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Atlanta's Alliance Theatre Proudly Announces Its 2010-11 Season

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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 2010–11 Season for the Alliance Stage, the decidedly underground Hertz Stage and the Alliance Children's Theatre. The 42nd season celebrates American icons and American ideas through the best-of-class playwriting, music, dance and comedy. The 2010-11 Season boasts eleven productions, six world premieres and five wildly unique musicals. These incredible productions speak to the reputation the Alliance has built and lived for more than four decades.

"The 2010-11 Season really embraces our commitment to be Atlanta's national theatre with a local address," said Booth. "To offer the newest musical work from Broadway's hottest talents in the same season we're welcoming the glorious Pearl Cleage home to the Alliance for her own world premiere is a sublime opportunity for us. And to bring the barn burning theatrical heat of *August Osage County* to Atlanta, featuring the finest local artists, promises an equally sublime treat for our audience."

Alliance Stage Productions

- Get ready for a roof-rocking world premiere musical sure to make everyone cheer when ***Bring It On: the Musical*** arrives in Atlanta.

Season Announcement, 2-2-2

Two squads, one mission: claim the title at the National Cheerleading Championships. *The challenge:* competition between the two teams is nothing compared to the competition inside them...and these girls can *bring it*.

Bring It On: the Musical flies onto the stage with a dream squad of Broadway talent including an original libretto by Tony Award-winning *Avenue Q* author Jeff Whitty, music and lyrics by Tony Award-winning *In The Heights* composer Lin-Manuel Miranda, music by Tony Award-winning *Next to Normal* composer Tom Kitt, and lyrics by Broadway's *High Fidelity* lyricist Amanda Green. The dynamic direction and choreography is by Andy Blankenbuehler, the Tony Award-winning choreographer of *In the Heights*.

This brand-new musical comedy promises high-energy fun, intense rivalries, genuine romance and acrobatic dance moves. Don't miss *Bring It On: the Musical* in its thrilling world premiere at the Alliance Theatre.

- *New York Times* Bestselling Author Pearl Cleage (*Blues for an Alabama Sky* and *Flyin' West*) returns to the Alliance with her newest work ***The Nacirema Society Requests the Honor of Your Presence at a Celebration of Their First One Hundred Years***. Produced in association with Alabama Shakespeare Festival and directed by Susan V. Booth, this world premiere is a sparkling romantic comedy that takes the audience inside the glamorous Nacirema Society of Montgomery, Alabama. Poised to celebrate its 100th anniversary, the Society introduces six elegant African-American debutantes to a world of wealth, privilege and social responsibility. With young love brewing, old flames simmering and national media hovering around—what would dare go awry? These folks know how to throw a party, make the perfect entrance . . . and plot the perfect blackmail.

Pearl Cleage is an accomplished Atlanta-based writer whose works include plays, novels, magazine articles and editorial copy for both the print and the internet.

- Think *your* family has issues? The raucous dark comedy ***August: Osage County*** transforms one family gathering into an apocalyptic evening of can't-turn-away blood sport—filled with sex, secrets and really inappropriate behavior. This not-to-be-missed emotional

Season Announcement, 3-3-3

Armageddon features an ensemble of Atlanta's favorite actors. Directed by Susan V. Booth, *August: Osage County* is one of the most lauded plays of the decade having won a Pulitzer Prize for Drama and a Tony Award for Best Play.

- One Alliance Theatre production is still **to be announced**. Is it a beloved classic or a new world premiere? Stay tuned . . .

