at Court. Regional credits include Indiana Rep, Arena Stage, Guthrie, American Shakespeare, Center Stage, Folger Shakespeare and Cincinnati Playhouse. He appeared on Broadway in *Hollywood Arms* and *Noises Off*. Film/TV credits include *Losing Isaiah*, *The Babe*, "The Untouchables," "Early Edition," and *In the Best Interests of the Children*.

Kate Fry (*Elise*) is working at Northlight for the first time. Other credits include productions at Chicago Shakespeare (*Henry IV*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Moliere Comedies*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Love's Labor's Lost*, *As You Like It*, and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*); Court Theatre (*Arcadia*, *The Romance Cycle*, *My Fair Lady*, *Twelfth Night*, *Piano*, *Tartuffe*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Philadelphia Story*); as well as work with Apple Tree Theatre, Marriott Theatre, McCarter Theatre Center, Mark Taper Forum, and the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. She is the recipient of the Joseph Jefferson Award, the After Dark Award, the Sarah Siddons Chicago's Leading Lady Award, and Chicago Magazine's 2002 actress of the year. Kate is married to fellow cast member Timothy Edward Kane.

Timothy Edward Kane (*Valere*) made his Northlight debut in *She Stoops to Conquer*. Chicago credits include: *Uncle Vanya*, *The Romance Cycle: Cymbeline & Pericles*, *Hamlet* (Court Theatre); *Arms and the Man* (Writers' Theatre); *Hamlet*, *Henry IV Parts I & II* (also performed at the R.S.C., Stratford-Upon-Avon, UK), *A Flea In Her Ear*, *Merchant of Venice*, *King John*, *The Moliere Comedies*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *The Tempest*, *Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *King Lear*, *All's Well That Ends Well* (Chicago Shakespeare); *The Underpants* (Noble Fool Theatricals); *Hushabye Mountain*, *Early and Often*, *Hellcab* (Famous Door); *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *The Clink* (Rivendell Theatre Ensemble). Regional credits include work at the Mark Taper Forum, Peninsula Players, and the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. Tim is married to fellow cast member Kate Fry.

Gene Weygandt (*Harpagon*) just completed a nearly two-year run as the Wizard in the Chicago cast of *Wicked*. He also appeared in the role on Broadway. Also on Broadway: *Big: The Musical*. Off-Broadway: *Best Foot Forward*. Regional Theatre credits include the title role in *The Music Man* (Drury Lane); *Victor/Victoria*, *Me and My Girl* and *A Day in Hollywood* (Marriott); *Lend Me a Tenor* and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Royal George). He is the recipient of three Jeff Awards for Lead Actor in a Musical. Film: *The Birdcage*, *The Babe*, *Shattered Illusion*, *The Pager*. Television: *Cybill*, *The Drew Carey Show*, *Home Improvement*, *Murphy Brown*, *Ellen*, *Coach*, among others.

Jacqueline Williams (*Frosine*) recently won a Joseph Jefferson Award (Lead Actress) for her role in *Fences* at Court Theatre. Goodman Theatre: *The Story*, *Crowns*, *The Amen Corner*, *Oo-blah-dee*, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, *Each One As She May*, *Richard II*, *I Am a Man*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, among many others. Victory Gardens: *Shoes*, *Waiting to be Invited*, *The Colored Museum*. *Yellowman* at Next, *No Place Like Home* at Steppenwolf, *The Vagina Monologues* at the Apollo, *Mom's the Word* at Royal George. Tours: *Crowns*, Market Theatre of Johannesburg; *Born in the R.S.A.*, Jonathan Wilson's internationally acclaimed production of *From the Mississippi Delta*. Regional credits: Arena Stage,

Hartford Stage, La Jolla Playhouse, Huntington Playhouse, Berkeley Rep., ACTSeattle. Broadway: The Young Man from Atlanta. Off-Broadway: *From the Mississippi Delta*, *The Talented Tenth*, *Mill Fire*. TV: recurring role of Secret Service Agent Tangren on the Fox series *Prison Break*; cast of *Turks* for CBS, miniseries *A Will of Their Own*, among others. Film: *Hardball*, *White Boyz*, 2006 releases of *The Lake House* with Sandra Bullock and *The Breakup* with Vince Vaughn. Awards and nominations: Joseph Jefferson, Helen Hayes, Black Theatre Alliance, African American Arts Alliance, Connecticut Critics Circle, American Arts Council, Theatre School (alumnus) Career Achievement, Drama Desk, among others.

Tickets for ***The Miser*** range in price from \$35- \$55 and are available by phone, (847) 673-6300, or online at www.northlight.org. The box office is located at the **North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Boulevard, in Skokie**. Box office hours are Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., and Saturdays 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. On performance days, the box office hours are extended through showtime. The box office is closed on Sundays, except on performance days when it is open two hours prior to showtime.

