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Date: February 3, 2010

**FACT SHEET FOR *Mulan***

**WHAT:** *Disney's Mulan*  
Music and Lyrics by Matthew Wilder and David Zippel, Stephen Schwartz, Jeanine Tesori and Alexa Junge  
Music Adapted and Arranged and Additional Music and Lyrics by Bryan Louiselle  
Book Adapted and Additional Lyrics by Patricia Cotter  
Based on the 1998 Disney® film “Mulan” and the story “Fa Mulan” by Robert D. San Souci  
Directed by Rosemary Newcott.  
DISNEY®S MULAN JUNIOR is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019, Phone: 212.541.4684 Fax: 212.397.4684 www.MTIShows.com

**WHEN:** **Feb. 24 – Mar. 19, 2010**  
  
Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on the Alliance Stage. FAMILIES Centerstage performances on Feb. 27 will be at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. The Thursday, Mar. 4 show at 11:45 a.m. will be Audio Described. The matinee performance on Wednesday, Mar. 10 at 11:45 p.m. will be Sign Interpreted.

**Opening Night is Saturday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.**

**STORY:** One girl is about to discover the hero inside of her – and in doing so, save an empire! Embrace the adventure and magic of this exotic musical based on the animated Disney movie. The destiny of her people is in the hands of a girl who throws tradition aside to save her family and her emperor – and an upstart dragon that will show her the way...because heroes come in all shapes and sizes.

**TICKETS:** Tickets are \$20 and \$30 and are available at the Woodruff Arts Center Box Office by calling 404.733.5000 or online at [www.alliancetheatre.org](http://www.alliancetheatre.org). Discount rates for groups of 10 or more are available by calling 404.733.4690. Discount rates are also available for members of the military, seniors and students. The Alliance Theatre is located at the Woodruff Arts Center, corner of Peachtree and 15th

Street, in Midtown Atlanta. Box-office hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays and noon to 8 p.m. on weekends. Tickets may be charged on Visa, Discover, American Express or MasterCard. Groups of 10 or more call 404.733.4690.

### THE CAST

Leslie Bellair	Mulan
*Blake Covington	Shang/Young Yi/Magyar
Alejandro Gutierrez	Zhang/Father/Groomer/Old Yi/Quian Po
Bethany Irby	Yun/Fa Li/Yao
Bernard Jones	Mushu/Matchmaker/Emperor
*J.C. Long	Laozi/Shan Yu/Young Xiao/Groomer
Brandon O'Dell	Hong/Fa Zhou/Ling
*Alecia Robinson	Lin/Grandmother FA/Chen/Chi-Fu

### UNDERSTUDIES

Drew Hale	US Laozi/Shan-Yu/Hong/Fa Zhou/Groomer/Ling/ Shang//Young Yi/Magyar
Corey Mekell	US Zhang/Father/Groomer/Old Yi/Quian Po/ Mushu/Matchmaker/Young Xiao/Emperor
Sarah Turner	US Mulan/Yun/La Li/YAO/Lin/Grandmother Fa/ Chen/Chi Fu

### THE CREATIVE TEAM:

Rosemary Newcott	Director
Hylan Scott	Choreographer
Kat Conley	Set Designer
Sydney Roberts	Costume Designer
Pete Shinn	Lighting Designer
Clay Benning	Sound Designer
Christopher Cannon	Musical Director
*Liz Campbell	Production Stage Manager
Celise Kalke	Dramaturg

\*Denotes a member of the Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

### Special Event:

#### **FAMILIES Centerstage -- Saturday, Feb. 27, 2009**

Woodruff Arts Center; Performances: 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.; Festival: 2 – 4 p.m.

A benefit for the Alliance Children's Theatre.

An annual festival putting families and great theatre in the spotlight! Join the Alliance Children's Theatre for a great family fun fair showcasing *Mulan*! Between two performances, the Woodruff Arts Center Galleria will be transformed into an interactive festival highlighting ways to harness the power of self-expression. Sing, dance, move and create your own art with Atlanta's favorite children's organizations and businesses while supporting the Alliance Children's Theatre!

Tickets are \$25 for children and \$35 for adults (includes performance and festival). To purchase tickets, call 404-733-5000 or visit [alliancetheatre.org](http://alliancetheatre.org). For additional information call 404-733-4613.

