



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“Variations on a Theme: The Best” features the world premieres of six short plays inspired by a block party thrown by The Chance Theater**

The Chance Theater proudly presents the World Premiere of “Variations On A Theme: The Best”, an evening of six short works with themes ranging from persevering through disability to how to get laid. The plays came about as a collaboration of Chance Theater Resident Company Members, local playwrights, and 200 non-theatrically inclined members of the greater Orange County community, gathered together on Saturday, June 30, 2007 by The Chance for a themed party. Many pictures were taken, videos recorded, blogs blogged and stories were told that served as the source material for the playwrights. All source material is available for viewing at [www.myspace.com/variations\\_thebest](http://www.myspace.com/variations_thebest)

Over 100 plays were submitted and 14 were selected for a public reading that was held in the middle of August. From those 14, only 6 plays were selected to be performed: *Baseball to a Russian* by Peter Schnake, *The Best Lie* by John MacDonald, *Best Chance*, *Chance Best* by John Bolen, *Alpha Best* by Chance Resident Company Member Sarah Moreau, *The Minglers* by Max Espinosa, and *Bitches and Cocks* by Jonathon Josephson. The playwrights will receive a \$45 stipend, as well as the opportunity to be deemed “The Best of The Best” by attendees of “Variations”. The “Best Play” will receive a “Playwright’s Dream Package” made up of prizes donated by Pasadena Playhouse, Laguna Playhouse, The Dramatists’ Guild, and other sponsors of “Variations”. The “Playwright’s Dream Package” has a value of over \$500.

“This festival gave The Chance another opportunity to promote new plays and local playwrights, while involving the community in the creation of a theatrical production,” explained Oanh Nguyen, The Chance’s Artistic Director, and recent recipient of the Arts Orange County Award for Outstanding Individual Artist. “Our last season featured the original ensemble created work *Anaheim Home Companion*, which was based on stories and documents from local Anaheim community members and historians. This year, we kicked off the process with an open invitation party where everyone came and helped explore what the words ‘The Best’ meant to them – and had a great time doing it.”

The original concept for a “Variations” project was born in 2004 at the Run of the Mill Theater in Baltimore, Maryland, under the artistic direction of Carrie Klewin. Since 2004, a number of Variations projects have been produced with

(more)

**Press Release: *Variations on a Theme: The Best* opens at The Chance on November 18<sup>th</sup>! (pg. 2 of 2)**

different themes. The Baltimore projects won many award including Outstanding Experimental Production (Greater Baltimore 2005, 2006), Top 10 Productions (Baltimore City Paper 2005), and Best Production (Baltimore City Paper 2006). The Chance's production of "Variations on a Theme: The Best" marks the first West Coast installment of an ever-growing, national series.

The cast features Chance Theater Resident Company Members: David J. Dalton, Jennifer Ruckman and Karen Webster. They are joined by Daniel Berlin, Chris Raiskup and Lacy Reinbold.

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.

**"VARIATIONS ON A THEME: THE BEST" PERFORMANCE & TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets: \$25 - \$22

Performances: November 18 – December 23, 2007; Sat. 4 p.m., Sun. 6 p.m.

*Preview - Saturday, November 17 at 4 p.m.; includes post-performance talkback*

*Opening Gala - Sunday, November 18 at 6 p.m.; includes catered reception*

For Information and to Purchase Tickets:

CALL: (714) 777-3033

WEBSITE: [www.chancetheater.com](http://www.chancetheater.com)

THE CHANCE THEATER: 5552 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807

**About The Chance Theater**

Recently voted the #2 Live-Theater Group by OC Register readers, The Chance is closing out its Ninth Anniversary Season with this production. 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.

###

---