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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Michael Descoteaux to Join pH as Music Director

CHICAGO, January 9 – pH Productions, a Chicago-based improv and comedy theater company, has announced that Michael Descoteaux, Musical Director of The Second City Training Center and Director/Founder of Jazz Hands Across America, will be joining pH as Music Director.

Mike Descoteaux is the head of the Music Program at The Second City where he has music directed and/or created original material for a national touring company, *Sex and the Second City*, *The Romeo and Juliet Musical* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, and the NCL Jewel's *The Best of The Second City*. Mike has had the privilege of working with Tony Award-winning artists such as Jason Robert Brown, William Finn, Mark Hollmann, and James LaPine. He has "composed" and "conducted" over 500 completely improvised musicals with *Musical! The Musical*, *Baby Wants Candy* (head music director), *Diva* (director) and Jazz Hands Across America (artistic director). With Jazz Hands, Mike composed and directed the scripted musical, *Warfield, USA*, which received its critically acclaimed New York premiere at the SoHo Playhouse. His other original musicals (*The Fundamental Skip* and *This Time*), music direction, and playing have been heard at venues including: The Goodman, American Theatre Company, The Chicago Center for the Performing Arts, The Bailiwick, The Theatre Building, Improv Olympic, The Strawdog Theatre, Davenport's Cabaret, and Gentry's. He has been seen on NBC, A&E, and WGN. Mike, a Northwestern grad, has received an After Dark Award, a Paynter Award, and has been named one of the best young songwriters in the country by The Johnny Mercer Foundation and The American Music Theater Project.

"We are really excited to have someone like Mike coming on board. He is an immense talent and will really enhance pH's offerings in 2007, we couldn't be happier to work with him," commented Co-Artistic Director Jason Geis.

Mr. Descoteaux will soon begin working with the pH cast on the upcoming improvised musical show that will premiere later this year.

For more information on pH, contact Guy F. Wicke and visit www.whatisph.com

About pH Productions

Established in 2002, pH Productions is a performance ensemble dedicated to educating and exposing non-traditional audiences to live theater. pH's original comedic productions continually test the boundaries of form, humor and audience participation to provide the highest quality entertainment. For more information, visit www.whatisph.com.

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