PRESS RELEASE – November 4th 2013

SIX MONTHS AFTER ITS WORLD PREMIERE AT THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE, ROALD DAHL'S CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY, DIRECTED BY SAM MENDES, SETS A NEW WEST END THEATRE RECORD

- **Last week the production reported the highest weekly gross box office for a West End theatre - £1,062,606**
- **The production has now taken £21 million in ticket sales and is taking bookings for performances up to 1st November 2014**
- **The making of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* features in an hour-long special opening episode of Channel 4's series *The Story of Musicals***
- **Sir Terry Wogan hosts a Gala performance of the musical in aid of BBC Children in Need on 7th November**
- **The cast will perform on the Royal Variety Show, to be screened on ITV in December**
- **The production will provide behind the scenes work placements as part of Warner Bros. Creative Talent**

Last week (Monday 28th October to Saturday 2nd November 2013) Roald Dahl's' *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* broke the West End record for the highest reported weekly gross sales. Over the course of the nine show week almost 20,000 people saw the musical at Theatre Royal Drury Lane achieving a record value of £1,062,606. This figure also breaks the show's own Drury Lane record set in August 2013. Since the box office opened in October 2012 the show has taken £21million in ticket sales and is now booking through to November 2014.

On Tuesday 12 November at 9pm Channel 4 broadcasts the first in a four part series about musicals in the West End. Commissioned by Tabitha Jackson, the first hour-long episode in *The Story of Musicals* is dedicated entirely to the making of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. The team from Fresh One productions was granted exclusive access behind the scenes at rehearsals and on opening night and the documentary features interviews with Director, Sam Mendes, the creative team and cast members.

On Thursday 7th November, Sir Terry Wogan will host a special Gala performance of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* in aid of BBC Children in Need. The performance, which will be attended by a line-up of BBC Radio DJs and friends, as well as 2000 members of the

public, aims to raise over £50,000 for the charity's annual campaign which provides grants to projects in the UK which focus on children and young people who are disadvantaged.

The cast of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* will join Gary Barlow, *Attraction* - winners of Britain's Got Talent, Brit Award winner Olly Murs and Dame Edna Everage, along with a host of other UK and international talent yet to be announced, to perform at the Royal Variety Show 2013 on 25 November at the London Palladium. The event, produced by ITV Studios and staged in aid of the Entertainment Artistes' Benevolent Fund, whose patron is Her Majesty The Queen, will be screened on ITV in December.

The production is involved in Warner Bros. Creative Talent, a programme which supports the next generation of UK creative industries' talent with scholarships attached to work placements and mentoring, apprenticeships and training course, giving people from all backgrounds invaluable industry experience and insight across Warner Bros.' UK film, TV, games and theatre operations. Five work placements are to be offered behind the scenes at *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, with the most talented student receiving an additional three month placement.

Olivier and Tony Award®-winning actor Douglas Hodge plays Willy Wonka in Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, directed by Sam Mendes, which opened at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane on 25th June 2013.

Featuring ingenious stagecraft, the wonder of the original story that has captivated the world for almost 50 years is brought to life with music by Marc Shaiman, and lyrics by Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman, a book by award-winning playwright and adaptor David Greig, set and costume designs by Mark Thompson and choreography by Peter Darling.

Alongside Douglas Hodge, the cast includes Nigel Planer as Grandpa Joe, Clive Carter as Mr Salt, Jasna Ivir as Mrs Gloop, Paul J Medford as Mr Beauregarde, Iris Roberts as Mrs Teavee, Billy Boyle as Grandpa George, Alex Clatworthy as Mrs Bucket, Roni Page as Grandma Josephine, Myra Sands as Grandma Georgina and Jack Shalloo as Mr Bucket.

The Official Cast Recording album is available now on Sony Records, on CD and download.

This world premiere musical is produced by Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures, Neal Street Productions and Langley Park Productions.

www.CharlieandtheChocolateFactory.com
Box Office: 0844 858 8877
Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London, WC2B 5JF

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

- **Press Representatives:** Ryan Petersen / Stephen Pidcock / Charlotte Bayley at The Corner Shop PR + 44 (0)20 7831 7657 **ryan@thecornershoppr.com / stephen@thecornershoppr.com / charlotte@thecornershoppr.com**
- The Gross Box Office figure is the entire value of the paid attendance for the quoted week
- The figure of £21 million is calculated by adding the total value of all performances played so far to sales already made for future performances ('the advance').

- The previous reported nine performance record of £1,002,885 was achieved by *Wicked* in December 2010
- Roald Dahl's
  CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
  Directed by Sam Mendes
  Book by David Greig
  Music by Marc Shaiman
  Lyrics by Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman
  Set and costume design by Mark Thompson
  Choreography by Peter Darling

THE PRODUCERS

WARNER BROS. THEATRE VENTURES
Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures is the live stage play division of Warner Bros. Entertainment, responsible for developing and producing first-class productions for the stage. In addition to this production, Theatre Ventures recently premiered the original musical *Secondhand Lions* at Seattle's 5th Avenue Theatre and is readying a new production of the Stephen King drama *Misery* for Broadway, with Oscar-winner Bill Goldman adapting his 1990 screenplay for the stage. Theatre Ventures is actively developing a number of other productions, including musical adaptations of *Beetlejuice* and *Dave*, and is also involved with several co-productions with award-winning Broadway, film and television producers, including Andrew Lloyd Webber's version of *The Wizard of Oz* currently in Toronto and on tour soon in the USA.

