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## **AHHH, TO BE NEWLYWEDS! METROPOLIS REVIVES NEIL SIMON'S *BAREFOOT IN THE PARK*, FEB. 1-MARCH 10, 2007**

Arlington Heights, Ill., January 11, 2007 – Grab your significant other and share the love and laughs at Neil Simon's Broadway hit comedy *Barefoot in the Park*, February 1-March 10, 2007 at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, 111 W. Campbell St. in Arlington Heights.

A shoe-box of a fifth-floor walk-up apartment that's an interior designer's worst nightmare. A meddling mother-in-law who makes the CIA look like Mother Theresa. A womanizing neighbor who never leaves. And only one toothbrush to share. If that's not enough, Corie, the new bride, is a spontaneous, try anything woman with the energy of a cocker spaniel and the tact of a bull, while her husband Paul, a fledgling lawyer, is so uptight even accountants make fun of him. Isn't love grand?

Sort of a *Sex in the City* for the 1960s, Simon's 1963 romantic comedy, his first Broadway smash, was a love letter to his wife Joan, and a tribute to being young, untried and uninhibited in the big city. Legendary director Mike Nichols staged the original Broadway production, which was nominated for several Tony Awards and spawned the 1967 hit film starring Jane Fonda and Robert Redford.

Previews of Metropolis' revival of *Barefoot in the Park* are Thursday, February 1 at 7:30 pm; Friday, February 2 at 8 pm; and Saturday, February 3 at 3 and 7 pm. Preview tickets are \$20-\$28. **Press opening is Sunday, February 4 at 3 pm.** Performances continue through March 10: Thursday at 7:30 pm, Friday at 8 pm, Saturday at 7 pm, and Sunday at 3 pm. Regular performances are \$29-\$38. Exception: There is an added 1:30 pm matinee, Thursday, February 15. For tickets and information, call the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre Box Office, (847) 577-2121, or visit [metropolisarts.com](http://metropolisarts.com). Suggested rating: PG-13.

The Metropolis Performing Arts Centre is located in the heart of Chicago's northwest suburbs, at 111 W. Campbell St. one block south of the downtown Arlington Heights Metra station. Free parking is available in the covered garage directly behind the theater. Patrons can ask the box office to book pre- or post-show dinner reservations at nearby restaurants including Carlos n' Carlos, a new dining destination located right in the Metropolis complex. Metropolis offers wheelchair, easy access seating and a hearing amplification system. Metropolis also continues to make live theater more accessible to younger audiences, with a half-price student rush policy on single tickets, one hour before show time.

**Jeremy Wechsler** (director) is the artistic director of Theater Wit and an artistic associate at Shakespeare's Motley Crew, Bailiwick Repertory and Collaboration Theatre. He has directed over 40 productions in the Chicago area which have won multiple awards for design, performance, adaptation and best new work. He is currently preparing the Chicago premiere of Will Eno's Pulitzer-nominated *Thom Pain* (Based on Nothing).

Metropolis' cast for *Barefoot in the Park* features **Herb Braden** (delivery man), **Tom Lally** (telephone repair man), **Darrellyn Marx** (Mrs. Banks), **Shelley Nixon** (Corie), **Steve O'Connell** (Paul) and **Peter Verdico** (Victor Velasco).

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The design team includes **Michael P. Amico** (set), **Yousif Mohamed** (lights), **William A. Franz** (sound), **Vicki Strei** (costumes) and **Mike Gehmlich** (props). Casting Director is **Robin Hughes**. Stage Manager is **Carly Hengels**. **Tim Rater** is Executive Director, Metropolis Performing Arts Centre.

***Barefoot in the Park*** is the third of four exciting productions in Metropolis' 2006/07 live theater series. Three-play subscriptions - also including ***A Streetcar Named Desire***, March 22-April 29; and ***Don't Dress For Dinner***, May 17-June 23 - start at only **\$48**. For information on subscriptions and Metropolis' full line-up of live theater, comedy, music, children's show, dance events and more in 2006/07, call **(847) 577-2121**, or visit **metropolisarts.com**.

Metropolis is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. Metropolis also receives generous support from sponsors including the *Daily Herald*, American Airlines, Stella Artois, YellowBook, FastSigns of Arlington Heights, Arlington Park, and Sheraton Chicago Northwest.

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