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**VICTORIA THEATRE ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES
NEW UNIVERSAL 1 VARIETY SERIES FOR 2007-2008 SEASON**

(Dayton, OH) – May 1, 2007 – Everyone needs a little variety in their lives. Victoria Theatre Association has just the ticket – and it’s sure to become one of the hottest tickets in town!

Victoria Theatre Association has just unveiled the lineup for the brand-new **Universal 1 Variety Series**, an eclectic mix of performing arts entertainment. The premiere season includes: *The Passing Zone* on January 17, 2008, *Man 1, Bank 0* on March 12, 2008, and *The East Village Opera Company* on April 8, 2008. All three shows will be presented at the Victoria Theatre.

“The **Universal 1 Variety Series** represents something entirely new for us and is an exciting chance to reach new audiences,” says Dione Kennedy, President & CEO of Victoria Theatre Association. “Each performance will be a one-of-a-kind, one-night event, and the mood will be informal, with a style that is casual and off the cuff.”

The new series is made possible in part through the support of series sponsor Universal 1 Credit Union. Universal 1 Credit Union was founded in 1937 in Dayton and prides itself on being a community-minded organization.

“Universal 1 Credit Union is proud to sponsor the new **Universal 1 Variety Series**,” says Loren Rush, President and CEO of Universal 1 Credit Union. “As the largest Dayton-based credit union, this is a great opportunity to bring the people of our community together through the arts.”

Kicking off the **Universal 1 Variety Series**, *The Passing Zone* comes to Dayton on January 17, 2008. Take two guys with chainsaws, put them in tights, throw in a Garden Weasel, and what do you get? They’re called *The Passing Zone*, and they will amaze you and make you laugh. Since 1988, Jon Wee and Owen Morse have been performing all over the world – wearing tights while tossing gasoline-powered destruct-o-devices at each other! *The Passing Zone* was a finalist on the first season of “America’s Got Talent,” where the duo got to “hassle The Hoff.” *The Passing Zone* has also been seen on “The Tonight Show,” “CBS This Morning,” “The Today Show,” “MADtv,” “ESPN’s Amazing Games,” “Penn & Teller’s Sin City Spectacular” and in *The Addams Family* movie. On top of that, the duo holds five Guinness World Records and has won 18 gold medals from the International Jugglers Association.

media release



On March 12, 2008, Patrick Combs presents his outrageously funny true story and Off-Broadway hit, ***Man 1, Bank 0***. This is the amazing-but-true story of how Combs deposited a \$95,093.35 junk-mail check marked “non-negotiable” – hoping to spread a little banking cheer to tellers - and how it erupted into a staggering and funny David vs. Goliath-like adventure that still continues today. What happened after the bank cashed the ridiculous check? Angry banking officers threatening “jail time” and “death,” astonishing legal twists, and worldwide media coverage, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times* and “Good Morning America,” to name just a few! The show’s tour has been sold out in venues from New York to New Zealand and was an official selection of HBO’s US Comedy Arts Festival and a Critic’s Choice for the 2005 Spoleto Festival.

Rounding out the first season, you’ve heard opera, and you’ve heard rock – but you’ve never heard opera rocked like ***The East Village Opera Company***. April 8, 2008, *The East Village Opera Company* – a powerhouse five-piece band, a string quartet, and two outstanding vocalists – brings the towering emotion and timeless musicality of opera into the 21st century at the Victoria Theatre. This 11-person group takes opera classics and respectfully turns out majestic rock anthems. By embracing what they call “the pomposity of rock *and* the pomposity of opera” without demeaning or satirizing either form, *The East Village Opera Company* flies where countless other “classical-crossover” efforts have failed.

Be among the first to get seats for this hot new series – subscriptions for the three-show **Universal 1 Variety Series** are available now and start at just \$70. Subscriptions may be purchased through Ticket Center Stage, either at the Schuster Center box office in downtown Dayton or by phone, at (937) 228-3630 or toll free (888) 228-3630. Ticket Center Stage hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday, noon - 4 p.m., and two hours prior to each performance.

For more information about Victoria Theatre Association and its 2007-2008 season, visit **www.victoriatheatre.com**.

Victoria Theatre Association is one of Dayton’s premier arts organizations. Its 2007-2008 season includes the JPMorgan Chase Broadway Series, the Young at Heart Family Series, the Michelob Ultra Cool Films series, Star Attractions, the new Universal 1 Variety Series, and the Physicians for Kids Discovery series, which features curriculum-enhanced live theatre productions for school children. Victoria Theatre Association is proud of its alliance with the Dayton Opera Association and its collaboration on The Loft Series 1 with The Human Race Theatre Company.

In addition to the performances it presents, Victoria Theatre Association also manages the historic Victoria Theatre, the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center, and the Metropolitan Arts Center, which houses The Loft Theatre. Victoria Theatre Association receives funding from a variety of diverse public, corporate, individual and private sources, including the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District and the Ohio Arts Council. The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this program or organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.