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**THEATRE ESPRESSO PRESENTS**  
**THE CONFESSION OF ANN PUTNAM**

**Boston, Mass.** – What responsibility does an individual have to others in a society where there is no separation between church and state? What role does social class play in the administration of justice? Can justice even be carried out in a society in which the legal system seems to have broken down? Theatre Espresso explores these questions in their play *The Confession of Ann Putnam*, about the Salem witch trials of 1692. Students from the [your school] \_\_\_\_\_ will be among the first in [your town] \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in this interactive performance – in role as members of the congregation of Salem Village in 1706. They will decide the fate of Ann Putnam, one of the youngest accusers during the ‘witchcraft hysteria’ that gripped Salem Village. Over 2,000 students in Massachusetts and other New England states have experienced *The Confession of Ann Putnam*. In addition to schools like [your school] \_\_\_\_\_, *The Confession of Ann Putnam* has been presented at libraries, museums, and courthouses throughout New England, including the Moakley Federal Courthouse in Boston. **For further information about *The Confession of Ann Putnam* please contact Managing Director, Derek Nelson at (617) 899-1635 or dstonenelson@aol.com.**

**About *The Confession of Ann Putnam***

On August 24, 1706, fourteen years after the “witch hysteria” seized Puritan Massachusetts, Ann Putnam delivers a startling confession to the congregation of Salem Village. One of the chief accusers during the witchcraft trials of 1692, Ann confesses that she was wrong in her accusations, which led to the deaths of many innocent people. During the play, Ann recounts the events that led to her accusations. As members of the congregation of Salem Village, students interrogate Ann about her actions and determine whether she is to be forgiven and allowed into the congregation or deemed an outcast forever.

**About Theatre Espresso**

Theatre Espresso creates, produces, and performs interactive dramas that bring history to life for students, in order to foster a generation of critical thinkers and true citizens. Since 1992, Theatre Espresso has toured its educational dramas to schools, museums, libraries, and courthouses throughout New England. Inspired by the highly successful Theatre-in-Education teams of Great Britain and by the belief that drama is a potent teaching tool, Theatre Espresso’s work challenges students to make critical judgments, explore social relationships, reflect on the role of law and human rights in our society, and question accepted truths about the history of America. These plays confront students with complex situations—based on actual historical events—that provoke a variety of opinions and solutions. Justice Stephen G. Breyer of the U.S. Supreme Court said of Theatre Espresso’s work: “[Their] object is to have students understand, in a dramatic way, the history of law in this country and the role the judicial system has played in our

history. This kind of thing will make them treasure what we have. I'd like to see it expanded." [*The New York Times*, 6/9/04] Theatre Espresso is currently researching and writing a new drama about the school desegregation case in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957, which will premiere in the autumn of 2008. Please visit Theatre Espresso on the web at [www.TheatreEspresso.org](http://www.TheatreEspresso.org).

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