

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Katie Wengert, SH&G
kwengert@salisburyhouse.org
(515) 274-1777

**Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory:"
A Special One Night Performance to
Benefit Shakespeare on the Lawn
at Salisbury House in 2013**

Des Moines, IA (October 18, 2012) — Salisbury House & Gardens (SH&G) is pleased to announce a "one night only" performance of Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory* in the intimate setting of Salisbury House's Common Room. Doors will open at 6:30 pm on Thursday, November 29, for a light reception, with curtain time at 7:30 pm sharp. The performance will be produced by Repertory Theater of Iowa (RTI), reprising their critically acclaimed presentation of this heart-touching holiday story from the Des Moines Social Club in December 2011.

All proceeds from *A Christmas Memory* will be put to the benefit of the 2013 production of *Shakespeare on the Lawn at Salisbury House*, presented in partnership between SH&G and RTI after a one-year hiatus in 2012. An announcement revealing the performance dates and the chosen play for the 2013 *Shakespeare on the Lawn at Salisbury House* will be made in the opening remarks preceding *A Christmas Memory*.

"I am delighted that Salisbury House will once again be able to partner with Repertory Theater of Iowa to present Shakespeare on the Lawn during the summer of 2013," says SH&G Executive Director J. Eric Smith. "I am proud to claim these experienced, professional central Iowa artists as creative partners, and can think of no better venue to present Shakespeare than Salisbury House. Our grounds are shaded by ancient oaks, lined with flower beds evoking the English gardens of Shakespeare's era. Our actors and sets will be framed by the House's distinctive English Tudor stone work, Gothic arches and Carolean brickwork. Our furnishings and library contain many items from Shakespeare's time, including ceiling beams from the White Hart Inn, where the Bard actually once watched his own plays being performed. This is how Shakespeare should be experienced."

SH&G is grateful for the lead gift awarded by Principal Financial Group for *Shakespeare on the Lawn at Salisbury House*, which will also support a Shakespeare Summer Camp for children, and two additional special "one night only" RTI performances at Salisbury House in February and May 2013, which will be announced via separate press releases at a later date.

Tickets for *A Christmas Memory* are \$40 for adults, \$36 for SH&G members and \$25 for students. Seating is limited for this performance and advance ticket purchases are encouraged at www.salisburyhouse.org or (515) 274-1777. For additional information on the relationship between SH&G and William Shakespeare, see the attached point paper: "Why Shakespeare Belongs at Salisbury House."

Salisbury House & Gardens is a 42-room historic house museum owned and operated by the Salisbury House Foundation. Built by cosmetics magnate Carl Weeks and his wife, Edith, between 1923 and 1928, the estate was modeled after King's House in Salisbury, England, and still houses the Weeks family's historic and significant collection of paintings, sculpture, rare books and documents, antique furniture, and decorative arts.

Repertory Theater of Iowa is a 501(c)3 organization and the only resident professional theater ensemble in Central Iowa. Utilizing a talented cast and crew of local artists, Repertory Theater of Iowa is dedicated to producing high quality theater performances that educate and inspire with their emphasis on language and artistic excellence in their presentations of the classics.

