

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Tellin' Tales Theatre's Fashion Forward Benefit Show and Gala Spotlights Mothers and Their Children With and Without Disabilities on the Runway

CHICAGO - In honor of Mother's Day, Tellin' Tales Theatre celebrates mothers and their children of all shapes, sizes and abilities at **Fashion Forward: A Mixed-Ability Fashion Show and Benefit Gala for Tellin' Tales Theatre** at 7 p.m. on May 2 at the National Hellenic Museum, 333 S. Halsted Street in Chicago. Tickets are \$75 and available at www.tellintales.org.

Ten local fashion designers, including noted Chicago designer Lauren Lein, will create original designs based on the fashion dreams of ten mothers and their children with and without disabilities, who will also model the creations as the highlight of the evening (**scroll down for list of participants and their Chicago neighborhoods or suburbs**).

Light bites, signature cocktails, live and silent auctions, dance music and special guests add to the gala celebration to benefit the year-round shows and programs of Tellin' Tales Theatre. To top off the evening, special guest Marca Bristo, President and CEO of Chicago's Access Living, will be presenting young people Nura Aly and TJ Nakano with the TaleBlazer award for their strides in disability advocacy.

“Whether a mother has a disability or not, this is an opportunity for her to look and feel absolutely beautiful and share the limelight with her son or daughter,” says Tekki Lomnicki, Founder and Artistic Director of Tellin' Tales Theatre. Lomnicki has been honored as an inspirational solo performer, producer and director, guiding 36 productions since 1995 for Tellin' Tales Theatre.

The mission of Tellin' Tales Theatre is to shatter barriers between the disabled and able-bodied worlds through the transformative power of personal story. We bring together children and adults from both communities to share their stories in theatrically innovative productions and programs to promote awareness, understanding and acceptance.

The 2014/2015 Tellin' Tales Theatre Season is made possible by the Illinois Arts Council, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Chicago Community Trust.

Models & Designers for the 2015 Fashion Forward event include:

Karen and Dominika Tamley of Albany Park (Karen is Commissioner, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities)

Designer Lauren Lein of Lauren Lein, Ltd., Chicago (she will design for the Tamleys and will also create designs for herself and her son which they will model)

Paula And Rupa Sprecher of Jefferson Park

Designer Annie Guter of Morton Grove

Marcia and Celia Buell of Skokie
Designer Rachel Alvia of Evanston
Rebeca and Abad Viquez of Jefferson Park
Designer Leslie Swanson of Pilsen
Lisa and Bella Altenbach of Edison Park
Designer Pam Puskala of Ravenswood
Jennifer Nicholson and Jocelyn Guzman of Gladstone Park
Designer Diane Hamm of Prop Thtr, Chicago
Emily and Eileen Holewcznski of Western Springs
Designer Megan Smith of Palatine
Carrie and Audrey Sandahl of Oak Park (Carrie heads up Program on Disability Art,
Culture & Humanities at UIC)
Designer Gabrielle Zwick of Edgewater
Rochelle and Sydney Bryant of Streeterville
Designer Juana Merino of Belmont-Cragin

Tellin' Tales 2015 Season:

May 2, 2015—Fashion Forward Gala

Mixed-Ability Fashion Show • National Hellenic Museum

May 22-24, 2015—DiverCity

Solo works by adult performers with disabilities • Frontier Theatre

July 17-26, 2015—Phobias

Adult solo performance show • Prop Thtr

November 6-15, 2015—Six Stories Up in the Art Institute

Athenaeum Theatre & additional Chicago venue (TBA) - as part of the ADA25 (Americans with Disabilities Act 25th Anniversary) Celebration. A life-changing mentoring program and annual show called Six Stories Up features middle school age kids and adults with and without disabilities.

Tellin' Tales Theatre Website: www.tellintales.org

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