



MEDIA RELEASE

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SIGNAL ENSEMBLE THEATRE
PRESENTS JOSEPH HELLER'S SCATHING COMEDY
CATCH-22

Previews: June 10 & 11, 2004 Opens: June 12, 2004 Closes: July 11, 2004

CHICAGO—**Signal Ensemble Theatre** is pleased to open its second season with **Joseph Heller's** satirical calling card, **CATCH-22**, based on his novel satirizing America's military bureaucracy. The production will be staged at the Chopin Studio Theatre, 1543 W. Division Ave., Chicago, 60622. General admission tickets are \$15, with discounts for military (\$5), and seniors and students (\$10), and can be purchased online at www.signalensembletheatre.com or reserved by telephone at (773) 347-1350.

Joseph Heller's dramatization of his most famous novel is set on an air base off the coast of Italy in the latter months of World War II. **CATCH-22** tells the story of an American bombardier named Yossarian who is convinced everyone is out to kill him. Terrified that he will have to fly more missions, he hatches a bulletproof plan to be discharged: he tells the doctor he is unfit to fly by reason of insanity. There is only one catch: Catch-22. If proven insane, he won't have to fly the missions, all he has to do is ask. But as soon as he requests not to fly, he will no longer be insane because a sane man would refuse to repeatedly put his life in danger.

Brandon Bruce directs the production. **CATCH-22** is Bruce's second project with Signal Ensemble after appearing last summer as Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing*. As well as being a new member of Signal Ensemble, Bruce is the new artistic director of BackStage Theatre Company. His previous directing credits include the award-winning and critically acclaimed productions of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* at New Leaf Theatre and *Plaza Suite* at Rabbit Run Theatre in Ohio. Other credits include *Hidden in this Picture* and *Off the Hook* (New Leaf Theatre), *Marrieds* (The Side Project), *A Bump in the Road* (Bailiwick Director's Fest), *The Zoo Story* and *This is a Test* (Kent State University). Bruce has also performed with such theatres as Stage Left, WNEP, Breadline, Cleveland Play House, and Yale Summer Cabaret.

The American novelist and playwright **Joseph Heller** (1923–1999) was born in Brooklyn and grew up on Coney Island. During World War II he flew 60 missions as a bombardier aboard B-25s in North Africa and Italy. Following college and graduate work at USC, NYU, Columbia, and Oxford, Heller worked in New York writing advertising and promotions. His first novel *Catch-22* (1961) was an enormous critical and popular success, and gave birth to a literary career boasting eight major books, stage plays, screenplays, short stories, articles, and reviews. His subsequent novels include *Something Happened*, *Good as Gold*, *God Knows*, *No Laughing Matter* (on his bout with Guillain-Barre Syndrome, written with Speed Vogel), *Picture This*, and *Closing Time*—the sequel to *Catch-22*. Heller's other plays include *We Bombed in New Haven* and *Clevinger's Trial*.

CATCH-22 features nine actors playing forty-one roles. Signal Ensemble Members featured are **Meredith Bell**, **Christopher Prentice**, **Aaron Snook**, and **Joseph Stearns**. The cast also includes **Daniel E. Brennan**, **Ian Crossland**, **Marcus Kamie**, **Jason Powers**, and **Aris Tompulis**.

The Design/Production team for **CATCH-22** includes **Melania Lancy** (setting), **Laura M. Dana** (costumes), **Timothy "Dante" Goodhart** (lighting), **Brandon Bruce** (sound), **Lara Maerz** (props), **Erin Myers** (dramaturg), and **Anthony Ingram** (assistant director/stage manager). **Ronan Marra**, **Joseph Stearns**, and **Christopher Prentice** are the producers. **CATCH-22** is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

By focusing on a diverse slate of plays, Signal Ensemble Theatre strives to produce clear and concise stagings of great stories. Signal Ensemble Theatre's first season saw the world premiere of Ronan Marra's *Learning to Fly* at Wing & Groove and a critically and publicly acclaimed production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Athenaeum.

Signal Ensemble Theatre
CATCH-22
FACT SHEET

THEATRE: Chopin Studio Theatre, 1543 W. Division Ave., Chicago

DATES: June 12–July 11, 2004

DESCRIPTION: Set on an air base off the coast of Italy in the latter months of World War II, *CATCH-22* tells the story of an American bombardier named Yossarian who is convinced everyone is out to kill him. Terrified that he will have to fly more missions, he hatches a bulletproof plan to be discharged: he tells the doctor he is unfit to fly by reason of insanity. There is only one catch: Catch-22.

REGULAR SCHEDULE: Thursdays–Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

INDUSTRY NIGHTS: Every Thursday, with picture/resume

PERFORMANCES:

Thursday	6/10/04	8:00 p.m.	Preview
Friday	6/11/04	8:00 p.m.	Preview
Saturday	6/12/04	8:00 p.m.	Opening Night
Sunday	6/13/04	3:00 p.m.	
Thursday	6/17/04	8:00 p.m.	Industry Night
Friday	6/18/04	8:00 p.m.	
Saturday	6/19/04	8:00 p.m.	
Sunday	6/20/04	3:00 p.m.	
Thursday	6/24/04	8:00 p.m.	Industry Night
Friday	6/25/04	8:00 p.m.	
Saturday	6/26/04	8:00 p.m.	
Sunday	6/27/04	3:00 p.m.	
Thursday	7/1/04	8:00 p.m.	Industry Night
Friday	7/2/04	8:00 p.m.	
Saturday	7/3/04	8:00 p.m.	
Sunday	7/4/04	3:00 p.m.	
Thursday	7/8/04	8:00 p.m.	Industry Night
Friday	7/9/04	8:00 p.m.	
Saturday	7/10/04	8:00 p.m.	
Sunday	7/11/04	3:00 p.m.	Closing

TICKET PRICES:

\$15	General Admission
\$10	Senior citizens and students (with ID)
\$10	Industry (with picture/resume)
\$10	Groups of 15 or more
\$10	Preview general admission
\$5	Military

TICKETS: Purchase online at www.signalensembletheatre.com or reserve by phone at (773) 347-1350.

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