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NEWS

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New musical by Tony Award-winning co-creator of *Urinetown* to open at the Chance Theater as part of Festival of New American Musicals

OC's leading intimate theater to produce professional debut of *The Girl, The Grouch, and The Goat*

Anaheim Hills, CA (March 26, 2009) – Oanh Nguyen, Artistic Director, and Casey Long, Managing Director, announced today that the Chance Theater will once again be participating in the region-wide Festival of New American Musicals with the professional premiere of ***The Girl, The Grouch, and The Goat***, with music and lyrics by 2002 Tony Award-winner Mark Hollmann (*Urinetown, the Musical*), and book by celebrated Chicago-based playwright Jack Helbig. The production is being sponsored by GFS, Inc. and the Dramatists Guild Fund.

"We are tremendously honored to once again have been asked to participate in the Festival of New American Musicals. This major theatrical initiative was one of the driving forces that led us to discover this comic gem of a musical," says Artistic Director Oanh Nguyen, who is also directing the production. "***The Girl, The Grouch, and The Goat*** is so rich with lively characters and hilarious situations but also very personal, even didactic at its core. It takes an extremely talented creative team like Mark and Jack to attack an ancient Greek farce in this way. We're delighted to be able to share this story with our audiences."

The Girl, The Grouch, and The Goat (April 17 - May 24; Press opening: April 18, 2009) is a farcical and musical romp through ancient Greece from Mark Hollmann, the co-creator of the hilariously off-beat *Urinetown the Musical*. Journey with the Chance into a parched village on the outskirts of Athens that has been in a drought for decades. The only working well in town is controlled by a nasty old grouch named Clemnon, who delights in price-gouging his neighbors. His obsession with maintaining his water monopoly is only matched by his determination to keep his daughter away from all the men in town! However, what will happen when she falls in love with the son of Clemnon's sworn nemesis, a wealthy and strong-willed widow? Will the gods create mischief? Will it finally rain? And will someone finally catch one of those wild goats?!?

The Girl, The Grouch, and The Goat first came to the Chance's attention when Literary Director Jonathan Josephson saw a reading of the play as part of Theatre Leagues' 2007 Thousand Oaks Festival of New Musicals. "I fell in love with the piece immediately," says Josephson. "It was so funny, so clever, so theatrical – how could a theatre lover resist? As larger-than-life as it is, the show just works on an absolute level. And in an age where so many comedies rely on parody, sarcasm, or obvious wisecracks to get laughs, this show (much like *Urinetown the Musical*) is truly clever and processes a wit that sparkles right from the opening moments."

The Girl, The Grouch, and The Goat has been workshopped at numerous theatres across the country but has only one prior full production -- a student production at the University Theatre of Kansas University. The Chance production will be the show's West Coast and professional debut.

The production will be the Chance's contribution to the **Festival of New American Musicals**, a region-wide collaboration that will include dozens of new musical productions at venues ranging from The Broad Stage in Santa Monica to the Rubicon Theatre Company in Ventura. Productions involved with last year's festival were attended by over 120,000 patrons. Supporters include Los Angeles County Supervisors and the County Arts Commission and The Department of Cultural Affairs of the City of Los Angeles, The Bank of New York Mellon,

(more)

ASCAP Foundation, KUSC, The Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles and the Joseph Drown Foundation, Greenberg & Glusker attorneys and Backstage.

The Girl, The Grouch and The Goat will also be participating in the Arts Orange County Imagination Celebration, the county-wide arts festival for children and families featuring over 100 affordable or free events in 31 Orange County cities! The event will take place from April 18th – May 17th. This is the Chance Theater's third year participating in the Imagination Celebration (prior productions include *with their eyes: September 11th* – *The View from a High School at Ground Zero* and *The Brain from Planet X*).

The cast for ***The Girl, The Grouch and The Goat*** includes Brooke Cannons, Armando Gutierrez, Glenn Koppel, Eloise Coppersmith, Paul Karliak, David LaMarr, Sarah Pierce, and Jessie McLean*.

Creative staff and designers include Oanh Nguyen* (Director), Bill Strongin* (Musical Director), Kelly Todd* (Choreographer), John Robinson* (Scenic Designer), Jeff Brewer* (Lighting Designer), Cassandra Stone (Costume Designer), Jonathan Josephson* (Dramaturg), Courtney Greenough* (Rehearsal Stage Manager), and Masako Tobaru* (Production Stage Manager).

* Denotes Chance Theater resident company member

If you would like to arrange an interview with any of the creative team or cast or would like more information, reservations or complimentary press passes, please call Managing Director at Casey Long (714) 777-3033 or email him at casey@chancetheater.com.

Performance & Ticket Information

April 17 – May 24 (Press Opening: April 18 at 8pm)

The Girl, The Grouch and The Goat

Music and Lyrics by Mark Hollmann

Book by Jack Helbig

Directed by Oanh Nguyen

Musical Direction by Bill Strongin

Choreographed by Kelly Todd

Fridays at 8:00 p.m., Saturdays at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.; \$35-\$45.

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

www.chancetheater.com

Box Office Information:

Phone number: (714) 777-3033

Make secure reservations at www.chancetheater.com.

About The Chance Theater

Voted “Best Theater Group” by *MyFoxLA* and “Best Small Theater” by *Orange Coast Magazine*, the Chance is proud to begin Season 11 as one of the leading ensemble based theatre companies in Southern California. 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), Network of Ensemble Theaters (NET), and the Los Angeles Stage Alliance (LASA), the Chance continues to bring national attention to Southern California theater through its recent achievements, which include a 2006 GLAAD Media Award nomination for Outstanding Los Angeles Theater.