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**Atlanta: You're Hiding the Next Young Michael Jackson
and Debbie Allen is Going to Find Him**

ATLANTA — Debbie Allen, who is directing the Alliance Theatre's new musical *Twist* this fall, will hold an open vocal call for Atlanta children this Saturday, May 1. *Twist*, a hot new musical twist on the Dickens classic *Oliver Twist*, tells the story of an orphan in New Orleans in the 1920s who finds family in the most unexpected places. The casting call will audition local children for a number of roles in the musical, including the title role of Twist, principle role of Pistol, and a children's ensemble.

Debbie Allen, award-winning director/choreographer (*Fame*), returns to the Alliance for *Twist*, following her hugely successful *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (winner of the 2010 Olivier Award for Best Revival). She previously has directed at the Alliance in the 2000 production of *Soul Possessed*.

"Debbie is thrilled to see the newest young talent here in Atlanta," said Jody Feldman, Alliance Theatre Associate Producer. "It's not often that we get to showcase so many children in a show like this. This is a great opportunity for the talented young actors and actresses of Atlanta." *Twist* will open the Alliance's 2010-11 Season on September 1, 2010.

Auditions will be held May 1 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Alliance Theatre. Sign ups begin at 9:00 AM on the third floor of the Memorial Arts Building, Woodruff Arts Center. Children will be asked to sing 16 bars of any pop/rock/gospel song at the audition. For more information, call the Alliance Theatre Audition Hotline at 404.733.4622.

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Now in its 41st season, Atlanta's nationally acclaimed Alliance Theatre, **recipient of the 2007 Regional Theatre Tony Award®** and a leading national theatre, creates 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

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 and Young Audiences.