



CYGNET THEATRE COMPANY

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CYGNET THEATRE COMPANY ADDS SAN DIEGO PREMIERE OF THERESA REBECK'S MAURITIUS TO 2008/2009 SEASON

SEASON SET TO OPEN WITH WEST COAST PREMIERES OF ADAM BOCK'S THE RECEPTIONIST AND CHRISTOPHER SHINN'S DYING CITY

SAN DIEGO, CA – Cygnet Theatre Company's 2008/9 Season will now include the San Diego premiere of Theresa Rebeck's suspenseful mystery, *Mauritius*. The production, to be directed by **Francis Gercke**, will run **April 2 through May 10, 2009** at Cygnet's Rolando Theatre. Low-priced previews are April 2 through April 10. **Press Opening is April 11 at 8pm.**

In *Mauritius*, two estranged half-sisters discover a book of rare stamps that may include the crown jewel for collectors. One sister tries to collect on the windfall, while the other resists for sentimental reasons. In this gripping and darkly comic tale, a seemingly simple sale becomes dangerous when three seedy, high-stakes collectors enter the sisters' world, willing to do anything to claim the rare find as their own.

Mauritius had its world premiere at Huntington Theatre in October 2006. It opened on Broadway at the Biltmore Theatre in October 2007. Ben Brantley of The New York Times said, "Three Thugs and a Stamp Collection! You can't dismiss the pleasurable kick of watching a woman take on a slew of Mamet-esque thugs! The corkscrew-twist drama of suspense...moves quickly and fluidly...a multitude of mysteries!"

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In order to allow for the addition of *Mauritius* to the 2008/2009 Season, the west coast premiere of Adam Bock's *The Receptionist* will now open the season with Artistic Director **Sean Murray** at the helm and featuring local favorite **Melinda Gilb** in the title role. Performances will take place at the Rolando Theatre **July 24 through August 31, 2008**. Low-priced previews are July 24 through August 1. **Press Opening is August 2 at 8pm.**

The west coast premiere of Christopher Shinn's *Dying City*, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, will follow *The Receptionist* at Cygnet's Rolando Theatre. Directed by Francis Gercke, the production will run **September 18 through October 26, 2008**. Low-priced previews are September 18 through September 26. **Press Opening is September 27 at 8pm.**

Due to the changes in the schedule, the production of *Measure for Pleasure*, which was originally slated to open the season, has been cancelled.

A complete listing of the 2008/2009 Cygnet Theatre Season is below.

Subscription Packages are now available through the Cygnet box office. For more information visit **www.cygnettheatre.com** or call **619-337-1525**. The box office is currently located at Cygnet's Rolando Theatre, 6663 El Cajon Blvd. #N, one block west of the intersection of El Cajon and Montezuma.

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CYGNET THEATRE COMPANY'S 2008/2009 SEASON

Rolando/College Theatre

West Coast Premiere

The Receptionist

By Adam Bock.

Directed by Sean Murray.

July 24 through August 31, 2008. Press opening: August 2, 2008 at 8pm.

Beverly takes pride in her work as the receptionist at a busy Northeast office. Whether coaching her co-worker Lorraine through romantic troubles, fielding calls for their boss Mr. Raymond or carefully monitoring the flow of office supplies, Beverly keeps her domain shipshape. But when handsome Mr. Dart arrives unexpectedly from the central office, the play goes from *The Office* to *The Twilight Zone*.

Rolando/College Theatre

West Coast Premiere

Dying City

By Christopher Shinn.

Directed by Francis Gercke.

September 18 through October 26, 2008. Press opening: September 27, 2008 at 8pm.

In Christopher Shinn's remarkable tale of loss and how two very different people handle their grief, we find Kelly, a year after her husband's death in Iraq, confronting his identical twin brother who arrives at her apartment unannounced. "Trying to make sense of what is left behind envelops DYING CITY...In this subtle and revealing play, Shinn is able to take the political and humanize it—transforming the stuff of daily news stories into a devastating statement on the unforeseen and often hidden consequences of war." (A.P.)

