



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Robert Saxon, 404.733.4710, robert.saxon@woodruffcenter.org  
Lindsey Hardegree, 404.733.4615, lindsey.hardegree@woodruffcenter.org

Date: March 5, 2010

**Island Journey Provides Answers to Global Financial Crisis in  
*The Last Cargo Cult at the Alliance***

Mar. 19 – Apr. 11, 2010  
Opening / Media Night: Mar. 24, 2010

**ATLANTA** — Financial markets spin out of control. Some banks collapse while others show record-breaking profits. Unemployment surges. The long awaited recovery at hand? To answer that question, groundbreaking monologist Mike Daisey comes to Atlanta with ***The Last Cargo Cult***, the story of his journey to a remote South Pacific island whose people worship America and its cargo. Jason Zinoman, of the *New York Times*, describes Daisey as “One of the elite performers in the American theater.” His new comic monologue confronts the financial system that dominates our world and wrestles with the largest questions of what the collapse means and what it can tell us about our deepest values. Directed by Jean-Michele Gregory on the intimate Hertz Stage, *The Last Cargo Cult* has recently performed at The Public Theatre in New York and the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in Washington D.C. **Opening Night is Wed, Mar. 24, at 8 p.m.** Tickets are available at the Woodruff Arts Center Box Office by calling 404.733.5000 or online at [www.alliancetheatre.org](http://www.alliancetheatre.org).

Set in the exotic backdrop of erupting volcanoes and the Vanuatu Islands, *The Last Cargo Cult* is a searing narrative, woven against a shrewd examination of the international financial crisis that gripped the globe at the same moment. Referring to Daisey and his new monologue, Peter Marks of the *Washington Post* said, “The banking system has met its match—what is undeniable is that you are in the presence of an original.” Part adventure story and part memoir, Daisey explores each culture to unearth a human truth between the seemingly primitive and achingly modern. This new monologue weaves together autobiography, gonzo journalism,

## ***Cargo Cult, 2-2-2***

and unscripted performance to examine how the religion of finance, authority and faith can mix to define a culture's deepest values.

Regarding his work, Mike Daisey says, "This new piece asks the most important questions about the shape of the religion of finance, our complicity in the system we breathe every day, and the true human cost we pay to keep things the way they are. It is an adventure story, a memoir, a travelogue, and a kind of prayer for the possibility of change. It is set on an island in the South Pacific, where I lived beneath an erupting volcano with a people just beyond the reach of money. It is also set on the island of Manhattan, where Wall Street opens every day to establish the price of all the things of man that can be owned."

Biographical information on Mike Daisey and Jean-Michele Gregory may be found in the attached fact sheet.

Performances are Wednesday through Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m., Mar. 19 – Apr. 11, 2010 on the Hertz Stage. There will not be performances on Sunday, Apr. 4 at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.

**Tickets are \$25 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.

### **Special Event:**

#### ***How Theater Failed America***

Monday, Apr. 5, 7 p.m., Hertz Stage

Mike Daisey brings his most controversial monologue to the Alliance Stage for one night only, sinking his razor-sharp wit into a subject he knows well: the American theater. In this acclaimed monologue about theater, failure, passion, and hope, Daisey fearlessly takes stock of the state of theater in America: a shrinking world with smaller audiences every year. He tells his own story of a life in the theater, both hilarious and heartfelt, as he challenges us to believe in the power of live theater while questioning the state of things today. From gorgeous new theaters standing empty as cathedrals, to "successful" working actors traveling like migrant farmhands, to an arts culture unwilling to speak or listen to its own nation, Daisey seeks answers to essential and dangerous questions about the art we're making, the legacy we leave the future, and who it is we believe we're speaking to.

### **Cargo Cult, 3-3-3**

This one-night performance of *How Theater Failed America* will be followed by a roundtable on the state of the American theater, featuring theater artists and administrators across Atlanta's theater community in conversation with each other and the audience. Tickets for this special event are \$10.00 and may be reserved online or by calling the Box Office at 404.733.5000.

#### **Before Plays** – Mar. 25, and Apr. 1 and 8

Learn more about Mike Daisey, his previous work and the art of monologue. Also, it's a chance to hear about upcoming activities and the next season at the Alliance. The talk begins one hour before the show and lasts approximately thirty minutes.

#### **After Words** – Mar. 21 and 28, and Apr. 11

Your chance to interact with Mike Daisey! The play is over and you really want to talk about it. After Words is an open dialogue that offers the audience the opportunity to explore and discuss various aspects of the play. The discussion begins when the play ends.

# # #

#### ***The Last Cargo Cult* is part of the Turner Series on the Hertz Stage.**

Additional Sponsors: *The Last Cargo Cult* is sponsored by Marriott Residence Inn – Official Hotel of the Alliance Theatre; and The Home Depot – Set Construction Sponsor of the Alliance Theatre.

Production of *The Last Cargo Cult* is made possible with grants from the City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs, the Fulton County Arts Council, the Georgia Council for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

#### **FOR ELECTRONIC IMAGES OF THIS PRODUCTION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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

Lindsey Hardegree, 404.733.4615, lindsey.hardegree@woodruffcenter.org

Now in its 41st 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, 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](http://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.