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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Ad Astra Rocks out with Hedwig and her Angry Inch.

The Ad Astra Theatre Ensemble is about to bring something very different to Topeka. Hedwig and the Angry Inch is a punk rock musical developed by John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask in the early nineties. The musical dealt with the aftermath of the Cold War and the Berlin Wall crumbling. It told the story of Hedwig, a transgendered punk rock singer who is transplanted to Junction City, Kansas from Berlin. She develops a relationship with a young singer, who becomes a famous rock star and steals all of her songs. Hedwig decides to go on her own tour to tell her story. Throughout her performance she tells her own story, the story of Tommy Gnosis and the story of her husband Yitzhak, and their band the Angry Inch.

This punk rock musical, which is currently running on Broadway and has garnered 8 Tony nominations, is coming to Topeka for the first time, and will be staged at Serendipity, in the NOTO Arts District. Director Craig Fisher said of the show, "It's a funny, raw, punk exploration of our search for our other half. People can see the wigs, the makeup, the music, and the antics and misconstrue the message of the piece. The message is universal, the message has its heart and soul in all of us. Everyone searches for love and completion. That's all Hedwig is doing. She wants the same things, she just goes about finding it in unconventional ways." The Ad Astra Theatre Ensemble has created a niche for itself in the Topeka community by producing and creating works like Hedwig, works that audiences won't normally see in our area. Audiences shouldn't expect any less with Hedwig, while it runs about an hour and ten minutes long, the show packs a punch.

Hedwig and the Angry Inch is produced in partnership with Serendipity. It runs May 15th-18th and tickets can be purchased online at www.adastratheatre.com or by calling 785-969-4257. Tickets are just \$10 (plus applicable fees and taxes). Hedwig and the Angry Inch will perform at 820 N. Kansas Avenue. Each show begins at 7:30 p.m. and doors will open at 7 p.m. There will be a bar open during the entire performance. Hedwig and the Angry Inch contains strong adult content, and language. Audiences can plan to stick around after the performance and enjoy the bar and meet the cast and band. The cast and band of Hedwig and the Angry Inch includes Keegan Cole as Hedwig, Manda Barker as Yitzhak, Aaron Senne as Tommy Gnosis, Shawn Hartzell and Skye Reid as Road Hed's, Jason Finson as Jacek, Jason Degenhardt as Schlatko, Sawyer Treinen as Kryzhtof, and Natalie Gallecier as Skszp. The show was directed by Craig Fisher, Music Directed by Natalie Gallecier, Costume Designed by Secily Krumins, Animations and Drawings done by Erin Guthrie.

The Ad Astra Theatre Ensemble is offering a brand new service this season when purchasing tickets. If you go online to buy a ticket you can also make a tax deductible donation to Ad Astra just by purchasing a PledgePlus Ticket. Set up in denominations of \$5 you get a ticket to the show and you help to ensure that homegrown theatre happens in northeast Kansas for years to come.

