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NEWS

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Second annual “BROADWAY: Chance Style” benefit concert brings together Broadway headliners to benefit OC’s leading midsize regional theatre on August 29

Tony-Nominated SUSAN EGAN (*Beauty and the Beast*) and GEORGIA STITT (vocal coach for NBC’s “America’s Got Talent”) to perform West Coast Premiere of *ALL KNOCKED UP! (again)* as part of fundraiser

Anaheim Hills, CA (July 15, 2009) – Artistic Director Oanh Nguyen and Managing Director Casey Long are pleased to announce the Chance Theater’s 2009 benefit concert “BROADWAY: Chance Style.” This year’s event will feature Orange County native Susan Egan (Broadway’s *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Cabaret*, and *Beauty and the Beast*) and Georgia Stitt (acclaimed performer, composer, and music director). The event’s theme sponsor is Pantages Theatre of Los Angeles, CA.

From Tony nominations and major Film & TV credits to critically acclaimed CDs and world concert tours, these two talented ladies are, today, enormous figures in the entertainment industry. Their “BROADWAY: Chance Style” performance will be a raucous evening of original tunes, juicy gossip, and, of course, the occasional pee break! The duo will be performing the west coast premiere of *All Knocked Up! (again)*, a redux of a popular cabaret show Egan performed in 2006 when she was last pregnant. Now that these two gal pals find themselves pregnant at the same time, they thought this was a great opportunity to celebrate and help a local theater company in the process.

"These two dazzling performers and their hilarious show came to the Chance fortuitously by a ‘chance’ meeting on an airplane,” said Development Director Erika C. Miller. “My husband (Chance Artistic Director Oanh Nguyen) and myself were en route to New York when we met a fellow performer and producer, Julie Garnye. We hit it off immediately and she offered to introduce us to her friend Susan Egan, a fellow OC native, to see if she would be willing to help us with our fundraiser. Well, Susan was delighted to hear about our company and our work with the Anaheim Union High School District and was more than willing to help. And to top it off, she offered not only her services but also Georgia’s with their new show!”

The event will be performed at the AUHSD Performing Arts Center at Kennedy High School and will raise money to support the Chance Theater and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Foundation.

The performance will take place on Saturday, August 29 at 7pm. In addition to the performance, BROADWAY: Chance Style will include a mocktail reception, silent auction and raffle drawing for a 4-night trip to New York City. Tickets range from \$70-\$95 and are available now at www.chancetheater.com.

About the performers:

SUSAN EGAN has traversed all four corners of the entertainment industry, making powerful impressions in theatre, film, television and music. On Broadway, she cavorted as *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, won critical acclaim as “Sally Bowles” in *Cabaret*, starred in *Triumph of Love* and *State Fair*, and most notably, received

(more)

Tony Award and Drama Desk nominations for “Best Actress” as the original “Belle” in Disney’s *Beauty and the Beast*. Regionally, Egan starred alongside Carol Burnett in *Putting It Together*, Tommy Tune in the national tour of *Bye, Bye Birdie*, reprised her role of Belle for the Los Angeles premiere of *Beauty and the Beast*, and developed works at Yale Rep, Baltimore Center Stage, South Coast Rep, and the Mark Taper Forum.

Some film credits include: *13 Going on 30*, *Gotta Kick It Up*, *Man of the Century* (Slamdance Award), *Death and Texas* (Slamdance/Seattle Film Festivals), *The Almost Guys* (HBO Comedy/Boston Film Festivals), *Meet Market* (Sarasota Film Festival), and more. In animation, Susan voiced the characters of “Meg” in Disney’s *Hercules*, “Lin” in the Academy Award-winning *Spirited Away*, “Gina” in another Miyazaki release *Porco Rosso*, and “Angel” in *Lady and the Tramp II*. She spent two seasons on television with the WB’s *Nikki*, and has appeared on *House*, *Num3ers*, *NYPD Blue*, *Arli\$\$*, *Drew Carey*, *Party of Five*, *Great Performances*, movies for ABC, CBS, and Disney Channel, and more. Susan has headlined with more than 50 symphonies worldwide, including concerts at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center and the Hollywood Bowl, and has over 40 recording credits with 5 solo CDs including her concert CD, *Susan Egan LIVE*. Originally from Southern California, Susan attended the Orange County High School of the Arts and UCLA, where she received a Carol Burnett Award in Musical Theatre. www.susanegan.net.

GEORGIA STITT is a composer and a lyricist. Her musicals currently in development include: *Big Red Sun* (winner of the Harold Arlen Award in 2005 and written with playwright John Jiler); *The Water* (winner of the 2008 ANMT “Search for New Voices in American Musical Theatre” and written with collaborators Jeff Hylton and Tim Werenko); and *Sing Me A Happy Song* (with composer/lyricist David Kirshenbaum, *Vanities*, a new musical).

In spring of 2007 she released her first album, *This Ordinary Thursday: The Songs Of Georgia Stitt*, on the PS Classics label. The recording features stellar performances by such contemporary theater luminaries as Susan Egan, Sara Ramirez, Kelli O’Hara, Faith Prince, Carolee Carmello, Tituss Burgess, Keith Byron Kirk, Andrea Burns, Matthew Morrison, Will Chase, Jenn Colella, Lauren Kennedy and Cheyenne Jackson. With lyricist Marcy Heisler she wrote and recorded the recently released *Alphabet City Cycle* (PS Classics), a song cycle for soprano and violin featuring vocalist Kate Baldwin. Additionally, Georgia has written songs that are included on Susan Egan’s solo albums *Coffee House and Winter Tracks* (LML Records) and Lauren Kennedy’s album *Here and Now* (PS Classics).

Also a music director, Georgia was the vocal coach for the 2008 season of the NBC hit show *America’s Got Talent*. She was the assistant music director for the NBC TV special *Clash of the Choirs*, the on-camera vocal coach for the NBC reality TV show *Grease: You’re The One That I Want*, and the Production Music Coordinator for the Disney/ABC TV musical *Once Upon A Mattress* starring Tracey Ullman and Carol Burnett. Georgia lives in Los Angeles (and sometimes New York) with her husband, composer/lyricist Jason Robert Brown, and their daughter Molly.

Performance & Ticket Information

Saturday, August 29, 2009

BROADWAY: Chance Style – Susan Egan & Georgia Stitt

Presented by the Chance Theater

7:00pm – Mocktails and Silent Auction

8:00pm – Performance of *All Knocked Up!* (again)

Tickets: \$70-\$95

AUHSD Performing Arts Center at Kennedy High School
8281 Walker St., La Palma, CA 90623

Box Office Information:

Phone number: (714) 777-3033

Make secure reservations at www.chancetheater.com.

About The Chance Theater

Voted “Best Theater Group” by *MyFoxLA* and “Best Small Theater” by *Orange Coast Magazine*, the Chance is proud to begin Season 11 as one of the leading ensemble based theatre companies in Southern California. A recipient of the 2007 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle’s (LADCC) Polly Warfield Award for Excellence, a vital component of the Chance Theater’s mission has always been to intimately present personally meaningful, uniquely engaging stories that promote dialogue within our community and provide a visceral experience for theatergoers. As a constituent member of Theater Communications Group (TCG), Network of Ensemble Theaters (NET), and the Los Angeles Stage Alliance (LASA), the Chance continues to bring national attention to Southern California theater through its recent achievements, which include a 2006 GLAAD Media Award nomination for Outstanding Los Angeles Theater.

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