



For further information, contact Stacey Poirier
612-207-3659

spoirier@theatreunbound.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 8, 2008

THEATRE UNBOUND PRESENTS ELLIS AS BABE
Concert/reading of new musical celebrates world-renowned athlete
Babe Didrikson

Theatre Unbound presents singer-songwriter phenomenon **Ellis** in a concert reading of ***Babe: An Olympic Musical***, a new musical about one of the greatest athletes of all time: **Babe Didrikson**. With book and lyrics by **Carolyn Gage** (*The Second Coming of Joan of Arc; The Anastasia Trials in the Court of Women*) and music by **Andrea Jill Higgins**, *Babe* follows Didrikson from high school basketball star to Olympic medalist to **LPGA** founder, with a wealth of infectious musical numbers in the tradition of classic American musicals like *Oklahoma!* and *Annie Get Your Gun*.

Babe runs for three performances only:

Thursday, September 11, 7:30 PM

Friday, September 12, 7:30 PM

Saturday, September 13, 7:30 PM

at the Jeanne d'Arc Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine, 2004 Randolph Avenue in St. Paul. Ticket prices are sliding scale, \$8-\$20 – cash or checks only. Free parking is available at the O'Shaughnessy parking lot.

Reservations: 612-721-1186, ext. 1

"*Babe* is a ground-breaking work about a ground-breaking woman," says Unbound Artistic Director **Stacey Poirier**, "and we are delighted to be a part of its development." Gage adds, "I wanted to tell a story about a masculine woman, and I wanted to tell it in musical theatre, because there are so many brilliant and talented singers and actors who don't conform to the stereotypes for ingenues and chorus girls. Babe Didrikson broke the gender line in sports, and it's my hope that the musical about her struggle will break a similar gender line in mainstream theatre." "There are not many roles like this," Ellis agrees, "and I feel so honored to have this role."

Performers in the concert/reading will have rehearsed for about a week with Gage and Higgins; they will be reading and singing from scripts. The performances and post-show

discussions will give Gage and Higgins an opportunity to hear the text and music and to receive audience feedback – a critical step as they work to bring *Babe* to full production.

Supporting Ellis as Babe will be **Valerie Rigsbee** as Babe's sister Lillie, **Amy Lithander** as Babe's Mama, along with **Angela Walberg, Sophia Berg, Jennifer Eckes, Corey DeDanaan, Frank Matejcek, Billy Mullaney, Mike Rylander** and others.

About Theatre Unbound: Theatre Unbound produces high quality, visionary theatre created by women – powerful stories that represent women in active pursuit of their goals and desires; female perspectives on universal struggles and achievements.

###