



Contact: Robert Saxon, 404.733.4710, robert.saxon@woodruffcenter.org

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Atlanta's Alliance Theatre Proudly Announces Its 2009-10 Season

September 2009 – May 2010

ATLANTA — Atlanta's nationally acclaimed Alliance Theatre, recipient of the Regional Theatre Tony Award®, and Artistic Director Susan V. Booth are proud to announce the 2009–10 Season for the Alliance Stage, the decidedly underground Hertz Stage and the Alliance Children's Theatre. The 41st season celebrates music, dance and comedy in a fashion only live theatre can deliver. The 2009-10 Season boasts four world premieres and four wildly unique musicals. These incredible productions speak to the reputation the Alliance has built and lived for more than four decades. (Current production dates are shown in parenthesis.)

Alliance Stage Productions

- Remember that song... that dance... that special someone – that moment when you fell in love and fell in love again. Wrap yourself in romance as Twyla Tharp makes the music of America's greatest singer dance off the stage. **Come Fly With Me** opens the season with the voice of singing legend Frank Sinatra, set to the Broadway genius of Twyla Tharp's breathtaking choreography (last seen in Broadway's *Movin' Out*). This World Premiere theatre-dance celebration features music that makes us swoon to such memorable hits as "Pick Yourself Up," "Witchcraft" and "My Way." Gorgeous vocals. A big band. A great night out. The musical is conceived, directed and choreographed by Twyla Tharp. This will be a rare, not-to-be-missed event. Come fly with us! (Sept. 16 – Oct. 11, 2009)

Season Announcement, 2-2-2

- Broadway legend André De Shields debuts at the Alliance in the fall, starring in David Mamet's **A Life in the Theatre**. This ode to the art form delves into the lives of two actors: the veteran and the bright-eyed up-and-comer. Directed by critically acclaimed writer/director Robert O'Hara (*In the Continuum*, off-Broadway and internationally), the play gives the audience access to the performers' lives both onstage and off. (Oct. 28 – Nov. 15, 2009)
- One Alliance Theatre production on the main stage is still ***to be determined***. It will be a musical. Is it a beloved classic or a World Premiere? Stay tuned... (January – February 2010)
- The final production on the main stage for the 2009-10 Season defies logic – and gravity – in a topsy-turvy, timeless tale of a little girl who journeys through the looking glass to become a queen. **Lookingglass Alice** is based on Lewis Carroll's popular "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and will keep both adults and kids spellbound. Audiences will marvel as Alice floats, falls and flies overhead in this gymnastic production adapted and directed by Lookingglass Theatre Company Artistic Director David Catlin. The show, produced on a radically reconfigured Alliance Stage, is filled with high flying acrobatics that put the wonder back in *Wonderland*. (Mar. 31 – May 2, 2010)

Hertz Stage Productions

- The Second City is back at the Alliance! Just in time for the holiday season, the hit comedy team from Chicago will once again transform the Hertz Stage into an underground comedy club for a World Premiere revue. **The Second City: Peach Drop, Stop and Roll** is an original comedy ready to take on all things Atlanta. The hilarious revue is created in partnership with Chicago's fabled The Second City, renown for producing the most accomplished comedians and writers in contemporary America (i.e., Steve Carell, Dan Aykroyd, Bill Murray, Gilda Radner, Mike Myers and Tina Fey). A great gift of laughter for Atlanta's holiday season. (Nov. 6 – Dec. 13, 2009)
- **Tennis in Nablus** is the sixth winner of the nationally recognized Keneda Graduate Playwriting Competition. Written by emerging playwright Ismail Khalidi, this World Premiere provides an unexpected view of Palestine, circa 1939. *Tennis in Nablus* looks at Palestine's embattled status through the eyes of a lifelong rebel, his wife (a writer of anti-colonial tracts)

Season Announcement, 3-3-3

and his enterprising young nephew. It is a play about allegiance, struggle and crisis, where events and people are not what they seem. (Jan. 29 – Feb. 21, 2010)

- The Alliance Theatre is thrilled to welcome master storyteller and nationally acclaimed solo performer Mike Daisey with his latest monologue, ***The Last Cargo Cult***. In it, he tells the true-life unbelievable tale of a religion created by Pacific Islanders around abandoned American military bases. Daisey traveled to the South Pacific to meet and live with these islanders, and he weaves their stories of trust, belief and sympathetic magic against our own culture's version of the cargo cult: the story of our current international financial crisis. *The Last Cargo Cult* uses both worlds to tell a darkly hilarious and shockingly true story that examines our universal desire to accumulate goods and power. The monologue is created and performed by Mike Daisey, and directed by his longtime collaborator, Jean-Michele Gregory. (Mar. 19 – Apr. 11, 2010)

Children's Theatre Production

- Rosemary Newcott, The Sally G. Tomlinson Artistic Director of Theatre for Youth, once again demonstrates her talent for understanding the rhythms and energy of Disney classics by staging ***Mulan*** in the theatrically inventive style of *Aladdin* and *Seussical the Musical*. Based on the 1998 Disney film "Mulan" and the story "Fa Mulan" by Robert D. San Souci, *Mulan* is the tale of a heroic young girl in China posing as a man in order to serve the Emperor. An adventure of a lifetime provides a lesson in overcoming adversity in a tale that will entertain and empower. (Feb. 24 – Mar. 21, 2010)

Special Holiday Production

- Scrooge is back! ***A Christmas Carol***, our holiday gift to Atlanta, is back for its 20th smash year. This Broadway-scale musical features the best singers and actors Atlanta has to offer. Full of beloved songs of the holiday season, it is an Atlanta tradition. Rosemary Newcott will transform this heartwarming classic into a lavish feast for the eyes, ears, heart and soul. (Nov. 27 – Dec. 24, 2009)

Subscriptions to the Alliance Theatre 2009-10 Season are on sale now and may be purchased by calling 404.733.4600 (Mon. – Fri. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.). Single tickets go on sale later this summer.

Season Announcement, 4-4-4

Visit www.alliancetheatre.org for more information about the next season.

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Now in its 40th season, Atlanta's nationally acclaimed Alliance Theatre, **recipient of the 2007 Regional Theatre Tony Award®**, is the leading professional resident theatre of the Southeast, creating the powerful experience of shared theatre for diverse people on two stages for youth and adult audiences. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Susan V. Booth and Managing Director Thomas Pechar, the Alliance Theatre is **a national theatre with a local address**, reaching out annually to almost 200,000 patrons and members of the community. Known for its high artistic standards and national role in creating significant theatrical works, the Alliance launched three Tony Award-winning hits to Broadway: Alice Walker's ***The Color Purple***, Elton John and Tim Rice's ***Aida*** and Alfred Uhry's ***The Last Night of Ballyhoo***. And, in a rare event for a regional theatre, it originated the national tour of the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical ***The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee***. The theatre has premiered 60 works including adaptations of Carson McCullers' ***The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*** and Pearl Cleage's ***Blues for an Alabama Sky***. Further evidence of the Alliance's commitment to new work is found in its nationally recognized Kendeda Graduate Playwriting Competition, a cutting-edge program introducing student playwrights to professional networks while producing the world premiere of the winning student's work. The Alliance Theatre also offers extensive education and outreach programs such as the Institute for Educators and the Collision Project for high school students. The Alliance continuously brings Atlanta the finest talent and finest art—proving once again that the Alliance is where great theatre lives. 404.733.4650 or www.alliancetheatre.org

The Alliance Theatre is a division of the Woodruff Arts Center in Atlanta, Georgia, which also includes the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, High Museum of Art, Young Audiences and the 14th Street Playhouse.