

**Sept. 16, 2009**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Barb Shubinski**  
**Liars Theatre Executive Director**  
**(319) 899-8444**

## **SPT Theatre Company and Liars Theatre Announce Collaborative Show**

**CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa** Two of the region's professional theatre companies have announced they're joining forces to present a collaborative show. Liars Theatre of Marion, and SPT Theatre Company of Cedar Rapids will jointly host a special, one-night only performance on Saturday, Sept. 27, at 7:30 p.m. at the Cabinet Studios building, 700 16th St.NE, Cedar Rapids.

Tickets are available for the Sept. 27 performance, titled "Tales from the Writers' Room," by calling (319) 899-8444.

"Our missions are so closely aligned, the two groups decided to partner together to produce an original performance piece," said Liars Theatre Executive Director Barb Shubinski.

Gerard Estella, a founding member of SPT Theatre Company, says the collaboration takes advantage of each organization's strengths. "Many of us are working together frequently already, so this allows us to maximize those relationships."

Estella says the styles of the two organizations complement each other well. Estella and fellow SPT founders Doug Elliott, Janelle Lauer and Jane Pini will artistically produce this performance as well as perform onstage. They will be joined by the longtime

drummer for Liars Holographic Radio Theatre, Greg Kanz, as well as guitarist Ron DeWitte, who often plays with Lauer and was featured in the March 2008 show *Divapalooza*.

Together Liars and SPT assembled the pool of writers who scripted this show. The group includes Mary Sullivan, David Martino and Jason Alberty from Cedar Rapids and Adam Witte and Jason Grubbe from Iowa City. The writers, seasoned performers all, will also appear onstage in the show.

Shubinski and the four founders of SPT say they hope this show will be the first of many collaborative efforts between the two companies. Estella says the process would eventually be very much like the scripting model for a television show such as *Saturday Night Live* or the *Dick Van Dyke Show*, bringing a creative team together and crafting a system that can produce material regularly. "We're really excited about working with such a talented group of writers. We hope to find the resources to work together again this season. We feel there is a desire in the corridor to see original musical sketch comedy, and we think we are in a unique position to provide that kind of entertainment."