



CYGNET THEATRE COMPANY

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CYGNET ANNOUNCES CHANGE TO 08/09 SEASON

Bed and Sofa will close Cygnet's sixth season while Assassins will be postponed.

SAN DIEGO, CA – Cygnet Theatre Artistic Director Sean Murray announced a change to the 08/09 Season. *Assassins*, original scheduled to close the 08/09 Season will be postponed until an undetermined date. In its place, Cygnet will bring back one of its most requested and critically acclaimed productions, ***Bed and Sofa***. The “silent movie musical” with music by Polly Pen and libretto by Laurence Klavan will be directed by Sean Murray. ***Bed and Sofa runs April 23 through May 31, 2009 on the Old Town Stage. The press opening night performance is May 2, 2009 at 8:00pm.***

“The change in the economy has had a dramatic effect on theatres across the country,” said Executive Director Bill Schmidt. “Many theatres have suffered devastating losses and several have been forced to close. We felt producing a show with such high production costs in the current economic climate would not be a wise decision.”

“At the same time, the political climate has changed since we originally announced *Assassins*,” added Murray. “While we feel the show is brilliant and have every intention of producing it down the road, we don’t want it to make an unintentional negative statement in the current climate of hope under our new president. A remount of *Bed and Sofa* has been on our short list for the last couple of seasons, and we figured that this would be the perfect time to introduce it to our newer audience members who may not have seen it 5 years ago.”

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Cygnnet originally produced the Southern California premiere of *Bed and Sofa* in 2004 on its Rolando Stage as part of its first season. The production received 8 awards including San Diego Critics Awards for Outstanding Musical Revival, Outstanding Direction of a Musical (Sean Murray), and Outstanding Performance Awards (Julie Jacobs and Eric Anderson). It also received a KPBS Patte Award for Outstanding Production. Based on a 1926 Russian silent film of the same name, *Bed and Sofa* originally premiered at New York's Vineyard Theatre in 1996 and went on to receive two Obie Awards and seven Drama Desk nominations. It is the story of a husband and wife living in Stalinist Moscow who during a severe housing shortage bring in an old friend to live and sleep on their sofa. When unexpected romance begins to alter the balance of their relationships, the threesome try to make the best of their cramped quarters.

Performances of ***Bed and Sofa*** are Wednesdays at 7:30pm, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm and 7pm on Cygnnet's Old Town Stage located in the heart of Old Town San Diego State Park at 4040 Twiggs St, San Diego, CA 92110. Tickets are \$17 - \$48. Discounts are available for seniors, students and military. There are no Wednesday performances during previews.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting Cygnnet's website at **www.cygnnettheatre.com** or calling the box office at **619-337-1525**. Tickets can also be purchased in person by visiting Cygnnet's main box office located at the Old Town Theatre.

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Cygnnet Theatre Company is a 501(k) non-profit organization founded in 2002 by Artistic Director Sean Murray and Executive Director Bill Schmidt. In 2003, Cygnnet renovated a storefront at 6663 El Cajon Blvd in the Rolando area into a 157-seat theatre. Cygnnet has received over 40 awards and grown to one of the most highly regarded theatre companies in the San Diego area. In December 2007, Cygnnet was awarded a 10-year lease by State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Concessions and Reservations Division of the Old Town Theatre. Located in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, the 248-seat venue was renovated during the summer and fall of 2008 and re-opened in November.