



CYGNET THEATRE COMPANY

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For Immediate Release: April 28, 2008
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CYGNET THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES **OLD TOWN THEATRE CAMPAIGN**

SAN DIEGO, CA - Cygnet Theatre Company has announced the public phase of its \$975,000 campaign to finance renovations to the Old Town Theatre facility, according to Ellen Cherin, president of the company's Board of Trustees.

The company's contract with the State of California requires Cygnet to provide \$375,000 in renovations over the span of the ten-year agreement. However, the board felt that amount would be insufficient to bring the Old Town building up to Cygnet's artistic standards.

Renovations will include larger restrooms that are ADA compliant, new state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems, and cosmetic upgrades of the seating, carpets, lobby and building exterior.

"Since the decision was made to raise funds for these purposes, we have been able to raise over \$600,000 just by quietly talking with our supporters," said Bill Schmidt, executive director. "We're now confident that our goal, which includes an amount for bridge funding, is within reach and we are ready to go public with our needs."

When the current production of Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* closes on May 11, renovation work will begin immediately. The newly-renovated theatre is scheduled to re-open in late November with a holiday presentation of the classic *A Christmas Carol*. The Victorian theme of the play will echo the new look of the theatre.

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Artistic Director Sean Murray adds, “We believe that our efforts at the Old Town Theatre will reinstate it as a destination for local San Diego residents as well as for park visitors. Bringing a full season of theatrical productions back into the park should have a major positive impact on the Old Town community.”

Cygnets Theatre Company was founded in 2003 and is currently finishing its fifth full season. The facility in Old Town joins the original Rolando/College space where the psychological thriller *A Number* will open for previews on May 22. Cygnets will produce its sixth season of live theatrical productions in both facilities, alternating between the two sites once Old Town re-opens.

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