

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL PERCUSSION SENSATION STOMP TO RETURN TO THE LIED CENTER

Lincoln, NE—***STOMP***, the international sensation, is making its triumphant return to the Lied Center for Performing Arts on February 9 and 10 at 7:30 p.m. The return of the percussive hit also brings some new surprises, with some sections of the show now updated and restructured and the addition of two new full-scale routines, utilizing props like tractor tire inner tubes and paint cans.

“After creating new routines for ***STOMP OUT LOUD*** in Vegas, [co-creator] Luke Cresswell and I decided it was time to rework elements of our main production, ***STOMP***,” said co-creator Steve McNicholas. “***STOMP*** has evolved a great deal ever since its first incarnation at the Edinburgh Festival. Every reworking has involved losing some pieces and gaining new ones, but has always stayed true to the original premise of the show: to create rhythmic music with instantly recognizable objects, and do it with an eccentric sense of character and humor.”

The changes that can now be seen in the tour of ***STOMP*** are the biggest since the late 1990’s. A new piece “Paint Cans” evolved out of the “Boxes” routine in the Las Vegas show and “Donuts” is a piece that implements huge tractor tire inner tubes, worn around the waist on a bungee cord. For many years, the creators had looked for a ***STOMP*** equivalent of the Latin percussion instrument the *guiro*, a gourd-shaped open-ended instrument with ridges along the side that are rubbed by a wooden stick to create its sound. The climactic trashcan sequence “Bins” has been restructured to include a *guiro*-like new found instrument: strip-lighting recycling containers.

From its beginnings as a street performance in the UK, ***STOMP*** has grown into an international sensation over the past fourteen years, having performed in over 350 cities in 36 countries worldwide. ***STOMP*** continues its phenomenal run with the ongoing sell-out Off-Broadway production at New York's Orpheum Theatre, a North American tour, and two productions overseas - a London company and a European tour.

STOMP, an overwhelming success marked by rave reviews, numerous awards and sell-out engagements, is the winner of an Olivier Award for Best Choreography (London's Tony Award), a New York Obie Award, a Drama Desk Award for Unique Theatre Experience, and a Special Citation from Best Plays. The young performers “make a rhythm out of anything we can get our hands on that makes a sound,” says co-creator/director Luke Cresswell. Stiff-bristle brooms become a sweeping orchestra; Zippo lighters flip open and closed to create a fiery fugue; wooden poles thump and clack in a rhythmic explosion. ***STOMP*** uses everything but conventional percussion instruments – trashcans, tea chests, plastic bags, plungers, boots, and hubcaps – to fill the stage with compelling and infectious rhythms.

Critics and audiences have raved: “***STOMP*** is as crisp and exuberant as if it had opened yesterday,” says *The New York Times*. *The San Francisco Chronicle* declares “***STOMP*** has a beat that just won’t quit!” *The Los Angeles Times* exclaims: “Electrifying! Triumphs in the infinite variety of the human experience.” “A phenomenal show! Bashing, crashing, smashing, swishing, banging and kicking – a joyous invention!” says the *Chicago Tribune*.

STOMP is directed and created by Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas.

This performance is possible in part by generous support from Holiday Inn.

Tickets for this performance are \$47, \$42 and \$37. Students at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (as well as other participating colleges) with a valid I.D., as well as youth age 18 and younger, may purchase tickets for half price. Call the Lied Ticket Office at (402) 472-4747 or (800) 432-3231 for availability. Regular ticket office hours are 11 a.m.

to 5:30 p.m. weekdays. For weekday evening performances, Lied Center Ticket Office hours are from 11 a.m. until 30 minutes after show time. The Lied Center is located on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln at 301 North 12th Street. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.liedcenter.org.

As part of the Lied Center's ongoing education programming, a pre-performance talk will be held in the Lied Center's Steinhart Room a half hour before curtain or when the room is full. Noelle Bohaty, Interim Director of Education at the Lincoln Community Playhouse will give the pre-talk for the Tuesday performance and Vince Learned, theatre professional/staff accompanist for UNL's Dance Program, will give Wednesday's pre-talk.

The Lied Center's 20th season is supported by Friends of Lied and Union Bank. All events in the Lied Center are made possible entirely or in part by the Lied Performance Fund, which has been established in memory of Ernst F. Lied and his parents, Ernst M. and Ida K. Lied. The Nebraska Arts Council, a state agency, has supported the programs of this organization through its matching grants program funded by the Nebraska Legislature; the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. For more information, call the Nebraska Arts Council at (402) 595-2122.

For more information about **STOMP**, visit <http://www.stomponline.com>.

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