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Kennedy Center Award-Winning Playwright Calls the Warner Theatre Center for Arts Education Home

Torrington, CT – The Warner Theatre Center for Arts Education opened its doors in 1992 as a small, two-room facility offering after-school enrichment classes in movement and dramatic arts and has since blossomed into a full-fledged on-site arts education institute for children and adults of all ages. Students come from all over CT and beyond to explore their creative talents through an extensive and varied performing arts curriculum. One of the reasons for the Center's burgeoning growth is its exemplary teaching staff which includes Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for New England's award-winning playwright, Charlene George-Donaghy.

Donaghy holds a Master of Fine Arts in Writing for Stage and Screen from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. Along with winning the prestigious Kennedy Center award, Ms. Donaghy has been nominated for the Heideman Award presented nationally by the Actors Theatre of Louisville. Her plays have been produced and/or recognized in Los Angeles, New Orleans, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Kentucky and Alabama. Her award-winning play, *Who You Got to Believe*, made its New York City debut in October 2010 at the Estrogenious Festival and will be published in the next edition of *The Best American Short Plays*. Among her other achievements, Donaghy spent last summer as a guest artist at the Kennedy Center Summer Playwriting Intensive and is the Director of Production for the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theatre Festival.

Students ages 10 – 16 at the Warner Theatre Center for Arts Education have the privilege of studying with Ms. Donaghy in her *Page-to-Stage: an Introduction to Playwriting* course that is offered as part of the Warner Theatre Center for Arts Education's curriculum each season. For more information regarding the Warner Theatre Center for Arts Education, please call 860-489-7180 ext 148 or visit the Warner Theatre website at www.warnertheatre.org.

ABOUT THE WARNER THEATRE

Built by Warner Brothers Studios and opened in 1931 as a movie palace (1,772 seats), the Warner Theatre was described then as "Connecticut's Most Beautiful Theatre." Damaged extensively in a flood, the Warner was slated for demolition in the early 1980s

until the non-profit Northwest Connecticut Association for the Arts (NCAA) was founded and purchased the theatre. The Warner reopened as a performing arts center in 1983, and restoration of the main lobbies and auditorium was completed in November 2002. In 2008, the new 50,000 square foot Carole and Ray Neag Performing Arts Center, which houses a 300 seat studio theatre, 200 seat restaurant and micro-brewery and expansive school for the arts, was completed. Today, the Warner is in operation year-round with more than 160 performances and 100,000 patrons passing through its doors each season. Over 10,000 students, pre K—adult, participate in arts education programs and classes. Together, with the support of the community, the Warner has raised close to \$17 million to revitalize its facilities. NCAA's mission is to preserve the Warner Theatre as an historic landmark, enhance its reputation as a center of artistic excellence and a focal point of community involvement, and satisfy the diverse cultural needs of the region. To learn more about the Warner Theatre, visit our website: www.warnertheatre.org.