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EDWARD G. RENDELL, Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 9, 2007

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FIRST LADY SAYS '2007 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR THE ARTS' TO BE HELD IN GETTYSBURG

Newly Renovated Majestic Theatre will be Venue for Awards Ceremony

HARRISBURG -- Judge Marjorie O. Rendell, First Lady of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, today said the newly renovated Gettysburg's Majestic Theater will be the venue for the 2007 Governor's Awards for the Arts, which will take place on Oct. 4.

"Given the Majestic's storied past, this is the perfect place to hold the 2007 Governor's Awards for the Arts," said the First Lady, who was joined in the announcement by Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Executive Director Philip Horn and Susan Corbett, one of 15 gubernatorial appointees to the council. "On behalf of the Governor, we are proud to continue Pennsylvania's long-standing tradition of honoring and celebrating the achievements of the commonwealth's artists and patrons."

The Governor's Awards for the Arts, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, will bestow a distinguished arts award, a patron award, the outstanding leadership & service for youth/arts in education award, the Pennsylvania Creative Community Award, and the artist of the year award (The Hazlett Memorial).

Nominations, which must be submitted by May 25, come from an open call to arts organizations, artists, arts patrons, elected officials and members of the public. A panel comprised of members of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts reviews the nominations and makes recommendations.

With the selection of Gettysburg as this year's host city, Governor Edward G. Rendell continues the tradition of holding the awards in a different Pennsylvania location each year. Doing this enables new regions of the state to share in the celebration of the contributions of the arts to the vitality of Pennsylvania. It also gives the different regions the opportunity to showcase their own cultural assets. Past host cities have included Wilkes-Barre, Greensburg, Reading, Pittsburgh, Allentown, Harrisburg, Altoona and Philadelphia.

Past recipients have included Jimmy Stewart, Marian Anderson, Andrew Wyeth, James Michener, Chaim Potok, Peter Nero, Fred Rogers, M. Night Shyamalan, Marilyn Horne, Lang Lang, August Wilson, Nelson Shanks and Santo Loquasto.

For more information, to download an application or to receive an invitation to this year's Governor's Awards for the Arts, visit PCA's Web site, www.pacouncilonthearts.org, or call (717) 787-6883, Ext. 3040.

The Governor's Awards for the Arts is administered by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency under the Office of the Governor, whose mission it is to foster the excellence, diversity and vitality of the arts in Pennsylvania, and to broaden the availability and appreciation of those arts throughout the state.

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The Rendell administration is committed to creating a first-rate public education system, protecting our most vulnerable citizens and continuing economic investment to support our communities and businesses. To find out more about Governor Rendell's initiatives and to sign up for his weekly newsletter, visit his Web site at: www.governor.state.pa.us.