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FIRST ANNUAL HOLIDAY OFFICE PARTY BRINGS BUSINESSES TOGETHER FOR THE SEASON

(Oak Park, IL) Village Players announces the First Annual Holiday Party on December 10th and December 17th at 5:30pm at 1010 W. Madison in Oak Park. Village Players will provide the food, the entertainment, and Santa himself as local offices come together to celebrate the spirit of the season. The party will be centered around a performance of "Chad Morton's TV Christmas Miracle" by Jack Crowe and Jim Keating, directed by Doug Long.

Joanne Hurley, a member of the Board Directors for Village Players, was the catalyst for this year's Holiday Party. "The office party idea arose out of my moving my law office from Chicago to Oak Park in 2008 and not knowing where to take my office for its annual holiday party last year. We went to a Christmas show at VPT and had a great time. The Show was great! I decided that all the local businesses would love an easy, inexpensive, fun way to celebrate the holiday season with their office staff too. This is an event that will occur each year at the Village Players and I intend to take my office each year." Hurley is chairing the event, with honorary co-chairs David Pope, the Oak Park Village President, and Linda Sahagian, Vice President of the Madison Street Business Association.

"Chad Morton's TV Christmas Miracle" is a musical comedy set in a TV studio during the holiday season in 1968. Chad Morton is a Hollywood star who is past his prime. The ratings on his annual Christmas special have been dropping and the Network is forcing him to feature young artists on the show to boost the ratings, while Chad would rather surround himself with the more mature singers and comedians he has performed with for years. The show is a fun and engaging romp through the Sixties.

Jack Crowe, one of the playwrights for "Chad Morton's TV Christmas Miracle" and the lead in the play, says that the show is part of a long tradition of original Christmas plays at Village Players Theatre, and feels audiences will appreciate a "fresh Christmas story" about the culture shift during the sixties. "The show is set in a time period that is the fault line between the older generation of rockers. [It is a] fun show about a tumultuous time period in American life. It has a universal appeal."

Participants can expect generous appetizers, nice wines, robust beers and an array of refreshing soft drinks, with dessert, coffee, and tea served at intermission and immediately after the show. There will be a secret gift exchange across all the participating offices, helping to bring Oak Park and River Forest's business community together. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in attendance.

The First Annual Holiday Party will be happening on December 10th and December 17th at 5:30pm at the Village Players Performing Arts Center, located at 1010 W. Madison in Oak Park. Reservations are \$35 per employee. The first 10 businesses to register will receive two complimentary tickets—with the purchase of 10. Office/Holiday Attire is encouraged. To make a reservation, please call the box office at 866-764-1010, view our website at www.village-players.org, or visit the theater (the box office is open Tuesday through Friday from 12:00pm to 6:00pm).

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About Village Players:

Village Players Theater, a non-profit organization founded in 1961, promotes the arts

through theatrical productions and educational programs that encourage cultural understanding and embrace diversity in the Village of Oak Park and the surrounding communities. Village Players Theater is proud to be a vibrant part of Oak Park's cultural history, promoting a creative spirit that comes alive in its productions and educational programs. Each production features some of Chicagoland's most promising and talented professional performers and designers. Village Players Theatre is a member of the League of Chicago Theatres and the West Suburban Theatre Connection.

About "Chad Morton's TV Christmas Miracle":

"Chad Morton's TV Christmas Miracle" is a musical comedy set in a TV studio during the holiday season in 1968. Chad Morton is a Hollywood star who is past his prime. In the Fifties he was a pop singer, which turned him into a respected TV star during the Sixties who played to the two-martini crowd. But the ratings on his annual Christmas special have been dropping and the Network is forcing him to feature young artists on the show to boost the ratings, while Chad would rather surround himself with the more mature singers and comedians he has performed with for years. The network engages a young rock star, a country western singer and go-go dancers to make Chad's Christmas special hip. The show is a fun and engaging romp through the generation gap of the Sixties. It harkens back to the Christmas specials of Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, and Andy Williams but also goes behind the scenes to ask the age old question: What is talent?

The show is written by Jack Crowe and Jim Keating, directed by Doug Long with music arranged and composed by Keith Harrison. Julian Chin is the Musical Director, with Kristen Smiley as the Choreographer. The show stars Jack Crowe, Betty Scott Smith, Kevin Bry, Brian Bengtson, Janeane Bowlware, Sarah Bright, Joel Camden, Cassandra Clingon, Sydney Genco, Jim Leonard, Issac Loomer, Bryn Packard, Sarah Sapperstein, Dennis Schnell, Lauren Sivak, and Claire Wellin. The designers are Annette Vargas (set), Emma Weber (costumes), Camden Peterson (lighting), John List (sound), and Lori Mages (props). Rick Julien is the Stage Manager.

"Chad Morton" opens on Saturday, December 5th at 8:00pm, with previews at the same time on December 3rd and 4th. The show runs until Sunday, December 20th, playing on Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 3pm. All performances will be found at the Village Players Performing Arts Center, 1010 Madison St., Oak Park. The theater is near the Harlem exit of I-290 and is also accessible by the CTA Green and Blue lines. Plenty of parking is available on the street. The theatre is handicapped accessible but please do call ahead to arrange for special seating. You can find more information by calling 866-764-1010 or visiting www.village-players.org.