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MYSTERY, HISTORY, ROMANCE
WEST COAST AND WORLD PREMIERES
THEATRE 40 ANNOUNCES 2011-2012 SEASON

THEATRE 40 will open their **2011-2012 Season** on July 28th, 2011 with ***SPIDER'S WEB*** by everyone's favorite whodunit author and playwright, **AGATHA CHRISTIE**. It is an original Christie mystery first written as a play for Margaret Lockwood that premiered in London on December 13, 1954. Clarissa, the wife of a Foreign Office diplomat, discovers a body in the drawing room of her home. With her husband scheduled to arrive at any moment with an important VIP in tow, Clarissa has to create an intricate web of alibis and invention to save her family. When her lies lead to new surprises the audience is left to untangle the puzzle. ***SPIDER'S WEB*** is a captivating whodunit that was novelised in 2000 by Charles Osborne. Directing ***SPIDER'S WEB*** will be the multi-talented **BRUCE GRAY** who staged a critically acclaimed production of Agatha Christie's ***BLACK COFFEE*** last year as Theatre 40's opening play of the season. ***SPIDER'S WEB* opens July 28th and closes August 28th, 2011.**

The second production in **THEATRE 40'S 2011-2012 Season** will be **The WORLD PREMIERE** of ***JIMMY AND SAM*** by **MICHAEL RHODES, PAT HARRINGTON, JR.** and **HOWARD STORM** opening on September 22, 2011. **PAT HARRINGTON** has been playing character role for 50 years. He's been nominated 6 times, winning an Emmy, a Golden Globe and a Dramalogue Critics Award. **HOWARD STORM** is one of television's reigning directors of comedy, having been snatched from the comedy club circuit to direct Valerie Harper in her starring series ***RHODA***. And he's written scripts for such shows as *All In The Family*, *The Partridge Family* and the original *Bob Newhart Show*. ***JIMMY AND SAM*** is a charming, hilarious and heartfelt new comedy about the warm relationship between two elderly men, one Irish, one Jewish who have been friends for 40 years; Jimmy a retired dockworker and Sam a retired barber. This wonderful and touching new play will keep you laughing, while at the same time tug at your heartstrings. **TIM BYRON OWEN**, founding member of The Celtic Arts Center and winner of numerous acting and directing awards, will helm this production. ***JIMMY AND SAM* opens September 22nd and closes October 23rd.**

In the **third and fourth** slot, there will be two plays in repertory under the umbrella title of ***A BOUQUET OF ROSES***. The **WEST COAST PREMIERE** of ***ROSES IN DECEMBER*** by **VICTOR L. CAHN** opens on November 17, 2011. Cahn has written numerous plays and is Professor of English at Skidmore College and the author of books on Shakespeare,

Tom Stoppard, and Harold Pinter. His articles and reviews have appeared in such diverse publications as Modern Drama, The Literary Review, The New York Times, and Variety. In ***ROSES IN DECEMBER***, a play of letters, a young official in

THEATRE 40 - SEASON 2011-2012 - PAGE 2

a college alumni office invites a celebrated but reclusive author to the thirty-fifth reunion of his class. When he declines, she charmingly prods him, and thereby begins a witty and revelatory correspondence that becomes part mystery, part memory, and part romance. "Rich and revealing." – *The New Yorker*. Director **TBA**. ***ROSES IN DECEMBER opens November 17th and closes December 18th on Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8 PM and Sunday at 2 PM.*** (NO PERFORMANCE ON THANKSGIVING DAY, NOVEMBER 24TH)

Playing in Rep and the 4th production in **THEATRE 40'S 2011-2012** Season, will be **KATHRINE BATES'** story based on the exciting and turbulent life of Rose Kennedy, ***THE COLOR OF ROSE*** opening on November 21st. Young Rose Fitzgerald dreamed big, but even she couldn't have imagined that she would become one of the most venerated icons of the 20th century. In ***THE COLOR OF ROSE***, the age ranges of the three "Roses" (Rose Kennedy) are not definitive, but rather suggestive of the wide-eyed optimism of her youth, the harsh and bitter reality of her middle years and, finally, a coming to terms with all that went on before. KATHRINE BATES is a writer, actress and musician. A lively interest in history has led her to create ***ROAR OF THE CROWD*** (Fatty Arbuckle), ***EVIL LEGACY*** (Lucrezia Borgia), ***THE MANOR*** (a fictionalized play about the Doheny family tragedy going into its ninth year at Greystone Mansion) and ***THE COLOR OF ROSE*** (Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy). **KATHRINE BATES** will direct. ***THE COLOR OF ROSE opens November 21, 2011 and closes December 14, 2011 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 PM.***

