

For Immediate Release: September 1, 2011

**WICKED Cast Members, Ryan Jackson and Dan Pacheco,
will teach Master Class at Grand Theatre.**

WHERE: Grand Theatre, 207 S. 2nd Avenue, Elizabeth, PA 15037; www.elizabethgrand.com

WHEN: Thursday, September 22

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

COST: \$25*

CONTACT: Lori Kolodziej, (412) 384-0504; grandtheatre@verizon.net

ABOUT the Master Class: Cast members from the national tour of WICKED, playing at the Benedum Center, Pittsburgh, PA, September 7-October 2, will be teaching a musical theatre master class on Thursday, September 22, from 4:00-5:30 p.m. The class will include dance warm ups, scene work, and stylized movement combination, followed by a talk back with the master class instructors.

Members of the media are invited to attend the master class and take photographs. Interviews with the instructors and students may also be arranged. Please contact Lori Kolodziej from the Grand Theatre.

Master Class Dance Instructors

Ryan Jackson (*Wicked* - Swing, u/s Chistery) Tours: *Cats*, *Dr. Dolittle*, *West Side Story*. Theater: Goodspeed, Walnut St., Portland Center Stage, Ford's Theater, Paper Mill, T.U.T.S, K.C. Starlight, Sacramento Music Circus, Radio City, Westchester B'way, City Center Encores. B.F.A-Marymount Manhattan College. Founding member of The Chase Brock Experience, a New York City-based contemporary dance company.

Dan Pacheco (*Wicked* - Boq) is excited and grateful to be on tour with *Wicked!* Regional favorites: *Altar Boyz*, *Zanna Don't!*, *Disney's Aladdin: A Musical Spectacular*, *I Love a Piano*, *Disney's Snow White*, *Four Guys Named José*. TV: "117th Annual Rose Parade," "Hard Times of RJ Berger." Graduate of New York University; CAP21.

***All proceeds from this master class will support the charity, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.**

Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS is one of the nation's leading industry-based, nonprofit AIDS fundraising and grant-making organizations. By drawing upon the talents, resources and generosity of the American theatre community, since 1988 BC/EFA has raised over \$195 million for essential services for people with AIDS and other critical illnesses across the United States. BC/EFA is the major supporter of seven programs at The Actors Fund, including The HIV/AIDS Initiative, The Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative, The Al Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic, The Actors Fund Work Program, The Dancers' Resource, The Stage Managers' Project and three supportive housing residences. BC/EFA also awards annual grants to more than 400 AIDS and family service organizations nationwide.

One of the few remaining single screen movie theatres in the Mon Valley, the **Grand Theatre** has been entertaining audiences for over 100 years. Abandoned and empty for nearly 20 years, Lori and Ken Kolodziej purchased the property in 1997, and spent three years bringing it back to life. This special venue is now host to live theatre, concerts, bands, community events, private parties and movies. Named one of the Top Ten preservation opportunities in Pittsburgh in 2011, this historic theatre is dedicated to serving children and families in the Mon (Monongahela) Valley and Western Pennsylvania.

Pittsburgh, PA: The return engagement of WICKED, Wednesday, September 7-Sunday, October 2, at the Benedum Center (7th Street at Penn Avenue, downtown Pittsburgh) is a season special, part of the PNC Broadway Across America – Pittsburgh series, a presentation of The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Broadway Across America and Pittsburgh Symphony.

The WICKED performance schedule is as follows: Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.; Thursday at 7:30 p.m.; Friday at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday at 2:00 and 8:00 p.m.; Sunday at 1:00 and 6:30 p.m. On Thursday, September 8, there will be a 1 p.m. matinee. Tickets are selling fast and many performances are close to selling out. Best availability is for weeknight performances and the Thursday matinee. For ticket information call (412) 456-4800, visit www.pgharts.org, or the Box Office at Theater Square, 655 Penn Avenue, downtown Pittsburgh.

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