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**FOR RELEASE ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2011**

**BRIDGE STREET FOUNDATION**  
**IN COORDINATION WITH JED BERNSTEIN AND PEGGY McRAE**  
**SAVE BELOVED PENNSYLVANIA THEATER**  
**BUCKS COUNTY PLAYHOUSE**  
**JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS**

**New York, NY – Bucks County Playhouse**, the legendary and beloved theater in New Hope, Pennsylvania, will soon reopen thanks to the coordinated effort of the **Bridge Street Foundation**, Broadway Producer **Jed Bernstein**, and the Bucks County Playhouse Conservancy founder **Peggy McRae**. The acquisition of the property was completed on December 23, 2011. A local landmark that has sat empty since late 2010, **Bucks County Playhouse** has showcased some of Broadway's most recognizable talent since it opened in 1939. Under the leadership of producing director Jed Bernstein and, most importantly, with support from the local community, the Playhouse will soon return to its former glory. Announcements about future programming plans will be forthcoming early in January.


"We love this area and are excited to be able to bring back the theater," said **Kevin and Sherri Daugherty**, founders of the Bridge Street Foundation, in a statement. "There has been a tremendous show of support for this effort by the local community."

"I am delighted to be able to lend my producing experience to reviving this landmark. I see this project as an opportunity to showcase the kind of impact that great theater can have on a community like New Hope," said Bernstein. "The New Hope area is exceedingly lucky to have residents as generous and dedicated as Kevin and Sherri Daugherty and Peggy McRae and her BCPC associates Faith Wohl and Mary Acciani. I feel just as lucky to be able to embark on this mission by their side."

"My colleague Faith Wohl and I are so grateful that Kevin and Sherri plan to collaborate with us at BCPC," Peggy McRae said. "We are thrilled to work with them and with Jed to reopen the Playhouse. Its future couldn't be in better hands!"

Separately, Kevin and Sherri Daugherty have acquired the former Playhouse Inn property next to the theater. Regarding that acquisition, Kevin Daugherty said, "Our interest in the neighboring property is to provide improved waterfront access in a way that is complementary to the Playhouse and is consistent with the Borough's planning goals. Renovation of the building is expected to be a longer term project. The more immediate need is to get the Bucks County Playhouse open in time for the 2012 summer season."

**Bridge Street Foundation** is the nonprofit family foundation of Kevin and Sherri Daugherty and takes its name from the street that bridges Lambertville, NJ and New Hope, PA. Bridge Street was established to support the local community through the acquisition of important historic landmarks and aiding in their transition into self-sustaining contributors to the community. In addition to the Bucks County Playhouse, Bridge Street recently purchased the First Baptist Church of Lambertville, now renamed Lambertville Hall. Kevin Daugherty is the founder of Speyside Equity, a private equity firm that acquires and rebuilds underperforming businesses. Sherri Daugherty is the owner of Angel Hearts, an upscale women's boutique in Newtown, PA.



After 11 years as President of the League of American Theatres and Producers, now the Broadway League, **Jed Bernstein** launched Above The Title Entertainment, a theatre/television production company and marketing consultancy that combines his skills at marketing and promotion with his love for the theatre. While at the League, Jed provided leadership in developing such industry wide programs as: *Kids' Night on Broadway*, the *Internet Broadway Data Base*, and a corporate sponsorship program that generated \$150mm+ of cash and measurable media support over eight years. Jed also played a central role in the industry's response to the events of 9/11. Above the Title Entertainment projects have included the Off-Broadway critically acclaimed musical revue, *Don't Quit Your Night Job*; the 7-time Tony Award® nominated *Passing Strange*, the smash revival of *Equus*, starring Daniel Radcliffe and Richard Griffiths; David Mamet's highly praised *Oleanna*, starring Julia Stiles and Bill Pullman; the Tony Award®-winning revival of *Hair*; Stephen Schwartz's newly re-imagined *Working in Chicago*; and the Broadway and West End hit *Driving Miss Daisy* starring Vanessa Redgrave, James Earl Jones, and Boyd Gaines. He is currently co-producing *Rated P: For Parenthood*, opening February 26th, Off-Broadway. Mr. Bernstein is in his sixth year as executive director of the Commercial Theater Institute, a training program for young producers. He also serves on the board of The Actors Fund and was appointed to the Theatre Authority by Mayor Bloomberg.

**Peggy McRae**, The Founder of the Bucks County Playhouse Conservancy, is a local community activist who has been on a personal mission to save the 72 year-old Straw Hat Theatre for the past two years. As a Michigan State University grad with a strong background in marketing, she was transplanted to Buckingham Township in 1999 with her husband and two sons and embraced the region's rich cultural history of the Arts. Through this journey, she has received enthusiastic support for the project from many illustrious BCP Alumni as well as from numerous community leaders who have joined the team to rejuvenate this historic landmark.

Located 90 minutes from New York City, the **Bucks County Playhouse** opened in 1939 on the site of a grist mill dating from the late eighteenth century. Ironically, the structure was at that time in danger of demolition; however playwright Moss Hart and the local community rallied to save the building and reopened it as a theatrical venue. In continuous operation until December 2010, a veritable who's who of American theatrical royalty has trod its boards, including Kim Hunter, Helen Hayes, Kitty Carlisle, Colleen Dewhurst, Shirley Booth, Lillian Gish, June Lockhart, Grace Kelly, Robert Redford, Bert Lahr, Leslie Nielsen and Walter Matthau.

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