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“PATTERNS MAKING THEMSELVES OUT OF NOTHING.” *ARCADIA* AT EDGE OF THE WOOD

CHICAGO, IL (November 6, 2017) – The Resident Theatre at Edge of the Wood presents *Arcadia*, Tom Stoppard’s comedy about truth, love, and science, in their space at the Edgebrook Community Church, November 10-19.

A story about math, sex, physics, curiosity, literature, scandal, and gardening, *Arcadia* leaps between the 19th and 20th centuries, following the history of an English country estate in Derbyshire. In the early 1800s it is the scene of love affairs, challenges, landscape architects and scientific study. In the 1990s, its residents use the fragments of the 19th century story as their jumping-off point for new mathematical, scientific and academic pursuits.

The characters in both time periods must also navigate the human interactions of sexual attraction, passion, greed, and curiosity. It’s this interplay of science, love, and chance that brings the story to life.

“*Arcadia* beautifully illustrates the interplay between perception and reality,” says director, Stacey Lind. “As humans, we’re hemmed in by what we don’t know. Our ignorance drives us to define our world the best way we can. Sometimes it’s through painstaking research. Sometimes it’s through unfounded ‘fake news’-style assertions. Sometimes our perception is colored by love, or anger, or habit. But perception is all we have to go on, and so we forge ahead, and build on those ideas and share them.”

One of the central themes of the show is the unpredictable path of just about everything — from the weather to gossip, from whether we die of natural causes, or in a fire, or after being bitten by a monkey. Yet despite the random nature of our world (or perhaps because of it) we still seek and find patterns and links to give it meaning. *Arcadia* deftly explores both the chaos and the connection of human experience.

As the characters hurtle from foolery to genius and from passion to reason, navigating the ever-changing paradigm of knowledge, we realize, though the landscape may be constantly changing, we easily see ourselves in their search for love and understanding.

ABOUT EDGE OF THE WOOD THEATRE

The Edge of the Wood school in Chicago’s Edgebrook Community Church is a complete theatre program where young people, ages 6-18, become versed in acting, improv, speech, movement, and musical theatre skills in a professional atmosphere. Now in its 18th year, Edge of the Wood has served hundreds of students, many of whom have gone on to careers in the performing arts and arts education.

The Resident Theatre at Edge of the Wood was founded in 2013 and produces family-friendly shows across genres, bringing professional-caliber theatre to the Edgebrook community, and engaging and inspiring young people as performers and theatre-goers. Past productions include the Pulitzer Prize-winning American classic *Our Town*, the ensemble of which Lt. David Haynes of WGN Radio called “phenomenal.”

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Press photos available at edgeofthewood.com/resident-theatre.