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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 15, 2004

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CHICAGO ANTIQUE MARKET TO DEBUT ON RANDOLPH STREET MAY 30 Indoor-Outdoor Monthly Antique Flea Market Offers Shoppers a Huge Array Antique Furnishings, Clothing, Collectibles and More

Chicago –The Chicago Antique Market will open for business, rain or shine, on Sunday, May 30 in the 1300 block of West Randolph Street (between Ada and Ogden) in Chicago's trendy West Loop market district. With subsequent flea markets scheduled for the final Sunday of each month through October 31, the Chicago Antique Market will be a monthly stomping ground for collectors, designers, curious treasure hunters and others who share a passion for the treasures of days gone by.

The Chicago Antique Market will feature almost 200 stalls, offering an enormous array of unique items in all price ranges – from “Dukes of Hazard” lunch boxes and bakelite jewelry, to Juke Boxes, fine furniture, books, architectural artifacts and vintage advertising posters. Other items include folk art, glassware, vintage clothing, musical instruments, sterling, religious icons, vintage prints, bar accessories, dolls, toys, watches, primitives, trunks, cookware, shaving mugs, pens, costume jewelry, and much, much more.

Show promoters Sally Schwartz and Kathleen Finley have scoured the Midwest to assemble the most interesting mix of antique dealers to entice, entertain and educate show guests with their knowledge of a bygone era when life was slower and had more formality, when ladies wore gloves and men wore cufflinks. Collectibles such as stamps, coins and trading cards which at one time cost pennies, may now fetch thousands of dollars.

“The Chicago Antique Market has a treasure for everyone and is the perfect place to start a collection,” said creative director Schwartz. “Each month, we will also present a renowned collector who will display their entire assemblage and discuss the intricacies of their favorite pieces.”

Each Market will also feature a guest appraiser who will give estimates to anyone interested in determining the value of an inherited family piece or knick knack from the attic. Other fun elements of the Chicago Antique Market include a vintage fashion show, *Fashions at Noon*, featuring performance artists modeling vintage attire and accessories.

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The fashion show will conclude with an audience participation segment during which someone modeling their own vintage fashions will be chosen from the crowd to win a prize package. “We encourage everyone to get into the spirit and sport their favorite finery from another era,” said executive producer Finley.

Treasure-hunters will also enjoy a wide range of foods, beverages and related educational and fun activities for children, including the kids-only *Treasure Hunt*, which features “Mr. Past Man” leading the fun in a crazy yet educational game.

Co-founder and Creative Director Sally Schwartz is a 21 year veteran of advertising and special event marketing and the founder of Image Pilots, Inc., which was named by Special Events Magazine as one of the top 50 global planning companies of 2002. She is a collector of art and vintage “vice” accoutrements such as cigarette lighters, bar swizzle sticks and playing card sets. This love of collecting and treasure hunting led to her presenting a series of vintage trade fairs called the Chicago Antiques & Collectibles Festivals in the 1990’s. The popularity and success of these festivals are what led to the development of the Chicago Antique Market. A graduate of Virginia Tech, she is a popular event and trade show speaker and has appeared on numerous television programs offering tips and ideas for fabulous parties and events.

Co-founder and Executive Producer Kathleen Finley has spent the past 15 years helping Fortune 100 companies achieve their objectives by providing communication strategy, implementing integrated communications programs and producing events of all sizes in destinations throughout the world. She was recently honored with the Global Paragon Award for her work in the category of “Best Product Launch of 2001-2002” from Meeting Planners International. A long time antique collector and flea market enthusiast, she is excited to combine her professional expertise and her favorite hobby with the Chicago Antique Market. A graduate of the University of Missouri, she has worked at such companies as Maritz, Inc., JAM Productions, Ltd. and Jack Morton Worldwide.

The Chicago Antique Market is scheduled for the following Sundays: May 30, June 27, July 25, August 29, September 26 and October 31. Market hours are 10 a.m. -5 p.m., with an early buying preview at 8 a.m. The Market will be situated on the 1300 block of Randolph Street between Ada and Ogden, with additional dealers showcased inside Hoops, 1380 W Randolph St. Admission is \$8 for adults and free for children aged 12 or under. Admission to the early buying preview is \$35.

Abundant local street parking is available, and a secure parking lot can be accessed at Plumbers Hall. For more information call 312-951-9939 or visit www.chicagoantiquemarket.com.

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