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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**World Premiere! Radio Station KANA is on the air at The Chance Theater this holiday season!**

**Join us for our original radio play, variety show homage to Anaheim circa 1953 ~ Gala Opening November 3rd!**

**IN A NUTSHELL:**

WHAT: "Anaheim Home Companion"  
By Tira Palmquist and members of The Chance Theater Repertory Company  
Directed by Tira Palmquist  
Original Music composed by Bill Strongin

WHEN: November 3 – December 17, 2006  
Thu/Fri/Sat 8 p.m., Sun. 2 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](http://www.chancetheater.com)

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IMAGINE ANAHEIM BEFORE THE MOUSE ... a small ranching town where the police chief himself patrols downtown at night, the high school football team is front-page news and everyone pitches in to save the oranges on a frosty night. Join the cast and crew of radio station KANA for an evening's broadcast in Anaheim circa 1953. This light-hearted, yet thoughtful, high-energy, fun-filled variety show features songs, skits, jokes, and audience participation. This engaging World Premiere production, written by Tira Palmquist and Chance Theater Repertory Company Members Alex Bueno, Dimas Diaz, Jeff Hellebrand, Sarah Moreau, and Annie Mezzacappa, as well as former Company Member Richard Comeau, captures a community inspired by unforgettable real-life characters as can only be found in a small town. It's The Chance Theater's theatrical salute to Anaheim's history and the people who made it possible. Anaheim – the only California city with "home" in its name!

Under the imaginative guidance of head writer and director, Tira Palmquist, *Anaheim Home Companion*, will open on Friday, November 3, 2006, and run for a total of 27 performances through December 17, 2006. Show times are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. There will be a Post-Performance "Talkback" Discussion with the cast after every Thursday evening performance. 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 Thursday, November 2nd, at 8:00 p.m. The Opening Gala on Friday, November 3, 2006, at 8:00 p.m., will include a champagne

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reception after the performance. A Dinner and Show package with Yves' Bistro and Café Europe is also available.

As explained by head writer/director Tira Palmquist, "*Anaheim Home Companion* is, first, a tribute to the town we call home. Anaheim has been vital to the development of The Chance Theater Repertory Company, and we're all very aware of how lucky we are to have such a wonderful community supporting us. In the show, we step back in time to 1953 - an era just before sweeping changes transformed Anaheim from a small farming community to a major metropolitan area with freeways, major league sports teams and, of course, a theme park known throughout the world."

"The concept for this original work," as Palmquist describes, "is, in part, a salute to the community. More importantly, we look back on Anaheim's history to gain perspective on what we have become. We can't ever go back to what Anaheim was, but, as historians say, we forget that at our own peril. We also look back at our history - personal and collective, to understand how we are to move forward as a community. This idea of community is what's most important to all of us at The Chance Theater, and what was most important in the development of this piece. One of the characters in the show says, 'He wasn't born in Anaheim, but we've never held that against him.' Likewise, not having been born in Anaheim, I hope our audience won't hold that against me. Still, I know about small towns: I grew up in one. I have great affection for the small towns I've known, and I knew I could bring that to this show. I could not forget that these were real people I was writing about, and I needed to write about them as if they were my own family. In doing so, I feel that they really have become part of my family. This idea of extended family, of the interconnected relationships in a community, is probably the most important idea that we can 'own' from our study of history. Just because Anaheim is bigger, it doesn't mean it has lost its identity as a 'close-knit community.' At least, it seems to me, it doesn't have to."

"In creating the show, we wanted to create a cast of characters who truly depend on each other," Palmquist further explains. "We did not want to rely on stereotypes and caricatures. Even the fictional characters we created to help tell the story of Anaheim are meant to represent a way of living in a community that is healthy, vibrant -- and, of course, changing. This is the most poignant lesson of this show (and of the history we've studied): yes, Anaheim has changed -- but not all change is bad, and we must learn to embrace what's best in change, while simultaneously embracing what's best from our past. In the beginning, we drew our inspiration from *Prairie Home Companion*, but the show has become so much more. We've made this '*Home Companion*' our own, and we hope that -- no matter who is sitting in the audience, that they'll feel that they, too, are 'home.' "

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The cast features three Chance Theater Repertory Company Members: Bryan Barton, on stage last summer at The Chance in *Big Love*; Dimas Diaz, recently seen in our hit presentation of *Hot 'N' Throbbing*; and Casey Long, (Nate Goodrich understudy), just on stage in our acclaimed production of *Coyote on a Fence* (Back Stage West Critic's Pick). Joining them will be Ray Akin, who played the "Old Man" in *A Christmas Story* – our Main Stage holiday show last season, and Bill Strongin, who musically directed The Chance's critically-acclaimed production of *Into The Woods* (Back Stage West Critic's Pick). Making their Chance Theater debuts with this production are Andrea Ainsworth, Sylvia Cervantes, Monica Forouzesh and Jonathon Lamer.

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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