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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Talent is what you possess... genius is what possesses you

***The Chance Theater Proudly Presents The Orange County Premiere Of Steven Dietz' "Inventing Van Gogh" ~
Gala Opening, Sunday, February 4th!***

IN A NUTSHELL:

WHAT: *Inventing Van Gogh*

By Steven Dietz

Directed by Oanh Nguyen

WHEN: February 4 – March 11, 2007

Sat. 4 p.m., Sun. 6 p.m.

HOW MUCH: \$25 General Admission

\$22 Seniors/Students with ID

WHERE: The Chance Theater, 5552 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807

INFO/RESERVATIONS: Theater Info Line 714.777.3033

24/7 Ticket Line 800.838.3006

24/7 Tickets online www.chancetheater.com

The Chance Theater proudly presents the Orange County Premiere of Steven Dietz' *Inventing Van Gogh*, a haunting and hallucinatory drama about the making of art. Patrick Stone, a contemporary artist in hiding from the world, is "persuaded" to forge van Gogh's final self-portrait. He soon finds himself squaring off, across the years, with van Gogh himself as he attempts to create this masterpiece that never existed... or did it? Don't miss this compelling mystery about the obsession to create and the fine line that separates genius from madness.

Under the visionary directorial hand of The Chance's Artistic Director, Oanh Nguyen, *Inventing Van Gogh* will open on Sunday, February 4, 2007 and run for a total of 11 performances through March 11, 2007. Show times are Saturdays at 4:00 p.m., and Sundays at 6:00 p.m. For all general performances, tickets are \$25 General Admission, and \$22 for Seniors and Students with I.D. A \$20 Preview Performance is scheduled for February 3, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. The Opening Gala on Sunday, February 4, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. will include a champagne reception after the performance. A Dinner and Show package with Yves' Bistro and Café Europe is also available.

As explained by director Oanh Nguyen, "The nature of genius and artistic obsession are hauntingly explored by playwright Steven Dietz. In the world of this play, genius is a powerful force capable of bending time and merging worlds, past and present, which allows characters from different times and places to meet and discuss the origin of art and the creative

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Press Release: *Inventing Van Gogh* Opens at The Chance Theater on Feb. 4th! (pg. 2 of 2)

process. What ultimately manifests is something close to madness. As Dietz has put it, 'The notion that we should be so lucky to have one thing that means so much to us that we pursue so avidly is a great gift, but also a great curse.'

Inventing Van Gogh had its World Premiere at The Arizona Theatre Company (ATC) in 2001. It was the fourth Steven Dietz play to be commissioned and introduced by ATC. The play was honored at the 2001 ariZoni Ceremony, and Dietz also received PEN USA/West Drama Award finalist honors for *Inventing Van Gogh* in 2002.

"MARVELOUS...eloquent...playwrights often have a special soft spot for the lives of painters." (*Chicago Sun Times*)
"Steven Deitz's dazzling, demanding drama moves freely from past to present and from reality to fantasy; the play is almost Stoppardian in its density and complexity." (*Back Stage West*) "INVENTING VAN GOGH unleashes a torrent of ideas about art – but its primary achievement is illuminating the artist's struggle to wrench meaning from a recalcitrant world, and to ransom his own soul. Steven Dietz's script incorporates historical fact without lecturing; bits of Vincent van Gogh's letters erupt into the text like cries from the grave. We're told that by the time van Gogh created his later works, he was squeezing paint directly onto the canvas rather than using a brush, and shaping it with such force that it retained fragments of his fingernails. There's something of this intensity in the form and content of the play itself, with its swirling structure, density of allusion and furious commitment to discovery." (*Westword, Denver*)

The cast includes Chance Theater Repertory Company Member Casey Long (Patrick) who was recently seen in *Coyote On A Fence* (*Back Stage West Critic's Pick*). Joining him will be Sean Hannaway (Miller/Gachet) in a return to The Chance after our 2005 Season production of *One Flea Spare* (*Back Stage West Critic's Pick*), Jonathon Lamer (Bouchard/Gauguin) hot off the run of our World Premiere holiday hit *Anaheim Home Companion*, and Aubrey Saverino (Hallie/Marguerite) who last appeared at The Chance in our *First Chance Fest 2004* production of Moliere's *Sganarelle or The Imaginary Cuckold*. Making their Chance Theater debuts with this production are David J. Dalton (Vincent van Gogh) and Lewis R. Crouse II (Miller/Gachet understudy). Chance Theater Repertory Company Member Alex Bueno will also be appearing as the Hallie/Marguerite understudy.

If you would like to arrange an interview with the director, cast, would like more information, reservations or complimentary press passes, please call 714-777-3033.

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