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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOT YOUR PARENTS' WOODS!

“NEW” Chance Theater staging of Sondheim’s musical masterpiece “Into The Woods” ~ Gala Opening July 28th!

IN A NUTSHELL:

WHAT: “*Into The Woods*”
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by James Lapine
Directed by Oanh Nguyen
Musically Directed by Bill Strongin
Choreographed by Kelly Todd

WHEN: July 28 – September 10, 2006
Thu/Fri/Sat 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m.

HOW MUCH: \$25 General Admission
\$22 Seniors/Students with ID

WHERE: The Chance Theater, 5552 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807

INFO/RESERVATIONS: Theater Info Line 714.777.3033
24/7 Ticket Line 800.838.3006
24/7 Tickets online www.chancetheater.com

No one is alone. In a “NEW” Chance Theater staging of Sondheim’s musical masterpiece, *Into The Woods*, you’ll experience how the stories we choose to pass on shape who we are. “I wish. . . .” When a slew of fairy-tale characters cross paths in the tangled darkness of these magical woods, they soon learn that “wishes come true, not free.” Explore how the shadows of the past influence life choices in this truly theatrical journey. What stories do YOU tell?

Under the innovative directorial guidance of The Chance Theater’s critically-acclaimed Artistic Director, Oanh Nguyen, *Into The Woods* will open on Friday, July 28, 2006, and run for a total of 27 performances through September 10, 2006. Show times are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. There will be a Post-Performance “Talkback” Discussion with the cast after every Thursday evening performance. For all general performances, tickets are \$25 General Admission, and \$22 for Seniors and Students with I.D. A \$20 Preview Performance is scheduled for Thursday, April 27th, at 8:00 p.m. The Opening Gala on Friday, April 28th, at 8:00 p.m. will include a champagne reception after the performance. A Dinner and Show package with Yves’ Bistro and Café Europe is also available.

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Director Oanh Nguyen’s unique *new* staging reimagines this well-know Sondheim masterwork by trading spectacle for a more visceral theatrical approach in an intimate setting. Nguyen explores the magical storytelling aspects of *Into The Woods* by focusing on the character relationships between the narrator and the six major leads, using specific theatrical language, stirring imagery, and live orchestral music to galvanize the moments of fantasy. His conceptual view also features a six person ensemble performing the remaining fourteen roles in the musical.

In the words of director Nguyen, whose recent directorial accomplishments include a 2005 GLAAD Media Award Nomination for Outstanding Los Angeles Theater for The Chance’s production of Chay Yew’s *Porcelain*, "*Into The Woods* is about family, community and one's identity within them. These ideas are personally important to me. It is about maturity and the ability to decipher the voices of our past and of our community as we enter, wide-eyed, into this chaotic world where our character and life choices are put to the test." Nguyen further explains that, “At The Chance, we explore the uniqueness of intimate live theater by presenting personally meaningful work that promotes dialogue with our community. My approach to every production is to find a personal way into it.”

Into The Woods, Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's popular, award-winning musical masterpiece, inspired by Bruno Bettelheim's *The Uses of Enchantment*, intertwines a collection of uncensored versions of 19th century Brothers Grimm fairy tales. After its debut in San Diego at the Old Globe Theatre in 1986, *Into The Woods* premiered on Broadway at the Martin Beck Theater in 1987. The Original Broadway production ran for 804 performances and won three Tony Awards, including Best Score and Best Book of a Musical, along with the 1988 Drama Critic’s Circle Award and Drama Desk Award for Best Musical. The Original Cast Recording also won a Grammy Award. The show was revived on Broadway in 2002, with a retooled plot, and ran for 280-performances. The Broadway Revival production of *Into The Woods* was honored with two Tony Awards for Best Revival of a Musical and Best Lighting.

Collaborating once again with director Nguyen on this imaginative staging will be two creative artists from his critically-acclaimed production of *Cabaret* - Musical Director, Bill Strongin, and Choreographer, Kelly Todd (The Chance’s Managing Director).

The cast features four Chance Theater Repertory Company Members: Jocelyn A. Brown (OC *Weekly* Theater Award:

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Best Female Lead - *Goodnight Children Everywhere* at The Chance), who performed in our season opening hit musical *The Last 5 Years*; Warren Draper (Ethel Case Award: Best Male Lead – *Damn Yankees*), last seen in our critically-acclaimed presentation of *Hot ‘N’ Throbbing*; Erika C. Miller (Garland Award Honorable Mention: Best Actress – *Cabaret* at The Chance), who recently performed in our special engagement presentation of *Rodgers and Hammerstein’s A Grand Night For Singing* at The Curtis Theatre; and Sarah Moreau, just seen in our *L.A. Times* Critic’s Choice staging of *with their eyes: September 11th – The View from a High School at Ground Zero*. Joining them will be Michelle Anderson, last here at The Chance in our *Back Stage West* Critic’s Pick staging of *Cabaret*; Bob Simpson (Ovation Winning *Blake . . . da Musical*), returning for a third consecutive production this season at The Chance, having performed in *The Last 5 Years* and *Never In My Lifetime* (*Back Stage West* Critic’s Pick), and Sherry Domerego, back again after having appeared in our 2001 presentation of *Pippin*. Making their Chance Theater debuts with this production are Josh Christoff, Krystal Cori Garcia, A.J. Gutierrez, Jeremy Lelliott, Peter Schnake, and Lowe Taylor.

If you would like to arrange an interview with the director, cast, would like more information, reservations or complimentary press passes, please call 714-777-3033.

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