During the 2012 holiday season, Theatre Ventures was represented on Broadway by the return of its hit *Elf: The Musical*, which broke the Hirschfeld Theatre's box office record five out of the nine weeks of its inaugural limited holiday engagement in 2010.

In addition to its development and co-production slate, Theatre Ventures also has numerous licensed properties in production worldwide, including the Olivier-winning *Top Hat* and Olivier-nominated *The Bodyguard*, as well as *The Color Purple, Doctor Zhivago, 42nd Street, Hairspray, The Light in the Piazza* and *Singin' in the Rain* along with the upcoming *The Bridges of Madison County* and *Diner*.

Warner Bros. Entertainment, a Time Warner Company, is a fully integrated, broad-based entertainment company and a global leader in the creation, production, distribution, licensing and marketing of all forms of creative content and their related businesses, across all current and emerging media and platforms. The company stands at the forefront of every aspect of the entertainment industry from feature film, TV and home entertainment production and worldwide distribution to DVD, digital distribution, animation, comic books, licensing, international cinemas and broadcasting.

NEAL STREET PRODUCTIONS
Theatre Producer Caro Newling

Formed in 2003 by Sam Mendes, Pippa Harris and Caro Newling to produce film, television and theatre. Previously Mendes & Newling established and ran the Donmar Warehouse 1992 - 2002.

Recent theatre includes: *The Bridge Project*, a three-year transatlantic venture with the Old Vic/Brooklyn Academy of Music presenting five classic plays for world-wide stages, directed by Sam Mendes: *The Winter's Tale/The Cherry Orchard* with Simon Russell Beale and Rebecca Hall, *The Tempest/As You Like It* with Stephen Dillane and Juliet Rylance, *Richard III* with Kevin Spacey. Also *Shrek the Musical* by Jeanine Tesori and David Lindsay-Abaire produced with DreamWorks Animation at Theatre Royal Drury Lane. Previously: *Three Days of Rain* with James McAvoy, *The Vertical Hour* with Julianne Moore and Bill Nighy, *The Painkiller* with Kenneth Branagh and Rob Brydon, and World/UK premieres of *The House of Special Purpose* by Heidi Thomas, *All About My Mother* by Sam Adamson, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Steve Canny & Peepolykus, *Days of Wine and Roses* new version by Owen McCafferty, *Anna in the Tropics* by Nilo Cruz and *Fuddy Meers* by David Lindsay-Abaire.

West End/Broadway transfers: *South Downs/The Browning Version, Enron* (Chichester Festival Theatre) *Hamlet, Mary Stuart* and *Red* (Donmar Warehouse), *Sunday in the Park with George* and *Merrily We Roll Along* (Menier Chocolate Factory).

Film and TV includes: *Call the Midwife, Stuart A Life Backwards*, *Starter for Ten*, *Things We Lost in the Fire*, *Jarhead*, *Revolutionary Road*, *Away We Go*, *Blood* and *The Hollow Crown* for BBC Two featuring *Richard II* (dir Rupert Goold) *Henry IV Part 1* & *Part 2* (dir Richard Eyre) and *Henry V* (dir Thea Sharrock).

NSP has recently welcomed Nicolas Brown as co-director to work on forthcoming TV & film projects.

Staff List:
NEAL STREET PRODUCTIONS
Directors: Nicolas Brown, Pippa Harris, Sam Mendes, Caro Newling
Head of Production: Milly Leigh
Assistant to Sam Mendes: Melanie Jones
Executive Co-ordinator: Caroline Reynolds
General Assistant: Dipo Faloyin

LANGLEY PARK PRODUCTIONS

Kevin McCormick (Producer) is President of Langley Park Productions, a studio-based production company at Warner Bros. McCormick recently produced the romantic drama *The Lucky One*, starring Zac Efron, and the 2011 comedy *Arthur*, starring Russell Brand and Helen Mirren. He was also a producer on *The Gangster Squad*, starring Sean Penn, Josh Brolin, Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone.

Previously, McCormick was President of Production at Warner Bros. Pictures. Assuming that post in January 2008, he had day-to-day oversight of, and responsibility for, Warner Bros. Pictures' creative team and the movies produced by the company, including such award-winning and critically acclaimed films as *Gran Torino; The Dark Knight*, which broke box office records worldwide and is currently the third-highest-grossing film of all time, domestically; *The Hangover*, which is, domestically, the highest grossing R-rated comedy of all time; and the worldwide hit *Sherlock Holmes*. Among the studio's other films during his tenure were *Get Smart*, the top-grossing *Harry Potter* franchise, *The Informant!*, *Watchmen* and *Terminator Salvation*. In addition, he oversaw the division's

London office and reported directly to Jeff Robinov, President, Warner Bros. Pictures Group.

McCormick joined Warner Bros. Pictures in 1999 as Executive Vice President, Production, overseeing such notable films as Tim Burton's *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, *Michael Clayton*, *Blood Diamond*, *The Last Samurai*, *Matchstick Men*, *Insomnia*, *Syriana*, and Burton's *Corpse Bride* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

McCormick began his career as an executive producer on the film *Saturday Night Fever*.