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P R E S S R E L E A S E

For Immediate Release
Contact: Michael Matthias, 302.227.2270
January 24, 2012

CLEAR SPACE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PURSUE ARTS EDUCATION IN MARYLAND

Ken Skrzysz, co-founder and Executive Director of Clear Space Theatre Company in Rehoboth Beach, has announced he has accepted an exciting new position with the Anne Arundel County Public Schools to help guide their arts education programming, officially as the Performing and Visual Arts Magnet Events & Extended Day Teacher Specialist.

Skrzysz was sought out by the school district because of his expertise and life-long successes in arts education throughout the country. The first task he has been charged with will be to work with the faculty of the Performance Plus and Saturday in the Arts programs to clarify curriculum and instruction at Wiley H. Bates Middle School in Annapolis, MD. While working at Bates, Ken will be instrumental in the creation of a new performing arts high school for the district.

“While I am heartbroken about leaving Clear Space and the wonderful community here, the next phase of my life is also very exciting,” says Skrzysz. “I fell in love with the people here. Their remarkable generosity has allowed and will continue to allow Clear Space to thrive and grow in wonderful new ways.”

In only eight years, Skrzysz developed, nurtured and guided what started as a discussion between himself, co-founder and Artistic Director Doug Yetter and members of the community into one of the most successful arts organizations in the state. Yetter stated, “I’m not certain anyone else could have believed as strongly in the dream of bringing professional quality theater to the area in the same way Ken always did.”

In addition to directing and choreographing nearly fifty shows for Clear Space and writing the book and lyrics for their annual production of “Scrooge!” Skrzysz was a frequent performer with the company and instrumental in the development of the company’s performing arts classes. Through classes with the Clear Space Arts Institute, students of all ages have studied acting, voice and dance. “Trying different approaches to get students excited about what the arts could mean in their lives in this community has been one of the most rewarding experience of my professional career,” he says. Clear Space Board Chair, Kay Ryan stated “Ken built a reputation for excellence in arts education at Clear Space and throughout his career – a legacy of which we are all proud. It will remain a hallmark of Clear Space’s Arts Institute programming.”

In September of 2010, the company realized a major goal by moving into their own permanent facility – a goal not thought possible until 2020. Clear Space is currently in the midst

of their 7th season of operation, with spring Arts Institute classes beginning on February 7th and the fourth production of the 2012-2013 season – Noel Coward’s, “Blithe Spirit” – opening February 3rd. Skrzysz will continue his involvement with Clear Space as a consultant and guest director and has the full support of the Clear Space staff and Board of Directors as he moves into his new position.

Clear Space Theatre Company maintains operations under the ongoing Executive Staff, comprised of Yetter, Managing Director Jennifer Hayward, Company Manager David Button, and Development Director Dana Peragallo.