Rolando/College Theatre

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play

Adapted for the stage by Joe Landry.

Directed by Sean Murray.

November 20 through December 28, 2008. Press opening: November 26, 2008 at 8pm.

It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play returns to Cygnet! The famous story of George Bailey and Clarence the Angel is brought to life as a 1940's live radio play, filled with music, live sound effects and plenty of heart. Don't miss this opportunity to see the show that has brought joyful, cheering audiences to their feet! Buy your tickets now and guarantee the best seats for you and your family for this unique holiday classic.

Old Town Theatre

A Christmas Carol

Adapted for the stage by Sean Murray.

Directed by Sean Murray.

November 28 through December 28, 2008. Press opening: December 6, 2008 at 8pm.

Start a tradition with our new staging of the immortal holiday classic, *A Christmas Carol*. This traditional telling of the beloved Victorian ghost story brings the redemption of 'squeezing, grasping, coveting old sinner,' Ebenezer Scrooge to life and reminds us that mankind is all of our business. Join us for this inaugural production in the newly remodeled Old Town Theatre!

Rolando/College Theatre

Southern California Premiere

Love Song

By John Kolvenbach.

January 15 through February 22, 2009. Press opening: January 24, 2009 at 8pm.

Beane is an exile from life—an oddball. His well-meaning sister, Joan, and brother-in-law, Harry, try and make time for him in their busy lives, but no one can get through. Following a burglary in his apartment, Joan is baffled to find her brother blissfully happy and tries to unravel the story behind Beane's mysterious new love, Molly. Funny, enchanting and wonderfully touching, John Kolvenbach's offbeat comedy is a rhapsody to the power of love in all its forms.

Old Town Theatre

San Diego Premiere

The History Boys

By Alan Bennett

Directed by Sean Murray.

February 19 through March 29, 2009. Press opening: February 28, 2009 at 8pm.

The 2006 Tony Award for Best Play went to this comedy/drama about a bunch of bright, funny boys in a British boarding school who are, as such boys will be, in pursuit of sex, sport, and acceptance at a good university—generally in that order. In their efforts, they are helped by a maverick history teacher who seeks to broaden their horizons, sometimes in unorthodox ways, and by a young teacher who questions the methods, as well as the aim, of their schooling. Alan Bennett raises, with gentle wit, universal questions about the nature of history, how it is taught and questions the purpose of education today.

Rolando/College Theatre

San Diego Premiere

Mauritius

By Theresa Rebeck.

Directed by Francis Gercke.

April 2 through May 10, 2009. Press opening: April 11, 2009 at 8pm.

Stamp collecting is far more risky than you think. After their mother's death, two estranged half-sisters discover a book of rare stamps that may include the crown jewel for collectors. One sister tries to collect on the windfall, while the other resists for sentimental reasons. In this gripping tale, a seemingly simple sale becomes dangerous when three seedy, high-stakes collectors enter the sisters' world, willing to do anything to claim the rare find as their own. *"One wouldn't think that the subject of rare stamps would make for gripping, entertaining theater, but Rebeck's Mauritius, proves otherwise...The sort of well-made, engrossing and unpretentious play rarely encountered on Broadway these days..."* - *The Hollywood Reporter*

Old Town Theatre

Assassins

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by John Weidman.

Based on an original idea by Charles Gilbert.

Directed by Sean Murray.

April 23 through June 14, 2009. Press opening: May 2, 2009 at 8pm.

Bold, original, surreal, disturbing, thought-provoking and alarmingly *funny* musical, "Assassins" is perhaps the most controversial musical ever written. This most American of musicals explores the underside of the American Dream and lays bare the lives of nine individuals who assassinated or tried to assassinate the President of the United States. From John Wilkes Booth to Lee Harvey Oswald, Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman have created an shocking and shockingly original musical that contains a brilliant, melodic score which pastiches American music throughout the ages, from folk to ragtime to 70's soft-rock.

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