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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS OPENING Sunday September 17
at 7pm

Stawdog Theatre Company proudly presents the first show of our 19th season

MARATHON '33

By June Havoc

Directed by Shade Murray

The BIGGEST show in Strawdog Theatre Company history!

CHICAGO- Continuing in its commitment to bring you **the whole wide world in a little black box**, Strawdog Theatre Company will present *MARATHON '33* by June Havoc directed by Shade Murray. Performances begin September 14 and run through October 28 at Strawdog Theatre, 3829 N. Broadway (half a block North of the intersection of Broadway and Halsted). There will be a special benefit performance on Saturday September 16, 2006 at 7pm. Tickets can be purchased by calling the box office at 773.528.9696 or on the web at www.strawdog.org.

Whatever happened to Dainty June? Daughter of Mama Rose and kid-sister to the famous Gypsy Rose Lee, playwright June Havoc is the original Dainty June herself. Her loosely autobiographical play, *MARATHON '33*, tells the tale of a former child star who too quickly outgrew her tiny toe-shoes, and the depths to which she would sink to find fame once again. Set during the Great Depression, *MARATHON '33* is a grand story of a dance marathon where June, down-on-their luck vaudevillians and other lost souls would spend over 3000 hours dancing for the cherished \$1500 prize. Director Shade Murray calls *MARATHON '33* "show business, through and through, trying to pass itself off as reality... features comedians, singers, dancers and acrobats, a dancing wedding, fights galore and elimination competitions reminiscent of the Coliseum." Raw, gritty and surprisingly funny, **this horserace of a play will feature 40 of the Off-Loop's most prolific and talented actors.** Murray chose Strawdog Theatre Company because "Stawdog prides itself in putting 'the whole world in a little black box,' and this show demands nothing less. The play is a panorama; a true spectacle...a play of such scale really allows us to take advantage of all the diverse talents of each Strawdog ensemble member at the same time! Getting this show up is no small task, and its what Strawdog is all about. "

Strawdog Artistic Associate Shade Murray returns after directing their 2003 Jeff Citation winning *Detective Story* which garnered Best Production, Best Ensemble, Best Director and Best Scenic Design. An Artistic Associate of Writer's Theatre of Chicago, Murray directed last season's smash productions of *The Subject Was Roses* and *The Chosen*. Murray has also directed for numerous Chicago theatre companies including Roadworks, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Shattered Globe, About Face Theater, Shakespeare's Motley Crew, Collaboraction, A Red Orchid and Second City with *Fatty Arbuckle's Spectacular Musical Revue* at Martyr's in the Winter of 2005. His other Strawdog credits include *Our Country's Good* and STRAWDOG WIRELESS: PROGRAMME V with world premiere radio plays by Brett Neveu.

MARATHON '33 runs from September 14 – October 28, 2006 at Strawdog Theatre Company, 3829 N. Broadway. Tickets can be purchased by calling 773.528.9696 or on the web at www.strawdog.org. General run tickets are \$20 and Students and Seniors are \$15. Previews are September 14 and 15 at 8pm and tickets are \$10. There will be a special benefit performance on Saturday September 16 at 7pm and tickets are \$40. Opening night is September 17 at 7pm and tickets are \$20. Estimated running time of the show is 2 hours. Performances will be Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 7pm through October 28, 2006.

PRESS OPENING is Sunday September 17, 2006 at 7pm. Please RSVP to SHANNON HOAG at 773.209.6446 (cell) or 773.528.9889x3 (office) or shannonhoag@strawdog.org

Press photos and releases are available to be downloaded at www.strawdog.org/press. If you need them in any other format please contact Shannon Hoag at 773.209.6446 or shannonhoag@strawdog.org.

MARATHON '33 will feature 40 of Chicago's most dynamic and prolific performers featuring ten members of **the award-winning Strawdog acting ensemble including:** Michael Dailey, Anita B. Deely, John Ferrick, Carmine Grisolia, Chris Hainsworth, Kyle Hamman, Tom Hickey, Shannon Hoag, Anderson Lawfer and Kat McDonnell. Strawdog Theatre Company is pleased to welcome Guest Artists: Jamie Abelson, Carmen Aiello, Brian Amidei, Janet Brooks, Amanda Christensen, Amy Dunlap, Amanda Eaton, Matt Engle, Mierka Girtten, Kevin Grubb, Melanie Keller, Laurie Larson, Nick Lewis, Laura McKenzie, John Moran, Michaela Petro, Molly Reynolds, Helen Sadler, Sara Sevigny, Noah Simon and Scott Westerman. The *MARATHON '33* band, directed by ensemble member Don Cardiff, will be led by Ensemble Member Kevin Richey and will feature guest artists: Dan Apadaca, Paul Foster, Paul Gilvary, Neva Whipple and Shaun Whitley. Robert Moore will design the set, Ensemble member Allison Greaves will co-design the costumes with Member Emeritus Elea Crowther, Ensemble member Sean Mallary will design the lights, Ensemble Member Mikhail Fiksel will design the sound, Eileen Mallary will choreograph, and Ensemble Member Erin Carlson will stage manage.

About Strawdog Theatre Company

STRAWDOG THEATRE COMPANY – The whole wide world in a little black box. From fresh takes on the classics and kitchen-sink dramas to inventive world premieres, we are committed to presenting great stories. We tell these stories to provoke the important questions and excite the imagination of our audiences. And we use our amazing, intimate space to fully immerse people into the unique worlds that we create for each one of our productions.

Founded in 1988, the Strawdog ensemble has consistently produced shows built on authentic human connections, and our comfortable 72-seat home in Lakeview is perfect for offering our audience a quintessential Chicago storefront theatre experience. Please visit www.strawdog.org for more information about Strawdog Theatre Company and our upcoming, landmark 20th Season!

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