



# Springfield Little Theatre

The Crown Jewel Of The Ozarks

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Springfield, MO – February 23, 2011 - In January 2010, Springfield Little Theatre uncovered evidence that a former employee had misappropriated funds from the Theatre's box office. Those funds were taken from a separate account not related to the Theatre's general operating account or its accounts for grant funds, donor contributions or development campaigns. The individual believed to be responsible for the misappropriation has now been charged by the Greene County Prosecutor with felony stealing.

The misappropriation came to light after certain unexplained discrepancies were noted during the preparation of the Theatre's regular financial reports. An internal investigation was launched, and the method used and the individual believed to be responsible were discovered within a few days. The SLT board of directors immediately voted to terminate the individual believed to be responsible, and the incident was reported to authorities who launched a criminal investigation. Since that time, SLT has recovered a portion of the misappropriated funds under an insurance policy. The SLT board is hopeful that some or all of the remaining funds can be recovered through the pending criminal case.

Springfield Little Theatre's board and staff are committed to public accountability, transparency and responsiveness to the Theatre's patrons and supporters. They have worked very closely with the Springfield Police Department to compile the evidence needed to file these criminal charges, and they intend to cooperate fully with the Prosecutor as the pending criminal case proceeds to final resolution.

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