

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE HOBBIT TAKES IMAGINATION TO NEW HEIGHTS

Lincoln, NE –January 10, 2009 – J.R. R. Tolkein’s “The Hobbit” comes alive in an epic performance featuring incredible giant puppets at the Lied Center for Performing Arts on Friday, Feb.5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. It is a show for all ages and wizards! The Lied will also host a LIEDFamFest 90 minutes prior to the show.

Travel to the imaginary land of elves, trolls and wizards and enjoy “The Hobbit.” This giant theatrical puppet production tells the story of hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, and his exciting adventures on his quest to win a share of the treasure guarded by the dragon, Smaug. Along the way, experience fierce trolls, beautiful elves, giant slimy spiders and ghastly goblins.

Fantasy novel and children's book “The Hobbit” was published in 1937 to wide critical acclaim. In 1938, The Hobbit was awarded a prize from the New York Herald Tribune for best juvenile fiction of the year. More recently, the book has been recognized as "Most Important 20th-Century Novel (for Older Readers)" in the Children's Books of the Century poll in Books for Keeps. The book remains popular today and is recognized as a classic children's book.

A family friendly pre-show party, LIEDFamFest, featuring free food and hands on activities, like face painting and games, will take place an hour and a half prior to the performance. This event is sponsored by Runza, Pepsi and the Cookie Company.

Tickets for this performance are \$14. University of Nebraska-Lincoln students with a valid I.D., as well as youth age 18 or younger, may purchase tickets for half price. Call the Lied Ticket Office at (402) 472-4747 or (800) 432-3231 for ticket availability. Regular ticket office hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.liedcenter.org.

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.

The Lied Center 20th season is supported by Friends of Lied and grants from Association of Performing Arts Presenters; National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; Mid-America Arts Alliance; Nebraska Arts Council; New England Foundation for the Arts; and Lincoln Arts Council. 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.

For more information about **The Hobbit**, visit liedcenter.org

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