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**FIRST STAGE CHILDREN'S THEATER EXTENDS
DEADLINE FOR "I'M THE HAPPY ELF" VIDEO CONTEST
TO NOVEMBER 16**

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin (October 17, 2008) – First Stage Children's Theater is extending the deadline of their video contest to coincide with their presentation of Harry Connick, Jr.'s new holiday play, *THE HAPPY ELF*, scheduled to open November 28. The contest is open to the public and the deadline for entries is extended to November 16.

To enter the contest, creative contestants 18 years of age and under are invited to make a video of themselves (and up to three additional young people) performing Harry Connick, Jr.'s hit holiday song *The Happy Elf*. Rising stars will find complete contest information, including song music, lyrics and specific information regarding the upload process at www.firststage.org/thehappyelf.

Winners will be selected from the following categories: ages four and under; ages five to eight; ages nine to 13; ages 14 to 18; and a group category. A grand prize winner will also be selected.

Local celebrity contest judges participating in the promotion include radio personalities Jane Matenaer and Kidd O'Shea of 99.1 WMYX's *Jane and Kidd in the Morning*, Milwaukee's favorite comedian and star of several long-running Milwaukee plays, John McGivern, and *The Skylight's* own Ray Jivoff.

Many fabulous prizes are featured in First Stage's "I'm The Happy Elf" video contest including the grand prize of a weekend stay at the Chula Vista Resort in

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To November 16/add one*

the Wisconsin Dells. Additional prizes include a First Stage Children's Theater family season ticket package, *The Happy Elf* on DVD, and Harry Connick, Jr.'s new holiday album, which is due out this fall. Semi-finalists will be notified by December 1, 2008. Contest winners will be announced at the opening night of THE HAPPY ELF on Friday, November 28, 2008.

Harry Connick, Jr.'s THE HAPPY ELF, directed by Broadway's John Rando, is scheduled to run November 28 through December 24, 2008 at the Todd Wehr Theater in the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 North Water Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. To purchase tickets, visit www.firststage.org or call 414.267.2961.

First Stage Children's Theater is Milwaukee's premier, professional family theater. Founded in 1987, the mission of the company is to provide professional theater productions for young people and their families that engage, enlighten and entertain, Theater Academy training that fosters life skills through stage skills and dynamic in-school education programs that provide learning through theater. First Stage is a member of the Theater Communications Group, TYA/USA, the American Alliance for Theatre and Education, the Wisconsin Alliance for Arts Education and Americans for the Arts as well as Theatre Wisconsin and Milwaukee Arts Partners, and is a cornerstone member of the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF).

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