## BIOGRAPHIES:

### Rosemary Newcott

(*Director/The Sally G. Tomlinson Artistic Director of Theatre for Youth*) has been directing, acting and teaching at the Alliance Theatre since 1988. Favorite Alliance Children's Theatre directing credits include *Middle School the Musical*, *Class of 3000 LIVE*; *Goodnight Moon*; *Seussical the Musical*; *Degas' Little Dancer, Go, Dog. Go!*; Disney's *Aladdin*; *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*; *A Christmas Carol*; *Einstein is a Dummy* (World Premiere); *The Little Baby Snoogle-Fleejer*; *The Miracle Worker*; *Ferdinand the Bull*; *Merlin*; *The Music Lesson*; *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*; *Pinocchio 3.5*; *Androcles and the Lion*; *The Hobbit*; *The Book of Ruth*; *A Woman Called Truth*; *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*; *Charlotte's Web* and the acclaimed high-school Collision Project. Newcott also has directed at the Horizon Theatre, Theatrical Outfit, Center for Puppetry Arts, Academy Theatre, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, Virginia Stage Company and Seaside Rep. She holds extensive stage and film acting credits. A recipient of the prestigious Princess Grace Foundation Award, Newcott was named PBA Lexus Leader of the Arts and Best Director by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution for the 2001-02 Season. In 2005, she received the GTC Distinguished Career Award. Newcott is also the recipient of a 2008 Princess Grace Special Project Grant. This spring she will direct a brand new family musical — *Knuffl ebunny* by Mo Williams — at the Kennedy Center.  
[rosemary.newcott@woodruffcenter.org](mailto:rosemary.newcott@woodruffcenter.org)

### Leslie Bellair

(*Mulan*) This marks Leslie's first full production with the Alliance, and she is honored to help tell such a heroic tale; previous Alliance appearances include the *Mulan Jr.* workshop and *Taste of the Season*. Other Atlanta credits include: *Iola Stover/Parade* (Blackwell Playhouse), *Crazy Ma/Book of Revolutions* (Proving Ground Theatre), Jackie/Andrew Lippa's *The Wild Party* (OnStage Atlanta), *Isabel/The Pirates of Penzance* (Atlanta Lyric), *Rug/Ensemble/Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Atlanta Lyric), *Soupy Sue/Secretary/Hope u.s./Urinetown the Musical* (OnStage Atlanta), *Florinda/Into the Woods* (Blackwell Playhouse). Regional: *Sally/You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Town & Gown Players), *Tzeitel/Fiddler on the Roof* (Athens Creative Theatre), *Eve/Mama Noah/Children of Eden*. Leslie has also done some voice acting work and is the voice of Flikka on the iPhone application "Diss Crazy!".

### Blake Covington

(*Shang/Young Yi/Magyar*) Blake graduated from Emory University in 2007, double majoring in Theater and Business. As a student performing with Theater Emory he received two awards for best lead actor. Since graduating he has starred in several independent films, shot a few commercials, and played numerous theater roles in Atlanta. He was most recently seen playing Josh in *A Sunday Afternoon at Loehmann's* (Ansley Park Playhouse). Other notable theater roles include Edmund in *King Lear*, Tony Lumpkin in *She Stoops to Conquer*, Segismundo in *Life is a Dream*, The New Recruit in *Oh, What A Lovely War!* (Theater Emory), Israel Hands in *Treasure Island* (Georgia Ensemble Theatre), and Seth in the world premiere of *West of Eden* (Essential Theatre Festival). Blake is thrilled to make his debut at the Alliance Theatre!

### Aejandro Gutierrez

(*Zhang/Father/Groomer/Old Yi/Quian Po*) Alejandro Gutierrez is proud to be making his Alliance stage debut with *Mulan*. Most recently seen in *Cinderella* with The Atlanta Lyric, Ali is beginning

to branch out in the Atlanta theatre scene. Previous credits include *Pirates of Penzance*, Atlanta Lyric; *Valhalla*, Essential Theatre; *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs*, Theatre In The Square; *Don Quixote*, Center For Puppetry Arts; *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*, Button Theatre; *Into the Woods*; *Les Miserables*; *The Sting*; *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, Blackwell Playhouse.

### **Bethany Irby**

(*Yun/Fa Li/Yao*) is happy to be making her Alliance Theatre stage debut! Other Atlanta credits include: *It's a Wonderful Life* (ART Station), *Kiss Me Kate* (Aurora), *Buddy Holly—the Buddy Holly Story* (Georgia Ensemble), *The It Girl* (Atlanta Lyric), *Big River* (Theatrical Outfit), *The Missionary Position* (Horizon), *Guys and Dolls* (Aurora), *A Piece of My Heart* (Theatre in the Square). She recently music directed *Free to Be You and Me* which is currently running at Synchronicity Performance Group and next you can see her as Marty in *Grease* at Georgia Ensemble. Bethany holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Shorter College and has two Suzi Bass nominations for Featured Actress in a Musical.

### **Bernard Jones**

(*Mushu/Matchmaker/Emperor*) returns to the Alliance Theatre after making his professional theatre debut in last season's *Class of 3000 LIVE*. Bernard has enjoyed playing Leroy in *Fame*, Levi in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, Miss Roj in *The Colored Museum* and Mr. Kirby in *You Can't Take It With You*. Two of his greatest artistic accomplishments were singing at Carnegie Hall and going on a world tour with recording artist Lyfe Jennings. When Bernard is not on the theatre stage, he is performing at every open mic, industry showcase and talent show with his R&B group XCLUSIV. He is a Cum Laude graduate of Morehouse College.

