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For immediate release

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Pillsbury House Theatre presents
Chicago Avenue Project: Out on a Limb
featuring Twin Cities actors in plays by neighborhood kids
November 3 & 4, 2014

Minneapolis, MN – The Chicago Avenue Project returns this fall to Pillsbury House Theatre with *Out on a Limb*, featuring ten original, short plays written by South Minneapolis youth in partnership with a team of adult theatre artists including actors **Jamila Anderson** and **Joy Dolo**, who both recently appeared in Pillsbury House Theatre and The Mount Curve Company's production of *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet* at the Guthrie Theater, as well as **Carolyn Pool**, **Brant Miller**, and **Beverly Cottman**; directors **Terry Hempleman** and **Molly Van Avery**; and dramaturg **Saymoukda Vongsay**.

Each kid is partnered with a team of four adult volunteers: a dramaturg, a director, and two actors. The dramaturgs work with the kids over the course of a weekend writing retreat to help them develop their plays and scripts. Then, each youth playwright attends the rehearsals for her or his play as it comes to life over the course of the next month.

This year's plays include such imaginative titles as *The Coyote of Wall Street* by Gabe, *Twerk Team* by Amir, *The Future of Walmart* by Cicely, *Masters of Dishwashing Two* by Nat, and *Frenemies* by Mimi. For many of the adult theatre artists involved, working with Chicago Avenue Project's young playwrights is their favorite gig of the year.

The *Out on a Limb* team also includes actors **Christian Bardin**, **Gregory Parks**, **Jason Rojas**, **Valarie Falken**, **Dylan Fresco**, **Heather Bunch**, **Dustin Bronson**, **Rachel Austin**, **Suzie Cheng**, **Sam Pearson**, **Taous Khazem**, **Esther Ouray**, **Katie Kaufmann**, **Neal Skoy**, and **Sandra Struthers**; directors **Adrian Balbontin**, **Sharif Abu-Hamdeh**, **Chava Curland**, **Mel Day**, **Cheryl Willis**, **Crystal Spring**, **Dudley Voigt**, and **Addie Gorlin**; and dramaturgs **Steve Moulds**, **Deborah Yarchun**, **Eliza Rasheed**, **Jacob Devine**, **Basil Kreimendahl**, **Josef Evans**, **Kate Tarker**, and **Amber Patton**. Production credits include costumes designed by **Kathy Kohl**; sound by **Katharine Horowitz**; props by **Michael Olson**; and projection art by **Patricia Savanick Anderson**.

Out on a Limb will premiere at Pillsbury House Theatre, 3501 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis, on **Monday, November 3 at 7:00 pm** and **Tuesday, November 4 at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm**. All performances are free and open to the public.

About the Chicago Avenue Project

Since 1996, the Chicago Avenue Project brings together the Twin Cities best adult playwrights, actors,

and directors who volunteer to work one-on-one with neighborhood youth on the creation and production of an original play. Individual children develop close mentoring relationships with at least four adults who are successful in their creative fields while adult professional artists share the chance to perform in wildly imaginative plays as talking guinea pigs, horses, computer gaming systems, and other indescribably unique characters.

The Chicago Avenue Project gives every child—regardless of their circumstances—the opportunity to discover that he or she has a lot of value to offer. The project is not about teaching youth to perform, though they do learn acting, nor is it about teaching them how to write plays, though they learn that as well.

About Pillsbury House Theatre

From the Mainstage series to Chicago Avenue Project to Naked Stages to the Hennepin County Home School Project, **PILLSBURY HOUSE THEATRE** brings audiences closer—to the edge, to the actors, to affordable, adventurous theatre, to fellow audience members, and to a strong community. Now in its 23rd year, the theatre continues to inspire choice, change, and connection through raw, intimate drama. Pillsbury House Theatre is proud to be a professional theatre unlike any other. An integral part of Pillsbury United Communities, one of the largest human services organizations in the state, Pillsbury House Theatre demonstrates that the highest quality art is an integral part of all healthy communities, winning awards for theatre across the metro while also inspiring choice, change, and connection as part of our social service mission in South Minneapolis. www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org

CALENDAR EDITORS:

CHICAGO AVENUE PROJECT: *Out on a Limb*

November 3 at 7:00 p.m.

November 4 at 4:00 p.m.

November 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Pillsbury House Theatre
3501 Chicago Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Admission is free; seats are first-come, first-served.
All ages welcome.

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