

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, December 5, 2007

The Chance Theater Announces its Spectacular Tenth Anniversary Season Featuring:

***Rabbit Hole* (Orange County Premiere) by David Lindsay-Abaire**
***Assassins* by Stephen Sondheim**
and
***Jesus Hates Me* (West Coast Premiere) by Wayne Lemon**

Anaheim Hills, CA (December 5, 2007) – The Chance Theater (Oanh Nguyen, Artistic Director; Casey Long, Managing Director) announce the lineup for their Tenth Anniversary Season. The Tony Award-winning Stephen Sondheim musical, ***Assassins*** will kick off a spectacular season that will feature the 2006 Pulitzer Prize-Winner ***Rabbit Hole*** by David Lindsay-Abaire, the Orange County Premiere of the musical ***The Brain From Planet X*** by David Wechtner & Bruce Kimmel as part of **The Festival of New American Musicals**, the West Coast Premiere of Wayne Lemon's ***Jesus Hates Me***, and the California Premiere of ***Talk About the Passion*** by Graham Farrow. The Tony Award-winning musical ***Evita***, the Orange County Premiere of ***Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*** and the Southern California premiere of Christopher Durang's ***Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge*** round out the Chance's 2008 Season.

"We are tremendously excited about our Tenth Anniversary season - a diverse collection of Broadway-style musicals, edgy new works and plays for the whole family to enjoy," said Oanh Nguyen, Chance Theater Artistic Director who is slated to direct three productions this season. "We have always taken great pride in our theatrical diversity as well as our high level of artistry - we look forward to our 2008 season providing healthy doses of each for our audiences."

The Chance Theater's 2008 season will be presented with two Series: the Main Stage and the Evolving Stage, both with very specific missions. The Main Stage (***Assassins***, ***Brain***, ***Evita***, and ***Marley's Christmas Carol***) is made up of familiar stories told through a unique approach. The Evolving Stage (***Passion***, ***Rabbit Hole***, ***Jesus Hates Me*** and ***Mrs. Bob Cratchit***) is made up of newer works that will promote social dialogue. These two missions ensure a well-rounded, theatrically diverse season.

Both productions run in concurrent weeks but on different days and times. The Main Stage performances run Fridays at 8:00 p.m., Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Evolving Stage performances run Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 7:00 p.m.

The 2008 Season

- **ASSASSINS** by John Weidman and Stephen Sondheim, directed by Oanh Nguyen
February 2 – March 16, 2008 [Main Stage]
* **Winner of 5 Tony Awards**

A darkly-comic, compelling look at the lives, loves, and legacies of nine infamous American assassins - including John Wilkes Booth and Lee Harvey Oswald - who attempted, successfully or not, to take the lives of American Presidents. A warped and tuneful history lesson, ***Assassins*** is one of the most innovative musicals in years. Sondheim's memorable score is comprised of a variety of music genres from folk to ragtime to big Broadway ballads. Bold, gripping, and provocative, ***Assassins*** proves that

(more)

"Everybody's Got The Right" to their dreams.

- **TALK ABOUT THE PASSION** by Graham Farrow, directed by David Colwell
February 10 – March 16, 2008 [Evolving Stage]
* **California Premiere**
Following the murder of his only child, Jason Carroway is forced to endure the attention that accompanies the release of the killer's best-selling autobiography. How far will Jason go for his son and how does the woman who publishes the novel defend her actions? Timely and controversial, *Talk About The Passion* is an engaging drama that bravely confronts society's morbid fascination with terrible crimes and our habit of forgiving the criminal and criminalizing the victim.
- **THE BRAIN FROM PLANET X** by David Wechtner & Bruce Kimmel (part of the Festival of New American Musicals), directed by Bruce Kimmel
May 3 – June 15, 2008 [Main Stage]
* **Orange County Premiere**
A hilarious musical send-up of bad 50's sci-fi movies, *The Brain From Planet X* tells the story of an alien invasion circa 1958. A Brain and its two alien cohorts arrive on Earth with a plan to take over the San Fernando Valley - starting with a happy nuclear family. It's the first step on the road to their quest of taking over the entire planet and destroying the family unit. This rousing, toe-tapping musical features a dancing, singing brain ... what more could you want from a musical?

This production of *The Brain From Planet X* is part of The Festival of New American Musicals – a collaboration with The Center Theater Group, The Hollywood Bowl, The Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, and several other major Southern California arts organizations. For more details, visit www.lafestival.org.
- **RABBIT HOLE** by David Lindsay-Abaire, directed by Oanh Nguyen
May 11 – June 15, 2008 [Evolving Stage]
* **Orange County Premiere**
The Corbetts have everything a family could want, until the day their world is turned upside down. Teeming with wit, compassion and honesty, this is a story of family, with beautifully developed relationships that allow us to recognize ourselves in the characters. Don't miss this Pulitzer Prize-winning play by one of the "hottest" playwrights in the country!
- **EVITA** by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber & Tim Rice, directed by Jocelyn A. Brown
August 2 – September 14, 2008 [Main Stage]
* **Winner of 7 Tony Awards**
Told entirely through song and dance, *Evita* brings to life the dynamic, larger-than-life persona of Eva Peron. It begins in 1934 and follows a young girl from her small hometown to Buenos Aires where she uses her feminine powers to climb the ladder of success, first as a model, then an actress, and finally as the wife of General Juan Peron. When Peron is elected president, Eva becomes the most powerful woman in South America. But is her fate to be the most beloved woman in Argentina, or the most hated?
- **JESUS HATES ME** by Wayne Lemon
August 10 – September 14, 2008 [Evolving Stage]
* **West Coast Premiere**
Somewhere in south central Texas among the tumbleweeds and trailer parks, is the "Blood of the Lamb" Miniature Golf Course. Under the gaze of a Wal-Mart mannequin transformed into Jesus on the cross at the 17th hole, this new play reveals the hilarity of a couple days in the life of an ex-high school football star as he tries to escape from his religious mother, bartending girl, a suicide attempting dishwasher, pot smoking cop, and beer swillin' good ol' boy. You know, the people he holds nearest and dearest to his heart.

