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**GIPETI
ENTERTAINMENT**

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***HIZZONER: DALEY THE FIRST*
ANNOUNCES 2009 SPRING ENGAGEMENTS AT THE SKOKIE THEATRE
AND A RETURN TO CHICAGO AT THE THEATRE BUILDING**

CHICAGO – Gipeti Entertainment announces the 2009 spring season of the critically acclaimed production *Hizzoner: Daley the First*. The season includes a month-long stay at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie (Feb. 6 – 22, 2009) and a return to the Chicago stage at the Theatre Building, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. (April 2 – May 17, 2009). Tickets for 2009 dates are available at each box office or at hizzonertheplay.com, Skokie Theatre dates are currently on sale and Theatre Building dates go on sale Friday, Dec. 5.

Mayor Richard J. Daley (1902 – 1976), authoritarian politician, family man and dynasty builder, whose life was inextricably bound to Chicago, the city he loved, is explored in *Hizzoner: Daley the First*. Written by and starring Neil Giuntoli, it is directed by Stefan Brun and opened March 2, 2006 at Prop Thtr to critical acclaim.

Hizzoner is a theatrically intimate look at the man atop Chicago's political machine and a major influence on national policy and politics – Richard J. Daley. Set in the changing and tumultuous history of the 1960's and 1970's, *Hizzoner* offers a behind-the-scenes view of a world rarely seen beyond City Hall as well as personalities who worked with Daley and some - like Jesse Jackson - with whom he had a crucial crossing of paths. There is also a glimpse into how "Da Mare" may have seen himself.

Giuntoli, a Chicago native and relative of Chicago's Mayor Anton Cermak has written four plays and has a long list of additional credits including movie and television roles in "Shawshank Redemption," "Memphis Belle" and "Waterworld" among others. His notable TV guest appearances include "The Jeff Foxworthy Show," "CSI: NY," "CSI," "Monk," "NYPD Blue," "Ally McBeal," "Chicago Hope," "Seinfeld" and "ER."

Hizzoner has been performed more than 300 times for audiences around the Chicago area. The cast contains many of its original cast members including William Bullion, Varrick Douglas, Mike O'Brien, Chuck Jacobsen, Gordon Gillespie, Dianne M. Honeyman, Nick Leininger, Doug Peterson, Don Schroeder and Whit Spurgeon.

Tickets for performances at the **Skokie Theatre**, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie; Friday, Feb. 6, Feb. 13, Feb. 20 and Saturday, Feb. 7, Feb. 14, Feb. 21 at 8 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 8, Feb. 15 and Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. are \$35 and can be purchased online at the SkokieTheatre.org for more information call the Skokie Theatre box office at 847.677.7761.

Tickets for performances at the **Theatre Building**, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. Tickets are \$20 for previews Thursday, April 2 and Friday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m. Opening/Press Night is Saturday, April 4 at 7:30 p.m. April 5 – May 17 performance tickets are \$35 for Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. at Ticketmaster.com, Ticketmaster venues or calling Ticketmaster, 312.902.1500, or the Theater Building box office, walk up or phone 773.327.5252.

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