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HEARTLAND THEATRE COMPANY

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Website: www.heartlandtheatre.org (Map/Directions)

Feature and Interview Opportunity.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***HEARTLAND THEATRE COMPANY announces an Assistive Listening System
in its theatre for the hearing-impaired***

Heartland Theatre Company has installed a new Assistive Listening system in its theatre to help the hearing-impaired have a better experience during performances. This was made possible by the Mirza Arts and Culture Grant from the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation and contributions from many patrons of Heartland.

National Public Radio recently reported that approximately 50% of the country has hearing loss. About 10% of Heartland's audience has voiced a need for a better way to hear performances.

The Listen Technologies equipment installed is specific to theaters and churches. Patrons are provided with receivers that take in sound on stage through sensitive small microphones transmitted by radio frequency. Patrons can sit anywhere in the theatre and receive sound into their hearing aids or ears. Patrons without hearing needs will experience the performance the same way as always, without any interference from the system.

The first performance using the system will be for the 10-Minute Play Festival running June 7-30. The public is invited to a casual demonstration of the system May 22 at 1:30 pm. Donors and board members will be present.

**For questions, call Gail Dobbins, Managing Director at 309 256 7531
or email boxoffice@heartlandtheatre.org**

For more information about Heartland: www.heartlandtheatre.org