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Stagebridge Founder Stuart Kandell honored as “Sole of the Year” by Barefoot Wine

Oakland, CA (February 1, 2014) - Stuart Kandell, founder of Stagebridge Senior Theatre, was recently selected as a 2014 “Sole of the Year” by Barefoot Wine of Modesto, California. Stagebridge celebrates its 35th anniversary in 2014 and it is a delight for Stuart to be recognized on this occasion. Both Stuart and Stagebridge are celebrated nationally for accomplishments in the field of Creative Aging—and thanks to Barefoot Wine, the celebration is even sweeter!

“The ‘Soles of the Year’ program celebrates people who are the backbone of diverse philanthropic organizations,” explains Matthew Farver of Barefoot Wine. “They put their heart and ‘sole’ into the causes they support and for that we raise a glass to each of them!” To help celebrate the program, Barefoot will provide support for Stagebridge and help to tell their story. For more information about Stagebridge, please visit www.stagebridge.org.

Stagebridge, based in Oakland, California, is the nation’s oldest and most renowned theatre company of older adults. Founded in 1978, the company’s mission is to transform the lives of older adults and their communities through the performing arts. Stagebridge accomplishes this with award-winning Creative Aging programs that offer older adults opportunities for lifelong learning and participation in the performing arts. Stagebridge’s unique position as a theatre company “for and of” seniors demonstrates in action the many ways in which elders enrich our culture and our communities.

Stagebridge offer professionally-taught classes for seniors in its **Performing Arts Training Institute**, as well as storytelling programs in Bay Area public schools in its **Storybridge** program. Through **Seniors Reaching Out** events, the company brings high-quality entertainment and hands-on classes to community venues that serve both active and frail elders. Stagebridge also contributes to the quality of life for seniors by providing performance-based staff training to healthcare workers and senior services providers. Lastly, Stagebridge produces public storytelling performances and new theatrical works that showcase the rich and varied experiences of older adults to a multigenerational audience.

Stagebridge is the winner of the 2013 MetLife Foundation Creative Aging Award and the 2009 American Society on Aging MetLife MindAlert Award. The company’s work has been featured on ABC-TV, CNN, National Public Radio, in The Huffington Post, Modern Maturity, Oakland Magazine, Storytelling Magazine and at national and regional conferences. Stagebridge’s award-winning programs are beginning to be replicated in Hollywood and Santa Cruz, California.

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