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For Immediate Release

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**American Century Theater Presents Clarence Darrow
One-Man Show, Starring Paul Morella,
at Gaithersburg's Arts Barn, October 2-19**

In 2000, the American Century Theater launched its "Reflections" Series with its first premiere production of an original play: *I Cry Aloud—The Clarence Darrow Story*. A work-shop creation of TACT artistic director (and long-time Darrow buff) Jack Marshall, with contributions from director Terry Kester and star Paul Morella, the one-man show was crafted primarily from the legendary trial lawyer's own words, and included many of the dramatic courtroom arguments that made him, to this day, America's most revered, admired and quoted attorney. Adding to the drama was an examination of Darrow's darker side, fully exposed during the sensational McNamara trial in which Darrow was accused of bribery and jury tampering.

Morella's performance garnered rave reviews: The *Washington Post* called the original production **"impressive, absorbing ... The material is legendary and Paul Morella plays Darrow impeccably; his fluidity in the role seems natural, almost effortless."**

The play actually spawned a book, [The Essential Words and Writing of Clarence Darrow](#), co-edited by Marshall and Pulitzer Prize winning historian Ed Larson. Morella, with the permission and encouragement of The American Century Theater, formed his own production company to take the show on the road, for the past eight years presenting it to cheering audiences across the country at bar associations and universities. **Now his Clarence Darrow Productions and The American Century Theater are partnering with the Gaithersburg Arts Barn to present a new extended run of the play, revised, updated, streamlined and retitled *A Passion for Justice: The Clarence Darrow Story*. It will open at the Arts Barn October 2, and continue through October 19. Members of the Press wishing to review the show are welcome. October 2 and 3 are press performances.**

"This is something Paul and I have wanted to do for a long time," says Marshall, who is directing the revival. "The issues Darrow cared most about---capital punishment, racial justice, and the unfettered teaching of science in the classroom---remain subjects of debate and controversy today, almost a century since he tackled them in the courtroom. Paul has an incredibly strong connection to Darrow, the kind of deep admiration and

understanding that you seldom see between an actor and his subject, and it has only grown over the years, as he has kept the play alive. It's time to do it in a theater again.”

Paul Morella received unanimous critical acclaim and a Helen Hayes Award nomination for his performance as Roy Cohn in Tony Kushner's epic, *Angels in America*, and has appeared as prosecuting attorney Horace Gilmer in the world premiere of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, as well as attorney Jarreld Schwab opposite Julia Roberts in *The Pelican Brief*. He has performed leading roles in regional theater, film, television and radio for over 25 years. And Morella comes to the topics of law and public policy with a strong pedigree: his father is a lawyer and retired law professor, his mother is former Maryland congresswoman Connie Morella, and Paul himself teaches the Art of Persuasion as part of the Trial Advocacy Program at the Washington College of Law. His knowledge and passion for the subject matter uniquely qualifies him to portray one of the most brilliant and dynamic personalities of the 20th Century.

A Passion for Justice presents Darrow in a forum he often enjoyed during his life, talking about his ideas and life to an assembled audience. In addition to revealing the life experiences that formed this unique mind and personality, the play shows Darrow in his greatest crisis – his sensational trial for bribery and jury tampering –his stinging defeats, and his legendary triumphs: the Scopes “Monkey Trial,” the Leopold-Loeb “thrill murder” case, the Ossian Sweet civil rights trial, and many more, as the audience becomes the mesmerized juries that Darrow inspired like no other. The performance features Darrow's most emotional and explosive summations, his passionate pleas for mercy, and the famous showdown with William Jennings Bryan on the teaching of evolution.

The show will run Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. from October 2 through October 19, 2008. Admission is \$25, with a \$2 discount for City of Gaithersburg residents for the Friday and Saturday evening shows. A special ticket price of \$19, with a \$2 discount for City of Gaithersburg residents, is offered for the Thursday evening and Sunday matinee performances. The Arts Barn is located at 311 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg.

This show is suitable for ages 11 and up. For more information and tickets call 301-258-6394 or visit online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/artsbarn.

For most of its productions, The American Century Theater performs at Theater II, Gunston Arts Center, 2700 S. Lang Street, Arlington, Virginia 22206. **Its current production is *Dr. Cook's Garden*, directed by Ellen Dempsey, which runs until October 3.** For tickets, subscriptions, group sales or information call 703-998-4555, email info@americancentury.org, or visit www.americancentury.org.

The American Century Theater is a 501(c)(3) professional nonprofit theater company funded in part by the Arlington County Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, numerous foundations and many generous donors.