### **J.C. Long**

(*Laozi/Shan Yu/Young Xiao/Groomer*) J.C. is thrilled to return to the Alliance (*A Christmas Carol* '06/'07) with such a talented cast and crew! Locally, J.C. has been seen at the Aurora (*Kiss Me Kate*), Teatre du Reve (*Vive La Fontaine*), Georgia Shakespeare (*Pericles*, *Servant of Two Masters*, *All's Well That Ends Well*), Synchronicity (*Snow Queen*, *Language of Angels*), and the Shakespeare Tavern (*Romeo and Juliet*, *Henry VI*, *Twelfth Night*, *Hamlet*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Merchant of Venice*, *Richard III*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Julius Caesar*, *Macbeth* and *Cymbeline*). Regional credits: three international tours with the American Shakespeare Center (*As You Like It*, *Winter's Tale*, *Coriolanus* and *Henry IV part 1*). J.C. has composed original music for Actor's Express (*Mauritius*, *Good Boys and True*), and Theatrical Outfit (*The Chase*). Coming up: Petruchio(*Taming of the Shrew*) and Coriolanus(*Coriolanus*) at the Shakespeare Tavern.

### **Brandon O'Dell**

(*Hong/Fa Zhou/Ling*) Brandon O'Dell is overjoyed to return to the Alliance Theatre, having previously performed in *Crimes of the Heart*, *Seussical: The Musical*, *My Fair Lady*, *Goodnight Moon*, and *Class of 3000*. His other theatrical credits include *Big River* (Theatrical Outfit), *Camelot*, *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Aurora Theatre), *Mary Stuart*, *The Caretaker* (Theatre in the Square), *The Thing About Men*, *The Watercoolers* (Horizon Theatre), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *The Fantasticks* (Shakespeare Tavern). He has appeared in national commercials, television shows ("Dawson's Creek" and "One Tree Hill") and movies (*Stephen King's The Mist*, *Dangerous Calling*).

### **Alecia Robinson**

(*Lin/Granmother FA/Chen/Chi-Fu*) A native Atlantan, Alecia happily returns to the Alliance stage where she was previously seen in *Suessical the Musical*, *False Creeds*, and *Jelly's Last Jam*. Her work includes appearances in both the second national tour and Chicago companies of

*Ragtime*. Locally, she has also been seen in *Cotton Patch Gospel* at Theatrical Outfit and in Theater of the Stars productions of *Phantom*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Annie*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Camelot*. Her regional credits include *Doubt* (Hippodrome State Theatre), *She Loves Me* (Walnut Street Theatre), *Sweeney Todd* (CenterStage - Baltimore), *Godspell* (Arkansas Repertory Theatre), *Elmer Gantry* and *The Music Man* (Marriott's Lincolnshire Theater). She is a graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and trained in the Alliance Theatre's Acting Intern program where she appeared in productions of *La Ronde* and *Shakespeare's Lovers*. She is a proud member of the Actors' Equity Association.

### **Matthew Wilder**

(*Music Composer/Lyricist*) launched his career as a songwriter/performer with the 1983 hit single "Break My Stride" and has since gone on to become a top record producer whose hits include *Tragic Kingdom* for alternative group No Doubt. After "Break My Stride," Wilder became a staff writer and sometime producer, first at Geffen Music, then at Interscope. He also wrote and produced the song "Watch Me Fly" for *The Air Up There* soundtrack, as well as Jimmy Cliff's cover of "(Your Love Keeps Lifting Me) Higher and Higher" for the same album. Wilder was working on a musical adaptation of Anne Rice's *Cry to Heaven*, a musical based on the novel of the same name. It was through this project that Wilder came to the attention of Disney, and was invited in 1998 to collaborate with lyricist David Zippel on the song score for Disney's *Mulan*. Wilder also provided the singing voice for "Ling" in the film. He lives in the San Fernando Valley with his wife Tamara Dunn and his sons Zachary and Grayson.

### **David Zippel**

(*Music Composer/Lyricist*) made his Disney animation debut in 1997 with *Hercules*, which earned him (and composer Alan Menken) an Academy Award® nomination for the song "Go the Distance." Zippel made his Broadway debut with *City of Angels*, for which he received the 1990 Tony Award, New York Drama Critics Circle Award and Drama Desk Award and London's 1994 Olivier Award and Evening Standard Award. His songs have been performed by numerous theater, cabaret and recording artists including Michael Bolton, Cleo Laine, Mel Torme, Nancy LaMott, Elaine Paige, Jason Alexander and Jeffery Osborne. A graduate of Harvard Law School, he is delighted not to practice law.