Hertz Stage Productions

- Sammy Davis, Jr.: singer, dancer, child star, fixture of the Rat Pack . . . but at what cost? There's more behind the smile than just talent and a dream. **Sammy & Me** brings back to the Alliance the virtuosic Broadway performer Eric Jordan Young (King Herod in the Alliance hit *Jesus Christ Superstar GOSPEL*) in a production that explores this actor's own obsession with Sammy. Part self portrait, part celebrity investigation, this insightful new musical takes the audience on a journey through Sammy's life and his music, featuring 15 songs he made famous, including "Where or When," "Smile," "Mr. Bojangles" and "Candy Man." Wendy Dann, Associate Artist at Hangar Theatre, directs this world premiere event that provides answers to the question 'who was the man behind the perfect cool smile?'—answers that are as powerful as the new questions they raise.
- **Carapace** is the seventh winner of the nationally recognized Keneda Graduate Playwriting Competition. Written by emerging playwright David Robinson, from Ohio University's MFA Playwriting Program, this world premiere is a uniquely engaging and entertaining drama about Jeff, a man on a mission to do right by his daughter, Margo, on her 23rd birthday. First – figure out where she lives. Second – find an open pet store. Third – navigate his Oldsmobile past the wrecked 35W Bridge. Fourth – stop for a drink. Just one. "The highway's jammed with broken heroes on a last chance power drive," sings Bruce Springsteen on the radio—and Jeff knows a last chance when he sees it.
- The Alliance is thrilled to welcome former Keneda finalist Josh Tobiessen to the Hertz Stage with his most recent play **Spoon Lake Blues**. This world premiere comedy follows the plight of two brothers who leave no stones, stereotypes or septic tanks unturned. Thinking burglary is a solution to saving their house from the bank, the pair steal a

Season Announcement, 4-4-4

photograph of a woman who is everything they are is not—educated, wealthy, upwardly mobile and African-American. From that, a bold and brazen new caper is born . . .

Josh Tobiessen wrote this bold new play after his Keneda finalist script *Election Day* received glowing reviews in its New York premiere.

Family Series

- Rosemary Newcott, the Sally G. Tomlinson Artistic Director of Theatre for Youth, once again demonstrates her talent for developing new children’s work by staging ***Middle School the Musical***, an improvisational survival guide for tweenagers. Conceived and directed by Newcott, this new musical is the Alliance’s first truly interactive show for children and families. It’s not easy being ‘tween. Thankfully, a team of four middle school students is here to guide audiences through the maze of locker rooms, 8th grade dances, book reports and cafeteria blues.
- Ever have the feeling that everybody else goes quack and you go honk? ***Honk!*** is an eye-popping children’s musical that tells the story of a little duckling that isn’t quite like the others. On the journey of self-discovery, he learns it isn’t what’s on the outside that counts and that every ugly duckling can grow up to become a beautiful swan. *Honk!* is based on the beloved children’s story *The Ugly Duckling* and is the winner of the Olivier Award for Best Musical (the British equivalent of the Tony Award). The musical is directed by Rosemary Newcott, with book and lyrics by Anthony Drewe and music by George Stiles.

Special Holiday Productions

- Santa’s left something in Atlanta’s stocking. And it’s not another crushed beer can from the Clermont Lounge, Grandma Irene’s fruitcake or sausage balls from last year’s Pink Pig. It’s The Second City’s third installment of belly laughs and sketch comedy. ***The Second City: Miracle on 1280 Peachtree Street*** is set to remind us why we’re lucky to spend the holidays in Atlanta. The hilarious revue is created in partnership with The Second City, one of America’s most hip and venerable names in sketch comedy and home to comic geniuses from Gilda Radner and John Belushi to Tina Fey and Steve Carrell.

Season Announcement, 5-5-5

- It isn't Christmas in Atlanta until you've seen ***A Christmas Carol*** on the Alliance Stage. Back for its 21st smash year, the most heartwarming story of the entire season comes to life with holiday carols, stunning stage magic and your favorite Atlanta actors. Witness Ebenezer Scrooge's discovery of the true meaning of Christmas over the course of one fateful evening. Journey through the beloved Dickens tale meeting favorite characters along the way like the generous Mr. Fezziwig, the selfless and beautiful Belle and the adorable Tiny Tim. This Broadway-scale musical is directed by Rosemary Newcott and brings families together again to discover the joys of the holiday season in Atlanta.

Subscriptions to the Alliance Theatre 2010-11 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 this summer.

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

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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

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.