PLEASE NOTE CURTAIN TIMES: Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. (except October 23 and 30); Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. (except October 3 and 10) and 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. (except November 8); Fridays at 8:00 p.m.; Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. (except October 6) and 8:00 p.m.; Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (October 7, 14, and 28 only).

The 2007-08 Northlight season also includes: ***Ella*** (opening December 5), a new musical about the life and music of Ella Fitzgerald; a new epic play, ***Gee's Bend*** (opening February 6), about the real women of Gee's Bend, Alabama; ***Better Late*** (opening April 9), a world-premiere comedy by Larry Gelbart and Craig Wright featuring John Mahoney and Mike Nussbaum; and ***The Lady with All the Answers*** (opening May 28), a tribute to Chicago icon Ann Landers.

Northlight Theatre is supported in part by generous contributions from: The Allyn Foundation; The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; The Chicago Tribune Foundation; ComEd; Patrick and Anna M. Cudahy Fund; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; LaSalle Bank; The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; The Margolis Firm, PC; National Endowment for the Arts; Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Young People's Programming Endowment; Northern Trust Charitable Trust; Polk Bros. Foundation; Dr. Scholl Foundation; The Shubert Foundation; Skokie Fine Arts Commission; Target Corporation; and The Chicago Community Trust.

Northlight embarks upon its 33rd season in 2007-08 as the fourth largest non-profit theatre in Chicago. Dedicated to enhancing the cultural life of the North Shore and Chicago, Northlight presents theatrical works which reflect and challenge the values and beliefs of the community it serves while continuing to grow its reputation for launching world premieres, new musicals, heartwarming plays and intelligent dramas.

In its 33-year history, the organization has mounted over 150 productions, including over 32 world premieres, and garnered 132 Joseph Jefferson Award nominations and 22 Awards. As one of the area's premier theatre companies, Northlight is a regional magnet for critical and professional acclaim, as well as talent of the highest quality. For more information on ***The Miser*** and Northlight Theatre, visit www.northlight.org.

(over / fact sheet)

The Miser/ Fact Sheet

A classic costume comedy gets a fresh, contemporary twist. When an old widower decides to marry off his children against their will, he sets the entire family scheming to steal his fortune. With forbidden romance in the air and the family treasure buried in the backyard, it's a race to see who will come out on top. A hilarious tale of true love—between a man and his money!

Title: **The Miser**
Playwright: **Jean Baptiste Molière**
Translation by: **James Magruder**
Directed by: **Mark E. Lococo**
Featuring: **Patrick Clear, Timothy Edward Kane, Gene Weygandt, Jaqueline Williams, Lea Coco, Bob Fairbrook, Dieterich Gray, Mark Mysliwicz and Erica Peregrine**

Dates: **Previews:** October 3 - 9, 2007
Press opening: October 10, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.
Regular run: October 3, 2007 - November 11, 2007

Schedule: **Tuesdays:** 7:30 p.m. (EXCEPT Oct 23 and 30)
Wednesdays: 1:00 p.m. (EXCEPT Oct 3 and 10) and 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays: 7:30 p.m. (EXCEPT Nov 8)
Fridays: 8:00 p.m.
Saturdays: 2:30 p.m. (EXCEPT Oct 6) and 8:00 p.m.
Sundays: 2:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (Oct 7, 14, and 28 ONLY)

Location: **Northlight Theatre**, located at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie.

Tickets: Previews: \$35- \$49
Regular run: \$35- \$55
Opening night (October 10, 2007): \$60, which includes a post-show reception with the cast.

Box Office: The Box Office is located at **9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie.**
(847) 673-6300; www.northlight.org

Notes of Interest:

- **Gene Weygandt** recently completed a nearly two-year run as the Wizard in the Chicago cast of *Wicked*. He also appeared in the role on Broadway. Also on Broadway, he appeared in *Big: The Musical* and Off-Broadway in *Best Foot Forward*.
- **Jacqueline Williams** is a Jeff Award winner for her recent role in *Fences* at Court Theatre.
- The cast also features Jeff Award-winner **Kate Fry**, who is making her Northlight debut. Her real-life husband, **Timothy Edward Kane**, who recently appeared in Northlight's *She Stoops to Conquer*, plays Valere in the production.
- *The Miser* is **Molière's** only play that was written in prose. The translation is reminiscent of the 17th century yet it is refreshing and should surprise audiences with its vernacular. The costumes by Rachel Healy were designed with this spirit in mind—reminiscent of the period with anachronistic touches.