

June 7, 2001

SCHAKOWSKY CONGRATULATES VICTORY GARDENS THEATER OF CHICAGO FOR TONY AWARD

WASHINGTON, D.C. - I am proud today to congratulate the Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago, Illinois. On Sunday night, they became only the third Chicago theater to receive the prestigious Tony Award for regional theater.

This award, the highest recognition an artist or theater can receive, is given to a regional theater company that has displayed a continuous level of artistic achievement contributing to the growth of theater nationally. Founded in 1974, by eight Chicago artists, the Victory Gardens Theater has continued to introduce theater-goers to fresh, original, and innovative productions.

I am proud that the nation is finally being let in on a secret we Chicagoans have known for years: that bigger is not always better and that in the end, quality, courage, and determination will be rewarded. I salute the Tony Award-winning Victory Gardens Theater and I appreciate the contributions of the Theater to the Chicago community and to the arts.