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For Immediate Release

October 26, 2010

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JAMES PATRICK TO LEAVE WARNER

TO SERVE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF IDAHO'S MORRISON CENTER

TORRINGTON, CT- The Warner Theatre announced today that Executive Director James Patrick will be stepping down in December to serve as the Executive Director of the Velma V. Morrison Center for the Performing Arts in Idaho.

"I have enjoyed the last seven years at the Warner. It has been a wonderful learning experience and an important career opportunity. I am proud of what the Warner has accomplished during my tenure, both operationally and via the realization of the Carole and Ray Neag Performing Arts Center," said Patrick.

During his seven-year tenure at the Warner Theatre, he increased annual attendance by 30 percent, the theatre's capital fundraising exceeded \$7 million and he assisted in overseeing the design and construction of a 50,000-square-foot addition that included a black-box studio theatre and a new center for arts education.

"James has done an amazing job moving our institution forward. With his expertise he has helped us expand on our state-of-the-art facilities and has assembled a capable professional staff. We wish him well on the next phase of his career," said Warner Board President Chuck Brower.

In his new position, Patrick will manage the Morrison Center's artistic and educational programming for the university and the surrounding community. He also will oversee and direct Morrison Center marketing, branding, audience development, fund development and institutional development efforts.

"The Morrison Center is Idaho's premier performing arts venue and the vision of the director plays a huge role in setting the scene for our celebrated arts culture. James Patrick is the perfect fit for the job," said Kustra. "His extensive experience will help shape the Morrison Center's strategic development and strengthen its position as an invaluable asset to our performing arts partners and our community as a whole," stated Boise State University President Bob Kustra.

With Patrick's exit, the Warner's Executive committee will begin a national search process to identify a suitable replacement as soon as possible.

Patrick, who is the Warner's third Executive Director since it became a performing arts center in 1981, came to the Warner Theatre in 2004 to replace Barry Hughson. Prior to the Warner Theatre, Patrick was director of City University of New York's Martin E. Segal Theatre Center. For six years he worked as a professional actor, with his most recognizable role being Dr. Jacobs on the soap opera "Another World."

Patrick recently was honored as one of the 50 most influential people in Connecticut's Litchfield County, along with Joan Rivers, Oscar de la Renta, Philip Roth and others. He is a member of the Screen Actors Guild, and a former grant panelist for the Brooklyn Council of the Arts. He earned an MFA in performing arts management from City University of New York and a bachelor's degree in accounting from Rutgers.

"My family and I have made many friends in the community," reflected Patrick. He continued, "When you turn the page on a new chapter in life it is bitter-sweet, but my family and I are excited about our new adventure."

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 170 performances and over 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.