

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, January 4, 2008

The Chance Theater opens its 2008 Season with Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins* on Saturday, February 2nd

Anaheim Hills, CA (January 4, 2008) -- As the first production in their 10th Anniversary Season, The Chance Theater is proud to present Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman's Tony Award-winning musical ***Assassins***. The show will run from February 2nd to March 16th, 2008 and is directed by Chance Theater Artistic Director Oanh Nguyen.

Artistic Director Oanh Nguyen, who is also the director of this production, saw ***Assassins*** as the perfect opportunity to heighten the intimacy of the Chance by reconfiguring the audience risers into an alley formation. "Our approach to ***Assassins*** is proving to be a very intimate and theatrical production. Having the assassins also play all the chorus roles brings their perception of the world more to focus. It keeps the narrative in their hands. Ultimately the play cautions us of what we're capable of doing if we have no way of expressing ourselves or if we feel that we are of no value or that society has completely dismissed us. In the end, it reminds us, as a community, the importance of listening. Sometimes the quietest voice is the one that needs to be heard."

Join The Chance Theater for a darkly-comic and compelling look at the lives, loves, and legacies of nine presidential assassins. A warped and tuneful tour through history, Stephen Sondheim's ***Assassins*** explores the dark underbelly of the American dream. Last season's *Sunday in the Park with George* put you in the mind of an artist. To open our tenth anniversary season, The Chance will put its audience face-to-face with these infamous killers.

Assassins opened off-Broadway at Playwrights Horizons on December 18, 1990 with 73 performances. The run sold out, but didn't make it to Broadway until April 22, 2004 (postponed from its 2001 opening because the content was sensitive in light of September 11). The production received 5 Tony Awards, including Best Musical Revival.

The cast features Chance Resident Company Member Dimas Diaz (who last appeared in *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*), as well as Peter Schnake (*Anne of Green Gables: The Musical*), Emily Clark (*The Rover*), Daniel Berlin (*Variations on a Theme: The Best*), and Richard Comeau (*Coyote on a Fence*). Making their Chance Theater debuts with this production are Paul Kehler, Jara Jones, Allison Appleby, and David Lamoureux.

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

Performance & Ticket Information

Tickets: \$27-\$30

Performances: February 2 - March 16, 2008; Fri. 8 p.m.; Sat. 2 p.m. & 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m.

Preview - Friday, February 1 at 8 p.m.; includes post-performance talkback

Opening Gala - Saturday, February 2 at 8 p.m.; includes catered reception

PLEASE NOTE: This play contains some adult language.

(more)

The Chance Theater
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www.chancetheater.com

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'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) and Network of Ensemble Theaters (NET), 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; recognition as the 2004 Arts Orange County Outstanding Arts Organization; and participation in the 365 Days/365 Plays National Theater Project.

Quick Reference

Playing in Repertory with Assassins...

February 10 – March 16, 2008 [Thu 8pm; Sun 7pm]

TALK ABOUT THE PASSION by Graham Farrow, directed by David Colwell

* California Premiere

Following the murder of his only child, a man is forced to endure the attention that accompanies the release of the killer's best-selling autobiography. How far will a father go to get even? And how does the woman who published 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.

Coming Soon to The Chance...

May 3 – June 15, 2008 [Fri 8pm; Sat 2pm & 8pm; Sun 2pm]

THE BRAIN FROM PLANET X by David Wechtner & Bruce Kimmel, directed by Bruce Kimmel

* Orange County Premiere

* Part of Festival of New American Musicals

A hilarious musical send-up of bad 50's sci-fi movies, **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?

May 11 – June 15, 2008 [Thu 8pm; Sun 7pm]

RABBIT HOLE by David Lindsay-Abaire, directed by Oanh Nguyen

* 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!