



CYGNET THEATRE COMPANY

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CYGNET THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES 2008/2009 SEASON

NEW SEASON FEATURES TWO WEST COAST PREMIERES, TWO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PREMIERES AND A SAN DIEGO PREMIERE

SAN DIEGO, CA – Cygnet Theatre Company’s Artistic Director Sean Murray and Executive Director Bill Schmidt are pleased to announce the 2008/9 Season. The new season, which will be Cygnet’s first full season producing shows in both the Rolando/College Theatre and the newly acquired Old Town Theatre, will feature two west coast premieres in ***Measure for Pleasure*** by David Grimm and ***The Receptionist*** by Adam Bock, two Southern California premieres in ***Love Song*** by John Kolvenbach and ***Dying City*** by Christopher Shinn, and the San Diego premiere of the 2006 Tony Award winning play ***The History Boys*** by Alan Bennett. The season will close with Stephen Sondheim’s and John Weidman’s ***Assassins***, winner of five Tony awards including Best Revival of a Musical. In addition to the six-play season, Cygnet will offer two Holiday Shows. The holiday favorite ***It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*** will return to the Rolando/College Theatre, while a new holiday tradition will begin in Old Town with Sean Murray’s adaptation of ***A Christmas Carol***.

“We are very excited to venture into our sixth season with the addition of The Old Town Theatre in the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park to our wonderful Rolando/College space,” said Murray. “Producing in each of these two very different theatres will give us the opportunity to present productions that can stretch our possibilities, open up our horizons and provide a richer and more thrilling theatre-going experience.”

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The first two productions of the 2008/9 season will be performed in Cygnet's Rolando/College Theatre while the Old Town Theatre undergoes renovations. The renovations, set to begin following Cygnet's current production of *A Little Night Music*, will include bringing the building up to current ADA standards, increasing the restroom capacity, removing the old carpet, replacing the worn seating and performing many other cosmetic upgrades to enhance the overall patron experience. Cygnet will reopen the Old Town Theatre in November with *A Christmas Carol*. Following that, productions will alternate between the two venues.

The new season will also introduce a change in the performance schedule. Beginning with *Measure for Pleasure* Cygnet will now offer performances on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm. The added performances will provide patrons more opportunities for greater savings and added flexibility.

For more information regarding subscriptions please contact the box office at 619-337-1525 or visit www.cygnettheatre.com.

Performances are Wednesdays at 7:30 pm, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm and 7pm. There will be no Wednesday performances during previews.

Rolando/College Theatre

West Coast Premiere

Measure for Pleasure, A Restoration Romp

By David Grimm

Directed by Sean Murray.

July 24 through August 31, 2008. Press opening: August 2, 2008 at 8pm.

Restoration comedy meets modern sex farce in this romantic adventure, exploring the elusive nature of happiness and featuring mistaken identities, duels and double-dealings, gay marriage and the obligatory sex cave. "Mr. Grimm seeks to do a little restoration work of his own, inserting great chunks of fresh dirt into every nook and cranny." (*The New York Times*). "An extremely stylish (and exuberantly filthy) sex farce...This is an orgy to which all are graciously invited." (*Variety*). "David Grimm's gender-inclusive modern sex farce comedy in Restoration bawdry is endearing and audacious." (*Newsday*).

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Rolando/College Theatre

West Coast Premiere

The Receptionist

By Adam Bock.

Directed by Francis Gercke.

September 18 through October 26, 2008. Press opening: September 27, 2008 at 8pm.

Beverly takes pride in her work as the receptionist at a busy Northeast office. Whether coaching her co-worker Lorraine through romantic troubles, fielding calls for their boss Mr. Raymond or carefully monitoring the flow of office supplies, Beverly keeps her domain shipshape. But when handsome Mr. Dart arrives unexpectedly from the central office, the play goes from *The Office* to *The Twilight Zone*.

Rolando/College Theatre

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play

Adapted for the stage by Joe Landry.

Directed by Sean Murray.

November 20 through December 28, 2008. Press opening: November 26, 2008 at 8pm.

It's a Wonderful Life returns to Cygnet! This is a holiday tradition you will want to share with the whole family. Catch the "only must-see Holiday production of the season" and see what brings audiences to tears of joy and to cheering on their feet! Buy your tickets now and guarantee the best seats for you and your family for this unique holiday classic. Most shows sold out last year.

Old Town Theatre

A Christmas Carol

Adapted for the stage by Sean Murray.

Directed by Sean Murray.

November 28 through December 28, 2008. Press opening: December 6, 2008 at 8pm.

Join us for the inauguration of a new San Diego tradition as Cygnet opens the Old Town Theatre with its own Victorian, ghostly adaptation of the classic *A Christmas Carol*.

Rolando/College Theatre

Southern California Premiere

Love Song

By John Kolvenbach.

January 15 through February 22, 2009. Press opening: January 24, 2009 at 8pm.

Beane is an exile from life—an oddball. His well-meaning sister Joan and brother-in-law Harry try and make time for him in their busy lives, but no one can get through. Following a burglary on his apartment, Joan is baffled to find her brother blissfully happy and tries to unravel the story behind Beane's mysterious new love Molly. Funny, enchanting and wonderfully touching, John Kolvenbach's offbeat comedy is a rhapsody to the power of love in all its forms.

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Old Town Theatre
San Diego Premiere

The History Boys

By Alan Bennett

Directed by Sean Murray.

February 19 through March 29, 2009. Press opening: February 28, 2009 at 8pm.

The 2006 Tony Award for Best Play went to this comedy/drama about a bunch of bright, funny boys in a British boarding school who are, as such boys will be, in pursuit of sex, sport, and acceptance at a good university—generally in that order. In their efforts, they are helped by a maverick history teacher who seeks to broaden their horizons, sometimes in unorthodox ways, and by a young teacher who questions the methods, as well as the aim, of their schooling. Alan Bennett raises, with gentle wit, universal questions about the nature of history, how it is taught and questions the purpose of education today.

Rolando/College Theatre
Southern California Premiere

Dying City

By Christopher Shinn.

Directed by Francis Gercke.

April 2 through May 10, 2009. Press opening: April 11, 2009 at 8pm.

In Christopher Shinn's remarkable tale of loss and how two very different people handle their grief, we find Kelly, a year after her husband's death in Iraq, confronting his identical twin brother who arrives at her apartment unannounced. "Trying to make sense of what is left behind envelops DYING CITY...In this subtle and revealing play, Shinn is able to take the political and humanize it—transforming the stuff of daily news stories into a devastating statement on the unforeseen and often hidden consequences of war." (*A.P.*)

Old Town Theatre

Assassins

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by John Weidman.

Based on an original idea by Charles Gilbert.

Directed by Sean Murray.

April 23 through June 14, 2009. Press opening: May 2, 2009 at 8pm.

Bold, original, surreal, disturbing, thought-provoking and alarmingly *funny* musical, "Assassins" is perhaps the most controversial musical ever written. This most American of musicals explores the underside of the American Dream and lays bare the lives of nine individuals who assassinated or tried to assassinate the President of the United States. From John Wilkes Booth to Lee Harvey Oswald, Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman have created an shocking and shockingly original musical that contains a brilliant, melodic score which pastiches American music throughout the ages, from folk to ragtime to 70's soft-rock.

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