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For Immediate Release

Southland Theatre Ensemble to Perform "Ragtime" at GSU

University Park, Illinois, April 11, 2011 - The Southland Area Theatre Ensemble (SLATE) at Governors State University announced it will present the musical "Ragtime" as its 2011 summer production.

Auditions will take place May 18 and 19 in Sherman Recital Hall at GSU. "Ragtime" has roles for a diverse cast of between 40 and 50 players. There are roles for six principal cast members, 10 supporting players, and 23 ensemble members. Persons wishing to audition should be prepared to present a one minute song selection that demonstrates their vocal range. A dance call will follow the vocal audition.

"Ragtime," based on the best-selling novel by E.L. Doctorow, is the powerful story of three groups of people coming together in early 20th Century America – well-off WASPs, African Americans, and Eastern European immigrants. Coalhouse Walker, a brilliant Harlem musician, is at the center of the story, which also includes historical characters like Henry Ford, Booker T. Washington, and Harry Houdini. Following its 1998 Broadway debut, "Ragtime" won Tony awards for Best Book and Best Score.

Performance dates are July 30 and 31, and August 5, 6, and 7 in The Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University.

SLATE was established in 2009 as an artistic collaboration between The Center for Performing Arts, local theater educators, and veterans of area community theater companies. SLATE has produced two critically-acclaimed summer productions, "Into the Woods" in 2009 and "The Wedding Singer" in 2010.

For more information on "Ragtime" or SLATE, visit www.slatetheatre.org.