Opening in the New Year on January 26th will be THEATRE 40'S fifth production in their 2011-2012 Season, ***DREAMS OF THE WASHER KING*** by **CHRISTOPHER WALL**. Caught in the space between the past and present, four people revisit one life-changing event in Christopher Wall's powerful, mind-bending drama. ***DREAMS OF THE WASHER KING*** was a finalist at the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, as well as the SPF, PlayPENN and Sundance conferences. Wall's unique vision unfolds among a field of capsized washing machines and a rainstorm of grass to reveal a haunting story of lost love and childhood dreams. "Wall has a particular gift for line-writing - he gives his characters some wonderful things to say" *theatremania* **ANDRE BARRON**, whose last project at Theatre 40 was ***THE ICE BREAKER***, will direct. Andre's latest directorial stint in Los Angeles was the critically-acclaimed *Fernando Richardson's Treacherous Brain* for the Open Fist Theatre Company. ***DREAMS OF THE WASHER KING opens January 26, 2012 and closes February 26, 2012.***

Play #6 - ***LAURA*** by **VERA CASPARY & GEORGE SKLAR** opens on March 29th. Based on Vera Caspary's 1943 pulp-fiction novel of the same name, the play ***LAURA*** begins with the gorgeous woman at the center of the story already dead - someone took a shotgun and shot her in the face. But that doesn't stop the New York City detective in charge of the case, from falling in love with the victim while he sleuths out her life and searches for her killer. Originally, ***LAURA*** ran in *Colliers* from October to November 1942 as a seven-part serial entitled *Ring Twice for Laura*. It was republished in book form the next year; afterwards, Caspary sold the film rights to Twentieth Century Fox, resulting in a 1944 hit movie starring Gene Tierney and Dana Andrews. In 1946, Caspary sold the story for a fourth time, this time co-writing a theatrical version with George Sklar. **DAVID MCCLENDON**, who, in the past, has been the Artistic Director of Theatre

Aspen, staged numerous productions at the Denver Center and was a casting director and director at The Old Globe in San Diego, will helm ***LAURA*** for Theatre 40. ***LAURA opens March 29, 2012 and closes April 29, 2012.***

THEATRE 40 - SEASON 2011-2012 - PAGE 3

THEATRE 40 will close their 2011-2012 Season on May 23rd with ***THE CIRCLE*** by **SOMERSET MAUGHAM**. **Maugham's** popular comedy is a wise and droll satire concerning marriage, disloyalty and the battle between passion and practicality. The National Theatre poll lists it as one of the 100 best plays of the twentieth century. ***THE CIRCLE*** was first seen at the Haymarket in London in 1921 where it shocked the staid British audiences about the conflict between romance and loyalty to one's partner. In a period of a dozen years, **W. Somerset Maugham** wrote a streak of popular plays that were consciously influenced by Restoration comedies. From *Our Betters* to *The Constant Wife*, these were plays that, in the author's words, treated "with indulgent cynicism the humours, follies and vices of the world of fashion." It is generally accepted that ***THE CIRCLE*** (1921) is the best of those works." **BRUCE GRAY** will again direct. ***THE CIRCLE opens May 23, 2012 and closes the Season on June 24, 2012.***

SCHEDULE FOR THEATRE 40 PRODUCTIONS

Theatre 40 is a professional theatre company conveniently located on The Beverly Hills High School Campus at 241 Moreno Drive - just off Little Santa Monica Blvd. Adjacent to Century City.

NOTE NEW SCHEDULE

Performances for 2011 - 2012 - Thursday, Friday & Saturday evenings at 8:00 PM and Sundays at 2:00 PM

Except for Play #4 - *THE COLOR OF ROSE* which will play Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at 8:00 PM

Tickets Thursday and Friday: \$23.00; Saturday and Sunday: \$25.00

Students and members of theatrical unions are half-price at the door on stand-by

RESERVATIONS and INFORMATION: 310-364-0535

On the web: <http://www.theatre40.org>

WE ARE NOW SELLING TICKETS ON LINE - CHECK WEBSITE FOR LINK

ALSO CHECK OUT THEATRE 40 ON FACEBOOK

Theatre 40 is newly and luxuriously renovated - there is ample FREE indoor parking

There is Wheelchair accessibility and the theatre is comfortably air-conditioned - Credit Cards accepted

HOW TO FIND OUR THEATRE

Theatre 40 is at 241 Moreno Drive - just off Little Santa Monica Blvd. Adjacent to Century City. (On Little Santa Monica - if you are coming from the 405 - turn right on Moreno Drive - if you are coming from the opposite direction turn left on Moreno Drive - it does not cut through to Big Santa Monica)

The entrance to Theatre 40 is **NOT** in the front of the school building. When you turn onto Moreno Drive towards the school building, there is a traffic light. A few yards beyond that light is a road (just before the gate to the road that separates the two buildings)- turn right onto that road and follow it around the back of the building to the huge FREE indoor parking area.(there is no other road there so you will NOT get lost). After you park - go to the lighted area where the theatre is located - there is no other place to go.