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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**'TUSK' SELECTED FOR NEW YORK MUSICAL THEATRE FESTIVAL**

**Albany...** The Capital Region's born musical, TUSK, has been selected to be part of the New York Musical Theater Festival (NYMF) one of 18 shows selected out of over 200 submissions. This inaugural event will be from September 13, 2004 to October 3, 2004 in Manhattan.

TUSK, was co-written by Rexford resident, Norman Rea and Berne resident, Steven Yuhasz along with Steven Billing and composer Bryon Sommers —with additional music by David Salih and Craig Strang. TUSK premiered in September 2003 at the Empire State Plaza Center for the Performing Arts, The Egg, as part of the NEW YORK/NEW WORKS initiative. The Capital Region cast was comprised of Benita Zahn, Carrie Weiss, Sandra Bargman, Ward Dales, Peter Lacijan, Rob Dalton, Dane Wilson and Gretel Wilson.

TUSK was selected to be part of the New York Musical Theater Festival by a jury made up of theatre luminaries (Scott Schwartz, Director of WICKED for example). Through the Next Link project, which is a component of the New York Musical Theatre Festival, the goal is to reach out to commercial producers and regional theatres, for which NYMF represents an opportunity to find new works with the greatest potential for future success. "There are so many talented artists writing musicals, and I am delighted that they will be given this opportunity to showcase their work", said Robyn Goodman, producer of AVENUE Q and BAT BOY.

In order to raise the funds for the Manhattan production, Rea and Yuhasz have re-assembled the Capital Region cast and will present three 90 minute cabaret/concert versions of TUSK at the Malt River Brewing Company in Latham. Shows are scheduled for Tuesday, August 10 at 7:30 p.m., and two shows Sunday at 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and include complimentary appetizers. There will also be a silent auction and cash bar.

TUSK is the story of a family of elephants and follows them on their journey from the rain forest to the circus and beyond. TUSK deals with universal themes of survival and endurance and how we have to pull from our strengths to keep us from extinction.

Reservations are requested for the cabaret/concerts and may be reserved by calling: **(518) 872-0063**. For additional information visit: [www.tuskamusical.com](http://www.tuskamusical.com) and [www.nymf.org](http://www.nymf.org).