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**THEATRE ESPRESSO PRESENTS**  
**JUSTICE AT WAR: THE JAPANESE INTERNMENT CAMPS**

**Boston, Mass.** – What responsibility does the government have to citizens and non-citizens during times of war or national emergency? What role does ethnicity or social class play in the administration of justice? Do the constitutional powers of the executive branch supersede those of the judicial branch during wartime? Theatre Espresso explores these questions in their play *Justice at War: The Japanese Internment Camps*, about the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. Students from the [your school] \_\_\_\_\_ will be among the first in [your town] \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in this interactive performance – in role as associate justices of the Supreme Court in 1944. They will decide the fate of Mitsuye Endo and thousands of other Japanese-Americans interned in specially built facilities throughout the western United States. Over 3,000 students in Massachusetts and other New England states have experienced *Justice at War*. In addition to schools like [your school] \_\_\_\_\_, *Justice at War* has been presented at libraries, museums, and courthouses throughout New England, including the JFK Library and the Moakley Federal Courthouse in Boston. **For further information about *Justice At War* please contact Managing Director, Derek Nelson at (617) 899-1635 or dstonenelson@aol.com.**

**About *Justice at War***

Mitsuye Endo, a young woman being held at the Topaz Internment Camp during W.W. II, declares that her detention by the U.S. government is unconstitutional. With the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, she takes her case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Citing the government's constitutional right to suspend "the Writ of Habeas Corpus...in cases of Rebellion or Invasion," Solicitor General Fahey defends the existence of the camps. In the role of Supreme Court Justices, students hear testimony, interrogate witnesses, and reflect on crucial questions raised by the case. Finally, students decide whether the internment camps are a matter of national security or a product of racism.

**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 1957 school desegregation case in Little Rock, Arkansas, that will premiere in Fall 2008. Please visit Theatre Espresso on the web at [www.TheatreEspresso.org](http://www.TheatreEspresso.org).

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