



SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
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Press Release

MEDIA CONTACT:

Karen Watassek

713-632-8105 or karen@spahouston.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STOMP, THE SMASH PERCUSSION HIT, RETURNS TO HOUSTON WITH NEW SURPRISES

HOUSTON (Feb. 12, 2010) – Presented by Society for the Performing Arts, ***STOMP***, the international sensation, is making its triumphant return to Jones Hall for five performances February 12-14, 2010. Houston audiences can look forward to new surprises, with some sections of the show updated and restructured, and two new full-scale routines utilizing props like tractor tire inner tubes and paint cans.

“After creating new routines for ***STOMP OUT LOUD*** in Las Vegas, co-creator Luke Cresswell and I decided it was time to rework elements of our main production, ***STOMP***,” said co-creator Steve McNicholas. “***STOMP*** has evolved a great deal ever since its first incarnation at the Edinburgh Festival. Every reworking has involved losing some pieces and gaining new ones, but has always stayed true to the original premise of the show: to create rhythmic music with instantly recognizable objects, and do it with an eccentric sense of character and humor.”

The changes that can now be seen in the tour of ***STOMP*** are the biggest since the late 1990s. A new piece “Paint Cans” evolved out of the “Boxes” routine in the Las Vegas show and “Donuts” is a piece that implements huge tractor tire inner tubes, worn around the waist on a bungee cord. For many years, the creators had looked for a ***STOMP*** equivalent of the Latin percussion instrument the guiro, a gourd-shaped open-ended instrument with ridges along the side that are rubbed by a wooden stick to create its sound. The climactic trashcan sequence “Bins” has been restructured to include a guiro-like new found instrument: strip-lighting recycling containers.

From its beginnings as a street performance in the UK, ***STOMP*** has grown into an international sensation over the past 14 years, having performed in more than 350 cities in 36 countries worldwide. ***STOMP*** continues its phenomenal run with the ongoing sell-out Off-Broadway production at New York’s Orpheum Theatre, a North American tour, and two productions overseas – a London company and a European tour.

STOMP, an overwhelming success marked by rave reviews, numerous awards and sell-out engagements, is the winner of an Olivier Award for Best Choreography (London’s Tony Award), a New York Obie Award, a Drama Desk Award for Unique Theatre Experience, and a Special Citation from Best Plays. The young performers “make a rhythm out of anything we can get our hands on that makes a sound,” says Cresswell. Stiff-bristle brooms become a sweeping orchestra; Zippo lighters flip open and closed to create a fiery fugue; wooden poles thump and clack in a rhythmic explosion. ***STOMP*** uses everything but conventional percussion instruments – trashcans,

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STOMP/ADD 2

tea chests, plastic bags, plungers, boots, and hubcaps – to fill the stage with compelling and infectious rhythms.

STOMP's Houston performance schedule is as follows: Friday, Feb. 12 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 13 at 5 & 9 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 14 at 3 & 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$20-\$60 and can be purchased online at www.spahouston.org, by phone at 713-227-4SPA or at the courtyard level ticket office at Jones Hall located at 615 Louisiana St. Hours of operation: 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday – Friday, and 10 a.m.–4 p.m. on Saturday. For groups of 15 or more, call 713-632-8113. The performances of *STOMP* are generously sponsored by Deutsche Bank, KPMG, Continental Airlines, H-E-B, The Brown Hand Center and BMC Software.

About Society for the Performing Arts

Founded in 1966, Society for the Performing Arts (SPA) is the largest independent non-profit presenting organization in the Southwest. Since its inception, SPA has sponsored more than 800 performances of the world's finest music, dance and theater events, in adherence to the belief that the arts are fundamental to the overall enrichment and quality of life within the community. In addition to presenting artists, SPA seeks to provide a variety of learning experiences for adults and children through master classes, lectures and special student performances, as well as build relationships between the performing arts and other interests within the greater Houston area and throughout the state of Texas.

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