

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, April 3, 2008

## **“The Brain From Planet X” at The Chance Theater A 1950’s sci-fi spoof about alien invasion presented as part of the state-wide Festival of New American Musicals**

Anaheim Hills, CA (April 9, 2008) -- As the third production in their 10th Anniversary Season, The Chance Theater is proud to present the Orange County premiere of **THE BRAIN FROM PLANET X**, a 1950’s sci-fi musical spoof about alien invasion opening on May 3, 2008. This production will be produced as part of THE FESTIVAL OF NEW AMERICAN MUSICALS, a state-wide festival celebrating the art form of the American musical, which such notable musical theater talents as Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked, Pippin, Godspell*) and Stephen Sondheim (*Assassins, Sunday in the Park with George, Into The Woods*) attached as, respectively, the Creative Advisor and Honorary Chairperson.

An affectionate and hilarious musical send-up of bad 50s sci-fi movies, **THE BRAIN FROM PLANET X** tells the story of an alien invasion circa 1958. When an ill-intentioned band of interplanetary travelers arrive on Earth with a plan to take over the world, an all-too regular, nuclear family is forced to defend the human race from will-bending extinction. Originally produced in Los Angeles, critics lauded the production as "Wildly funny... Wittily staged, sharply cast and graced with some catchy numbers." -- *LA Times*. "An off-kilter love letter to the old-fashioned musical comedy... Boisterously bawdy!" -- *Talkin' Broadway*.

“**THE BRAIN FROM PLANET X** has been done twice before - in LA, where it received excellent reviews, and last September in New York,” remembers co-writer, composer and director Bruce Kimmel. “This time it will be produced as part of THE FESTIVAL OF NEW AMERICAN MUSICALS, and I am very excited to be participating in such a bold new festival. I also like the energy of the Chance’s creative staff, and I like the space, which is much more intimate than the ones we’ve used in the other productions.” Lastly, Kimmel adds the real reason the show has found popularity on both coasts - “It’s fun, it’s fast, and it’s got a talking and singing Brain.”

**THE FESTIVAL OF NEW AMERICAN MUSICALS**, is dedicated to this generation’s foremost writer-composer, Stephen Sondheim and has a mission of which runs during May and June of 2008, will feature several major theatrical productions, staged readings, musical workshops, master classes, lectures, exhibitions, and concert performances. The festival is dedicated to this generation’s foremost writer-composer, Stephen Sondheim, and his profound contributions to American musical theatre. The Chance Theater is proud to be one of only two theaters in Orange County participating in this exciting new festival (the other being South Coast Repertory).

Co-Author, Composer/Lyricist and Director BRUCE KIMMEL wrote, and starred in the cult movie hit, “The First Nudie Musical” (currently available in a Special Edition DVD). With David Wechter, he co-created the story for the hit film, “The Faculty,” directed by Robert Rodriguez and was a writer/producer on “Penn and Teller’s: Bullshit!” for Showtime. As an actor, Mr. Kimmel guest-starred on most of the long-running television shows of the 1970s. Since 1993, Mr. Kimmel has been one of the leading producers of theatre music on CD, having produced over 150 albums. He was nominated for a Grammy for producing the revival cast album of HELLO, DOLLY! and he also created the critically-acclaimed LOST IN BOSTON and UNSUNG MUSICALS series. Mr. Kimmel has produced solo albums for many of today’s best-known musical theatre performers, and he has also produced many off-Broadway and Broadway cast albums.

Mr. Kimmel co-wrote and directed a critically acclaimed musical revue, *WHAT IF?* and directed the world premiere of **THE BRAIN FROM PLANET X** in December of 2006. He has recently directed one-person shows for Linda Purl, Kevin Spirtas, and Joan Ryan.

(more)

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Co-Author DAVID WECHTER co-wrote and co-directed the Disney cult film, 'Midnight Madness,' and wrote and directed the film, "The Malibu Bikini Shop." With Bruce Kimmel, he wrote the original screenplay for the hit film, "The Faculty," directed by Robert Rodriguez. Mr. Wechter currently executive produces 'Cowboy U' for CMT. He also executive produced "Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders: Making The Team," "Scariest Places On Earth," and was the supervising producer and writer of "Penn & Teller: Bullshit!" for Showtime, which won a Writers Guild Of America Award for Best Comedy.

The cast features Chance Theater Resident Company Members Dimas Diaz (*Assassins*), Warren Draper (*The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*), Michael Irish (*Shakespeare's R & J*) and Bob Simpson (*Assassins*). They are joined by Allison Appleby (*Assassins*), Daniel Berlin (*Assassins*), Emily Clark (*Assassins*), Shannon Cudd (*Anne of Green Gables – The Musical*) and Patrick Kelly (*Sunday in the Park with George*). Making their Chance Theater debuts with this production are Cody Anderson, Jamie Lee Baker, Marlana Filannino, Dan Flapper, and Jenna Romano.

## Performance & Ticket Information

Tickets: \$27-\$30

Performances: May 3 - June 8, 2008; Fri. 8 p.m.; Sat. 2 p.m. & 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m.

*Previews - Thursday, May 1 and Friday, May 2 at 8 p.m.; includes post-performance talkback*

*Opening Gala - Saturday, May 3 at 8 p.m.; includes catered reception*

The Chance Theater  
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## About The Chance Theater

Recently voted the #2 Live-Theater Group by *OC Register* readers, The Chance is proud to be in 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 participation in the state-wide Festival of New American Musicals, a 2006 GLAAD Media Award nomination for Outstanding Los Angeles Theater; recognition as the 2004 Arts Orange County Outstanding Arts Organization; participation in the 365 Days/365 Plays National Theater Project and the Los Angeles Edge of the World Theater Festival.

## Quick Reference

### ***Playing in Repertory with *The Brain From Planet X*...***

May 11 – June 8, 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!