



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONFETTI STAGE PRESENTS *THE LESSON*
PERFORMANCE AND GALA FUNDRAISER

***Award-winning production heads to national theatre festival in Indiana;
First-ever Capital Region theatre company to perform at nationals***

(ALBANY, NY) – Confetti Stage, an award-winning Albany-based nonprofit community theatre, will present a ONE NIGHT ONLY performance of Eugene Ionesco's *The Lesson* followed by a gala fundraising reception on June 6, 2013.

Funds raised will support the group as they represent the Capital Region, New York State and the six-state Eastern States Theatre Association at the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) national festival, June 17-23, 2013 in Carmel, Indiana.

DATE: Thursday, June 6, 2013

TIME: 7:00 PM doors open
7:30 PM performance
8:30 PM reception and dialogue with the cast and crew

LOCATION: Irish American Heritage Museum, 370 Broadway, downtown Albany, NY

TICKETS: \$20 admission

RESERVATIONS: Call 518-859-7727 (seating is limited)

MORE INFORMATION AND PHOTOS: <http://igg.me/at/ConfettiStage>

Confetti Stage's production of *The Lesson*, Eugene Ionesco's classic absurdist play, is the ONLY production from the Capital Region to win the statewide (TANYS) and regional (ESTA) competitions, and go all the way to the biennial AACT national festival. It's also only the third production from New York State to ever reach the national competition.

Competing at the national level offers Confetti Stage the opportunity to be invited to perform *The Lesson* at international theatre festivals.



The gala fundraiser will include a silent auction featuring donated goods and services from the Capital Region community. Donations to the fundraising effort will also be accepted at the event.

For more information about the production and to make a donation before the Gala Fundraiser, visit the online fundraising campaign at <http://igg.me/at/ConfettiStage>.

To volunteer or donate goods or services for the event, contact Barbara Davis-Dickman (bdd1101@gmail.com) or Steve Henel (sghenel@gmail.com).

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THE JOURNEY TO DATE:

LOCAL HONORS: *The Lesson* was first produced at Confetti Stage in June 2012 as part of Confettlonesco, on a double bill with *The Chairs*. The production earned Adjudicator's Merit Awards from the Theatre Association of New York State (TANYS) for acting and direction, and was invited to perform at the annual TANYS Festival.

STATE HONORS: At the TANYS Festival in Batavia, NY in November 2012, *The Lesson* was selected as one of two Outstanding Short Productions eligible to continue to the regional Eastern States Theatre Association (ESTA) Festival. *The Lesson* also won several awards for acting, sound design and set design.

REGIONAL HONORS: At the ESTA Festival in Rome, NY in April 2013, *The Lesson* won first place, earning a slot at the national AACTFest in June 2013. The production also took home awards for outstanding acting and directing. ESTA comprises the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York and the District of Columbia.

ABOUT:

About the Play: Written in 1951, *The Lesson* illustrates Eugene Ionesco's comic genius, where insanity and farce collide as a professor becomes increasingly frustrated with his hapless student, and the student with her mad teacher. This potent "comic drama" has the power to frighten and delight as only Absurdist plays can.

About Confetti Stage: The award-winning Confetti Stage was incorporated in 2004 and produced its inaugural production, *'night, Mother*, by Marsha Norman in January 2005. Since then, the company has successfully brought to the stage more than 45 productions, and has performed in several Capital Region communities and as far away as Batavia, NY. Confetti Stage offers a full season of quality community theatre every year, as well as the area's only 100% local Short Play Festival. For more information, visit www.confettistage.org.



About AACT and AACTFest 2013: The American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) provides networking, resources and support to suit the needs of all those involved in community theatre. AACT represents the interests of more than 7,000 theatres across the United States and its territories, as well as theatre companies with the armed services overseas. For more information, visit www.aact.org. AACTFest 2013, a program of AACT, will take place June 17-23, 2013 and will feature twelve community theatre productions from across the United States and the U.S. Military Overseas. These winners of state and regional festivals represent the best community theatre America has to offer. Festival details are available at www.aactfest.org.