

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, April 3, 2008

## **Last year's Pulitzer Prize Winner for Drama, "Rabbit Hole" gets its OC Premiere at The Chance Theater**

Anaheim Hills, CA (April 9, 2008) -- As the fourth production in their 10th Anniversary Season, The Chance Theater is proud to present the Orange County premiere of David Lindsay-Abaire's **RABBIT HOLE**, the Pulitzer Prize winning drama about a family turned upside down by a tragic event. This production opens May 11, 2008 at Anaheim's Chance Theater, and is directed by Artistic Director Oanh Nguyen, fresh off his successful run of *Assassins*, which closed in March.

The play is about the Corbetts, who had everything a regular family could want... until the day their world was turned upside down. Teeming with heartbreak, compassion, wit, and honesty, **RABBIT HOLE** is a nuanced and delicate piece of theater about family relationships, loss and hope. Having won or been nominated for almost every major playwriting award in the country, **RABBIT HOLE** is widely regarded as one of the best new plays written in the last 25 years.

"Simply put, each character in **RABBIT HOLE** is trying to find their own way to cope with a tragic event, but they find that life keeps moving forward, whether they are ready or not. It's about finding answers and trying to make sense of the world and life -- something we can all relate to -- but **RABBIT HOLE** also encompasses much more," director Oanh Nguyen articulated about the impact of this award-winning piece. "This play is so smart, so human, and so...funny. What is beautiful about this play is that David Lindsay-Abaire infuses a good deal of humor without resorting to jokes. Sometimes, we are funniest when we have no idea that we are being funny."

The Chance Theater is honored to present the official Orange County Premiere of this Pulitzer Prize Winner that began in Orange County as a reading in South Coast Repertory's 2005 Pacific Playwrights Festival. **RABBIT HOLE** opened on Broadway on February 2, 2006 at The Biltmore Theatre and was an instant hit! Critics applauded the production as an "anatomy of grief [that] doesn't so much jerk tears as tap them, from a reservoir of feelings common to anyone who has experienced the landscape-shifting vacuum left by a death in the family." – *New York Times*. Last year, the show made its Los Angeles premiere at the Geffen Playhouse, and was commended by the *Los Angeles Times* as "infused with more humorous life than the majority of carefree comedies clamoring," and *Variety* called the show "an intensely emotional examination of grief, laced with wit, insightfulness, compassion and searing honesty."

DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE is best known (in addition to **RABBIT HOLE**) for the comedy *Fuddy Meers*. He grew up in Boston, MA and went on to concentrate in theatre at Sarah Lawrence College, and was accepted into the Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program at the Juilliard School, where he wrote under the tutelage of Marsha Norman and Christopher Durang. Lindsay-Abaire has received commissions from South Coast Repertory, Dance Theater Workshop, and the Jerome Foundation, as well as awards from the Berilla Kerr Foundation, the Lincoln Center LeComte du Nuoy Fund, Mixed Blood Theater, Primary Stages, the Tennessee Williams/ New Orleans Literary Festival, and the South Carolina Playwrights Festival. Lindsay-Abaire is also currently working on the film adaptation of **RABBIT HOLE**, which will star Academy Award-winning actress, Nicole Kidman.

Director OANH NGUYEN is co-founder and Artistic Director of the award-winning Chance Theater. He was recently awarded the 2007 Outstanding Artist Award by Arts Orange County and is proud to be a new board member of the national organization, Network of Ensemble Theaters. Recent projects include *Frozen*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, and *Assassins*. His 2005 production of *Porcelain* was nominated for the national GLAAD Media Award for "Outstanding Los Angeles Theater."

(more)

The cast features Chance Theater Resident Company Members Alex Bueno (*The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*), Jennifer Ruckman (*Frozen*), Jonathon Lamer (*Sunday in the Park with George*) and Karen Webster (*Variations on a Theme: The Best*). They are joined by Kevin Johnston, who makes his Chance Theater debut with this production.

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: \$22-\$25

Performances: May 11 - June 8, 2008; Thu. 8 p.m.; Sun. 7 p.m.

*Preview - Thursday, May 8 at 8 p.m.; includes post-performance talkback*

*Opening Gala - Sunday, May 11 at 7 p.m.; includes catered reception*

The Chance Theater  
5552 E. La Palma Ave. Anaheim Hills, CA 92807  
(714) 777-3033  
[www.chancetheater.com](http://www.chancetheater.com)

## 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 Rabbit Hole...*

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

**THE BRAIN FROM PLANET X** by David Wechter and Bruce Kimmel, directed by Bruce Kimmel

\* *Part of The Festival of New American Musicals*

\* *Orange County Premiere*

A rip-roaring 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. Can YOU withstand the power of the Brain from Planet X?!

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