

## **Press Release** *For Immediate Release*

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### **Renovation of Historic Ford's Theatre Spearheaded by Local Design + Construction Strategy Experts**

**HOUSTON, February 10, 2009** — Irvine Team today announced its completion of a massive renovation to the 144-year-old Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. The announcement was made by Dennis Irvine, president and CEO of Houston-based Irvine Team, the nation's expert in consulting and managing large design + construction projects.

Ford's Theatre is most widely known as the historic theatre in which Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. Since reopening in 1968, the theatre has emerged as one of Washington's premier tourist stops. In 2005, Irvine Team was hired to spearhead the most comprehensive renovation to the theatre and national historic site since its 1960s restoration, working in tandem with the National Park Service and its theatre production partner, Ford's Theatre Society.

Irvine Team's renovations have enhanced and modernized the facility to include a spacious lobby and welcoming theatre entrance, new theatrical rigging, sound and lighting systems, improved heating and air conditioning systems, new theatre seating and upgrades compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The grand reopening celebration will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, at Ford's Theatre, followed by an invitation-only evening that will include a tribute to Abraham Lincoln and his legacy, the presentation of the Lincoln Medal to filmmaker George Lucas and screen legend Sidney Poitier, and a dinner at the National Portrait Gallery.

"Ford's Theatre has emerged as a world-class working theatre, offering a high-quality historic and cultural experience and providing a major center for learning to its more than one

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million visitors each year,” said Irvine. “With its reopening, Ford’s Theatre will continue to enthrall visitors because of its unique place in United States history, celebrate the legacy of Abraham Lincoln and explore the American experience through theatre and education.”

Among Irvine Team’s projects are many high-profile Houston buildings, including Lakewood Church, Memorial Hermann Heart & Vascular Institute, Memorial Hermann Mischer Neurosciences Institute, Houston Area Women’s Center and Alley Theatre, among others.

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