### **Stephen Schwartz**

(*Music Composer/Lyricist*) was born in New York City in 1948. He studied piano and composition at the Juilliard School of Music while in high school and graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 1968 with a B.F.A. in Drama. Upon coming back to live in New York City, he went to work as producer for RCA Records, but shortly thereafter, began to work in the Broadway theatre. In 1971, he wrote the music and new lyrics for *Godspell*, for which he won several awards including two GRAMMY® Awards. Collaborating with composer Alan Menken, he received two Academy Awards and another GRAMMY® for the score of the Disney animated feature *Pocahontas*, which the pair followed with Disney's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. He also provided songs for DreamWorks' first animated feature, *The Prince of Egypt*, for which he won another Academy Award® for the song "When you Believe." Mr. Schwartz's most recent musical, *Wicked*, opened in the fall of 2003 and is currently running on Broadway and on tour. Under the auspices of the ASCAP Foundation, he runs musical theatre workshops in New York and Los Angeles, and serves on the ASCAP board; he is also a member of the Council of the Dramatists' Guild.

### **Jeanine Tesori**

(*Music Composer/Lyricist*) wrote the score for the acclaimed Tony Award®- winning musical *Caroline, or Change*, and the score for *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, which won the 2002 Tony and

Drama Desk Awards for Best Musical and earned her a Ton and GRAMMY® nomination. For film, Ms. Tesori has written songs for Disney's *Mulan II* and *Lilo and Stitch II*. She has collaborated with lyricists Dick Scanlan, Brian Crawley and Alexa Junge. Ms. Tesori is married to music director and composer Michael Rafter, and they are the proud parents of Siena Rafter.

### **Alexa Junge**

(*Music Composer/Lyricist*) is a nationally recognized playwright whose plays and musicals have been produced at The Goodspeed Opera House, Playwrights Horizons, Manhattan Theatre Club, Studio Arena and Depot Theatre among others. A graduate of New York University (M.F.A.) and Barnard College/Columbia University (B.A.), Alexa is the recipient of two national prizes for playwriting, fellowships to the MacDowell and Djerassi Colonies and four ASCAP popular music awards. Recent feature work includes co-writing the screenplay to Disney's *Lilo and Stitch II* as well as a song with Jeanine Tesori for that film. Alexa and Jeanine also wrote song for Disney's *Mulan II* and are currently at work on Disney's *Rapunzel Unbraided*. In her spare time, Alexa writes plays for at-risk kids at The Virginia Avenue Project (the West Coast version of the 52nd Street Project), helps edit an anti-AIDS zine in conjunction with Clean Needles Now and can be heard as a contributor on NPR's *This American Life*. She is married to writer/director Doug Petrie and they have a three year-old son, Henry.

### **Brian Louiselle**

(*Music Adapter/Arranger*) has composed music for the documentary films *Sacred Space, Saints and Strangers* and *Prisoners of Hope*. His arrangements and orchestrations include music for *Broadway's Best from Bravo*; the *Yale Tercentennial Celebration*; the CD *Anthem in Disguise*; the Broadway musicals *The Red Shoes, Dream* and *Buttons on Broadway*; two Miss America Pageants; two Kennedy Center Presidential Inaugural Galas; the *1988 Super Bowl Half Time Show*; the *Cole Porter 100th Birthday Celebration at Carnegie Hall*; Musical Theatre Works. Bryan has arranged, conducted and produced the radio and television commercial music for the Broadway shows: Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida*, *The Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular*, *The Music Man*, *Swing!*, *Tallulah*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Into the Woods*, *42nd Street*, *Cinderella*, *Take Me Out*, *Happily Ever After* and *Titanic*. Since 2002, he has been the resident music supervisor and adapter, arranger, orchestrator, conductor and recordings producer for MTI/Disney KIDS & JR. and MTI Theater for Young Audiences projects, including: *Cinderella KIDS*, *101 Dalmations KIDS*, *The Jungle Book KIDS*, *Aladdin JR & TYA*, *Sleeping Beauty KIDS*, *The Aristocats KIDS*, *Alice in Wonderland JR.*, *Mulan JR.*, *Frog and Toad KIDS*, *Seussical Jr. & TYA* and adapted the book for *Frog and Toad KIDS*.

### **Patricia Cotter**

(*Book Adapter, Additional Lyricist*) is a writer from Massachusetts who is currently based in Venice, California, and New York City. In 2004, she received a Daytime Emmy® Award for her writing on Comedy Central's "Win Ben Stein's Money." A playwright and screenwriter, Patricia is currently co-writing a screenplay with Dustin Hoffman for his company Punch Productions and working with Fox Comedy Development in the creation of shows for the small screen.

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