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For Immediate Release

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WARNER THEATRE PRESENTS 2ND ANNUAL HOLIDAY MOVIE FESTIVAL IN NOVEMBER

TORRINGTON, Conn. 68 Main St. (October 31, 2007) – The Warner Theatre will present their 2nd Annual Holiday Movie Festival on November 23rd & 24th. The series, a fundraising event for the historic theatre, features screenings of the classic *It's a Wonderful Life* and the modern holiday comedy classic *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* with animated shorts running before each feature presentation. There will also be a special family's matinee on November 24th at 11:00 am with a double feature screening of *The Muppet's Christmas Carol* and the perennial animated favorite *Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas* with original narration by the legendary **Boris Karloff**. **The Grinch** will be on hand during the matinee to greet kids and take photos for parents who bring their cameras.

"Patrons kept asking us if we were going to be showing *It's a Wonderful Life* again this year because they made last year's screening part of their holiday tradition, so when we started looking at holiday programming for this season, it seemed appropriate to bring back the holiday movie series and make it an annual family event. It's a great way to showcase some of those great holiday movies that you never get to see on the big screen anymore," said James Patrick, Executive Director for the theatre.

Built in 1931 by Warner Brothers Studios and designed by famed architect Thomas Lamb, the Warner Theatre stopped showing movies in the late 70s. In the mid 80s the theatre reopened as Litchfield County's largest performing arts center and in 2002 the theatre underwent a multimillion dollar restoration. Last year the theatre purchased new digital projection equipment and since then has held various movie screenings that have been met with great success.

To help patrons relive some of the movie-going nostalgia, live pre-show holiday entertainment will be provided in the theatre lobby at select screenings. The theatre will also be decorated for the holidays.

"It's all about the experience. We're not interested in just taking your ticket and turning on the projector—anyone can do that. We want our patrons to feel like going to the movies at the Warner is an event, much like it was when it first opened in the 30s. Movies were a big deal. Now that we've brought movies back, we want to honor our heritage and be

a place where people can relive that experience. That's why we offer reserved seating, full bar service, ushers and affordable concessions," Patrick explained.

Tickets to a screening are \$5.00 for the general public and \$3.50 for Warner Members, Subscribers, seniors and children under 12 years of age. All tickets are subject to a \$1.50 per ticket preservation fee which goes to maintain the historic theatre. Special group pricing is available and all seating is reserved. Refreshments, including specialty-themed holiday drinks, candy and fresh made \$1.00 bags of popcorn will be available. All proceeds from the event benefits the historic theatre.

As part of Torrington's *Light Up Main* event on November 23rd, the Warner Theatre will extend their \$3.50 discount tickets to members of the community who bring a new unwrapped toy to the Box office at time of purchase. All toys will be donated to Torrington's Christmas Village Toy Shower. For more information contact the Box Office.

For information, please call or visit the Warner Theatre Box Office at (860) 489-7180 or purchase tickets online at warnertheatre.org. Group discounts are available for the movies.

Taylor Rental is the Concession Sponsor for the event and **1320 AM WATR** is the proud Media Sponsor. Promotional support provided by **Cold Stone Creamery** with additional support from the **Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism**.

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SHOW TIMES

It's A Wonderful Life

Bugs Bunny's Christmas Carol

Fri, Nov 23 | 8pm & Sat, Nov 24 | 3pm

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

Bugs Bunny's Christmas Carol

Sat, Nov 24 | 8pm

Special Double Feature! Family Fun Matinee

Meet The Grinch. Bring your camera!

The Muppet Christmas Carol

Plus

How The Grinch Stole Christmas

Sat, Nov 24 | 11am

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About the Warner Theatre

Built by Warner Brothers Studios and opened in 1931 as a movie palace, 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 lobbies and auditorium was completed in November 2002. Today, the Warner is in operation year-round with more than 160 performances and some 94,000 patrons passing through its doors each season. 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.