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***For Immediate Release***

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***A Magical and Mysterious Chocolate Factory Opens in Torrington!***  
**The Warner Stage Company presents: *Willy Wonka***

Torrington, CT - Roald Dahl's timeless story of the world-famous candy man Willy Wonka comes to life from July 31-August 8 at the Warner Theatre in this stage adaptation of his beloved book, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Willy Wonka, played by Christopher Smith of Torrington, invites the audience to join him in a world of "pure imagination". Contemplating his retirement, Wonka decides to find someone to continue his candy confectioning. He announces that five lucky people will be given a tour of the factory, shown all the secrets of his amazing candy, and one will win a lifetime supply of Wonka chocolate.

Nobody wants the prize more than young Charlie, played by Bailey Cummings of Wolcott, but his family is so poor they can't afford to buy candy for the chance to win a Golden Ticket. But magic can happen and the local Candy Man (Chuck Stango of Middlebury) arrives with his candy cart and gives Charlie a sample "on the house". After winning one of five Golden Tickets, Charlie gets a once in a lifetime tour of the factory where Willy Wonka and his band of Oompa Loompas lead Charlie, spoiled Veruca Salt (Danielle Hoffman of Farmington), gluttonous Augustus Gloop (Alex Polzun of Torrington), gum-chewing Violet Beauregarde (Jaclyn Mercer of New Milford) and television junkie Mike Teavee (John Paul Henares of Avon) through a labyrinth of lemon drops, life lessons, and giggles galore.

The Warner Stage Company production is directed and choreographed by Sheila Waters Fucci with musical direction by Matt Valenti. "Cast members include some wonderful veteran actors along with 120 community children", says Ms. Fucci. The production will also feature special stage effects including Flying by Foy, the notable Broadway special effects company .

In conjunction with the production of Willy Wonka, theatre fans are encouraged to listen to local radio station, and radio media sponsor, FM 97.3 WZBG for a chance to win family 4 packs of tickets as well as DVD's of the original movie Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory starring Gene Wilder. All winners are then qualified for the grand prize – admission for four to Hershey Park in Hershey, PA! Two grand prizes will be awarded – one from the morning drive show hosted by Dale Jones and one from the station's Afternoon Drive show hosted by Amy Ferrarotti.

Willy Wonka Performances are on **Saturday**, July 31 & Aug 7, 2010 at 7:30pm; **Sunday** Aug 1 & 8, 2010 at 2pm and **Friday**, Aug 6, 2010 at 7:30pm. Tickets for these performances are \$18.50, \$21.50, \$24.50 and can be purchased by calling the Warner box office at 860-489-7180 or online at [www.warnertheatre.org](http://www.warnertheatre.org)

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#### 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](http://www.warnertheatre.org).

