



BROADWAY STAR GAVIN CREEL AND TURTLE CREEK CHORALE
HEADLINE 2010 BLACK TIE DINNER ENTERTAINMENT

DALLAS (June 24, 2010) - Black Tie Dinner announces two-time Tony Award nominee Gavin Creel will join Dallas' Turtle Creek Chorale, as together they headline entertainment for the 2010 Black Tie Dinner. Ron Guillard, co-chair of the Dinner says, "We are thrilled these two talents will unite on one stage in a special tribute to this year's beneficiaries. Gavin brings an incomparable and raw sense of emotion to every performance. Combine that with the powerful voices of the Turtle Creek Chorale and we know our audience will experience a real treat."

Creel's first Tony nomination was for his lead role performance in the 2002 Broadway production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. More recently, he has been playing the role of Claude in the Broadway revival of *Hair*, first in New York and currently in London's West End. Creel received his second Tony nomination in 2009 for this portrayal. Off stage, Creel is one of the founders of *Broadway Impact*, an organization fighting for equality and LGBT civil liberties. *Broadway Impact* was awarded the 2009 HRC Community Equality Award. Gavin Creel was also honored as one of OUT Magazine's OUT 100 for his work with Broadway Impact and the National Equality March. In addition, Creel has just released his first critically acclaimed EP, "Quiet".

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BLACK TIE DINNER, INC.

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Black Tie Dinner/Page Two

Turtle Creek Chorale Artistic Director, Dr. Jonathan Palant, says, “We are doubly honored this year to be both a beneficiary of, and a performer at Black Tie Dinner. As the Chorale strives to reach its mission to Educate, Entertain, Unite and Uplift, we are proud to STAND STRONG with Black Tie Dinner once again. Personally speaking, it’s been thirteen years since Gavin and I completed our undergraduate degrees together at the University of Michigan, and I very much look forward to collaborating with him again!”

2010-2011 marks the Turtle Creek Chorale’s 31st concert season. With nearly 200 singing members, this all-male chorus presents a full subscription concert series performing annually to live audiences in excess of 50,000. With 38 compact disks, the Turtle Creek Chorale is the most recorded men’s chorus in the world.

“On the eve of our Table Captain table sales, we are excited to announce what promises to be an emotionally arranged tribute to our Black Tie Beneficiaries,” adds Nan Arnold, Black Tie Dinner co-chair. “For months, we have been developing this fresh opening concept for the 2010 Dinner Program showcasing the Dinner’s beneficiaries. All of these organizations have been standing strong, providing valuable services and programs to our community - some of them for decades - and we look forward to celebrating them in this exciting manner this year.”

This entertainment announcement follows previously announced Dinner highlights including the presentation of the 2010 Elizabeth Birch Equality Award to American Airlines and Reverend Carol West receiving the 2010 Kuchling Humanitarian Award. The GLBT community and allies can look forward to additional exciting Black Tie Dinner announcements in the near future.

To attend this year’s Black Tie Dinner, visit blacktie.org to learn how to become a Table Captain or Dinner Sponsor. Online Table Captain table sales begin at 10:00 AM June 30, 2010, at blacktie.org/tablecaptains. Sponsor level tables (premium placement plus other benefits) are immediately available at blacktie.org/Sponsors. The secure, user-friendly Black Tie Dinner website allows individuals and companies to purchase and organize tables of ten, invite table guests and make payments.

To learn more about table sales and the Table Captain process, contact Mitzi Lemons at mlemons@blacktie.org or call (972) 733-9200, ext. 7. For Sponsor information, contact Maggie McQuown at mmcquown@blacktie.org or (972)733-9200, ext. 8. -MORE--

BLACK TIE DINNER, INC.

Black Tie Dinner/Page Three

ABOUT BLACK TIE DINNER:

Black Tie Dinner, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that raises funds for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender supportive organizations through a premier event of empowerment, education and entertainment in partnership with the community. The event has headlined local and national celebrities and leaders such as Maya Angelou, Ann Richards, Geena Davis, Lily Tomlin, Goldie Hawn, Martin Sheen and most recently, Mayor Gavin Newsom.

Black Tie Dinner, Inc. began in Dallas in 1982 to help support the Human Rights Campaign Fund. There were 140 guests in attendance at the first Dinner, which raised \$6,000. In 2009, the Dinner distributed \$1.04 million to 19 local beneficiaries and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. In its 28-year history, the dinner has distributed almost \$14 million.

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