For the Holidays: The many sides of... A Christmas Carol

- **JACOB MARLEY'S CHRISTMAS CAROL** by Tom Mula
November 8 – December 21, 2008 [Main Stage]
* **Orange County Premiere**
Marley was dead to begin with... but when Scrooge's partner entered the afterlife, his story was only

(more)

beginning a new chapter. We bring you the “real” story of *A Christmas Carol* - the story of Jacob Marley’s heroic behind-the-scenes efforts to save old Scrooge’s soul - and in the process, save his own. Irreverent, funny, and deeply moving for the whole family, you’ll never watch the Dickens’ tale the same way again.

- **MRS. BOB CRATCHIT’S WILD CHRISTMAS BINGE** by Christopher Durang
November 16 – December 21, 2008 [Evolving Stage]

* **Southern California Premiere**

Come all ye faithful and experience a playful, slightly skewed perspective of Mrs. Cratchit that turns the traditional tale on its head. Christopher Durang derails the true meaning of Christmas in this satire that has ghosts showing up at the wrong time, morals being subverted, starving children singing in the basement, and drunken Mrs. Cratchit jumping off London Bridge.

Join us in 2008 for extraordinary theater...

Season Subscriptions can be purchased by phone at (714) 777-3033. Eight-play season subscriptions start at just \$149. There is also an option of purchasing a Sustaining Membership. For a \$20 per month tax-deductible donation, you can come back and see the shows as many times as you would like. Single Tickets are currently on sale. Tickets can be purchased at (714) 777-3033 and www.chancetheater.com.

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

PHOTO EDITORS: Digital Images of Chance Theater productions can be found at http://www.chancetheater.com/press/2007_pr.php

About The Chance Theater

Recently voted the #2 Live-Theater Group by OC Register readers, The Chance is proud to be entering its Tenth Anniversary Season. A recipient of the 2007 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle (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) and Network of Ensemble Theaters (NET), The Chance continues to bring national attention to Southern California theater through its recent achievement. In addition to the recent LADCC Award, The Chance has also received a 2006 GLAAD Media Award nomination for Outstanding Los Angeles Theater; recognition as the 2004 Arts Orange County Outstanding Arts Organization; and participated in the 365 Days/365 Plays National Theater Project.

Quick Facts

The Chance Theater
Oanh Nguyen, Artistic Director
Casey Long, Managing Director

5552 E. La Palma Ave.
Anaheim Hills, CA 92807
www.chancetheater.com

Box Office Information:

Phone number: (714) 777-3033

Hours: Monday-Friday from 10:00am-12:00pm, 2 hours before curtain on performance days

Or make secure reservation 24 hours a day at www.chancetheater.com

(more)

2008 Season (at a glance)

- **ASSASSINS** by John Weidman and Stephen Sondheim, directed by Oanh Nguyen
February 2 – March 16, 2008 [Fri 8pm; Sat 2pm & 8pm; Sun 2pm]
* *Winner of 5 Tony Awards*
- **TALK ABOUT THE PASSION** by Graham Farrow, directed by David Colwell
February 10 – March 16, 2008 [Thu 8pm; Sun 7pm]
* *California Premiere*
- **THE BRAIN FROM PLANET X** by David Wechtner & Bruce Kimmel (part of Festival of New American Musicals), directed by Bruce Kimmel
May 3 – June 15, 2008 [Fri 8pm; Sat 2pm & 8pm; Sun 2pm]
* *Orange County Premiere*
- **RABBIT HOLE** by David Lindsay-Abaire, directed by Oanh Nguyen
May 11 – June 15, 2008 [Thu 8pm; Sun 7pm]
* *Orange County Premiere*
- **EVITA** by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber & Tim Rice, directed by Jocelyn A. Brown
August 2 – September 14, 2008 [Fri 8pm; Sat 2pm & 8pm; Sun 2pm]
* *Winner of 7 Tony Awards*
- **JESUS HATES ME** by Wayne Lemon
August 10 – September 14, 2008 [Thu 8pm; Sun 7pm]
* *West Coast Premiere*
- **JACOB MARLEY'S CHRISTMAS CAROL** by Tom Mula
November 8 – December 21, 2008 [Fri 8pm; Sat 2pm & 8pm; Sun 2pm]
* *Orange County Premiere*
- **MRS. BOB CRATCHIT'S WILD CHRISTMAS BINGE** by Christopher Durang
November 16 – December 21, 2008 [Thu 8pm; Sun 7pm]
* *Southern California Premier*

###