

THE KID FROM Brooklyn
The Danny Kaye Story

El Portal Theatre 5269 Lankershim Blvd North Hollywood, CA 91601

“Remarkable...Charming...Pre-Broadway Gem”
Cobrua

“Feel-Good Musical” Palm Beach Post
“Impeccable” Weekday News
“Perfection...Timeless” New Times

“First-Rate...Kudos...Musical High Notes” Sun Sentinel
“Sparkling...Breathtaking” TC Palm

Previews Begin December 7th

For Immediate Release Forrest & Associates
818-760-0964 or 818-693-0964

Danny Kaye Back on Stage in **The Kid from Brooklyn**

at the Historic El Portal Theatre in North Hollywood

December 7-January 13, 2008

A new musical based on the life of legendary Danny Kaye makes its West Coast premiere at the historic El Portal Theatre in the heart of NOHO (North Hollywood) across from the Academy of Radio and Television at 5269 Lankershim Blvd. Directed and produced by Peter J. Loewy, (Loewy/Leone Productions) previews December 7, 2007 with a gala celebrity opening night on Saturday, December 15 at 8 pm. **The Kid From Brooklyn** will run five performances a week through January 13, 2008. Award winning Brian Childers stars as Danny Kaye with Karin Leone as Sylvia Fine with Christina Purcell and Joshua Finkel. The book is by Mark Childers and Peter Loewy with musical direction by Charlie Harrison and David Cohen.

First performed in August 2006 at the Broward Center Stage Door in Ft. Lauderdale, **The Kid From Brooklyn** uses some of Kaye's most famous and most popular stage, television and film numbers of his career. The musical tells the story of his surprising and rich life, from early adolescence in Brooklyn in the 1920's to his ensuing days as a "Borscht Belt" entertainer. His journey continues through his success as a nightclub entertainer, his emergence as a Broadway musical star and his singular career as the star of a series of vastly popular musical comedy screen vehicles produced by Samuel Goldwyn.

This intimate musical portrayal chronicles Danny Kaye's career and his relationships on and off the stage and follows the rise of Danny Kaye from an undisciplined improvisational comic to his success under the guidance of his wife, Sylvia Fine. Fine wrote many of the witty, tongue-twisting songs for which he became famous. In addition to the role of Kaye, a cast of three moves in and out of characters that were significant in Kaye's personal and professional lives, including Eve Arden who was professionally and romantically linked with Kaye from the time that they starred on Broadway in *Cole Porter's Let's Face It*.

Favorite songs of the period are used to recreate the highlights of Kaye's career. Backed by a five-piece band, the musical highlights include "Pavlova", "Tchaikovsky", "Oh, By Jingo," "Minnie the Moocher" & many more.

Although not chronicled in the musical, the last 40 years of Kaye's life included more than a decade of further success in film and television and a return to Broadway in the Rodgers & Harnick musical *Two By Two*, as well as long years of tireless work on behalf of UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund). Danny Kaye is well known for his roles in films such as *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (1947), *The Inspector General* (1949), *On the Riviera* (1951) co-starring Gene Tierney, *White Christmas* (1954, in a role originally intended for Donald O'Connor), *Knock on Wood* (1954), *The Court Jester* (1956), and *Merry Andrew* (1958). Kaye starred in two pictures based on biographies, *Hans Christian Andersen* (1952) about the Danish story-teller, and *The Five Pennies* (1959) about jazz pioneer Red Nichols.

He was the original UNICEF celebrity representative, a Goodwill Ambassador from 1954 until his death in 1987. A strong advocate for social responsibility, Kaye logged thousands of hours as a pilot - a hobby he enjoyed immensely - on trips for the UNICEF, once flying to 65 cities in five days putting Kaye in the **Guinness Book of Records as the World's Fastest-Flying Entertainer**. The United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cueller said at the October 27, 1987 tribute to Kaye that he was the man who first "heightened global awareness of the plight of unfortunate children throughout the world." As the spokesperson for UNICEF he was asked to accept the Nobel Prize on behalf of the organization. There is a permanent Danny Kaye Media Center in New York City at the UNICEF Headquarters. Danny Kaye's legacy, both as an entertainer and as a campaigner for children, is set to endure.

About The Historic El Portal Theatre

Since its opening in 1926 - first for Vaudeville, then Silent Movies and then Academy Award-winning films as the primo movie house in the valley - El Portal Theatre has weathered the Jazz Age, the Depression, four wars, and finally the great earthquake of 1994. Rebuilt in the late 90s and opened in January of 2000, the once 1400-seat movie palace now houses three theatres: the 42-seat Studio Theatre, the 95-seat Forum, and the 360-seat Main Stage. The lobby is home to the Judith Kaufman Art Gallery, currently featuring the mixed media artwork of Jenna De Angeles.

Calendar

The Kid From Brooklyn

Written by Mark Childers and Peter J. Loewy
Produced by Peter J. Loewy, Karin Leone and Gail Shank
Loewy/Leone Productions

Production Staff:

Peter J. Loewy – Director
Charlie Harrison and David Cohen – Musical Directors
Susie Paplow – Choreographer
Mack Baron – Musical Arranger
Steve Donner – Production Stage Manager
Larry Basso- Set Design
Shon Le Blanc –Costume Design
Stafford Floyd- Sound Operator
Tyna Kennedy- Lighting Design

When: Friday, December 7, 2007 - January 13, 2007

Regular Schedule: **Previews Dec 7 – Dec. 14**

Gala opening Night is Saturday, December 15 at 8 pm

Thursday – Saturday at 8pm

Saturday & Sunday at 3pm

Cast:

Brian Childers.....Danny Kaye
Karin Leone.....Sylvia Fine
Christina Purcell..... Eve Arden, Kitty Carlisle et al.
Joshua Finkel.....Eddie Dukoff, Sam Goldwyn, Billy Rose, Moss Hart, Cole Porter et al.

Where: El Portal Theatre
5269 Lankershim Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA 91601

Tickets: \$40 - \$50

For tickets and information please call 818-508-4200 or 1-866-811-4111
www.elportaltheatre.com. Group prices are available for Groups of 10 or more by
calling 1-866-262-6253. For press seats and information, contact

FORREST & ASSOCIATES

Pegge Forrest ~ Jay Irwin

818-508-0281 or 818-693-0964