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World Premiere Musical *Twice Upon A Time* by Legendary British Playwright **Ray Cooney** Debuts at the Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities 2008

Tony Award-Winning Musicals & Broadway Classics "Miss Saigon," "Bye Bye Birdie" & Fiddler on the Roof" Complete the 16th Season



(Los Angeles, CA – June 7, 2007) – The [Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities](#) is honored to open their 16th anniversary season at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center with the **World Premiere** of "**Twice Upon A Time**" by legendary British playwright **Ray Cooney**, debuting at the CLOSBC before making its way to London's West End and then on to Broadway. The 2008 season will also feature Tony Award-winning musicals and Broadway classics, including "**Miss Saigon**," "**Bye Bye Birdie**" and "**Fiddler on the Roof**," spanning nearly 50 years of theatre history.

Ray Cooney is one of Britain's most successful playwrights and has been touted as "The Master of Farce." To date he has had 17 plays staged in the West End, including "Run For Your Wife" and "Funny Money." His work has been translated into more than 40 languages and countless productions have been staged all around the world. He was recognized with an O.B.E. (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in the New Years Honors (2005). His biggest success, "Run For Your Wife," lasted nine years in London's West End and is its longest-running comedy. "Funny Money" was made into a movie in 2006 starring Chevy Chase, Penelope Ann Miller, Armand Assante and Robert Loggia.

Other works by Cooney include "Not Now Darling," "Move Over Mrs. Markham," "Wife Begins at Forty," "Two into One" and its sequel "Out of Order," "It Runs in the Family," a sequel to "Run For Your Wife" entitled "Caught in the Net" and "Funny Money." He recently co-wrote a farce with his son Michael, "Tom, Dick and Harry." Cooney's farces combine a traditional British bawdiness with structural complication,

as characters leap to assumptions, are forced to pretend to be things that they aren't, and often talk at cross-purposes to hilarious effect.

In 1983 Cooney created the Theatre of Comedy Company and became its artistic director. During his tenure it produced more than 20 plays such as "Pygmalion" starring Peter O'Toole and John Thaw, "Loot" and "Run For Your Wife" itself.

"We are extremely honored to debut a much-anticipated musical and even more so that a theatre legend like Ray Cooney and his new work will be an integral part our 2008 season," says Executive Producer James A. Blackman, III. "It is the perfect way to celebrate our 16th anniversary and to kick off our 2008 season of musicals at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center."



The Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities 2008 Musical Line Up includes:

TWICE UPON A TIME

February 13 – March 2, 2008

Gala Press Opening: Saturday, February 16 at 8 P.M.

Written and directed by Ray Cooney

Lyrics by Mary Stewart-David and music by Chris Walker

WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL EVENT!

1929 Chicago - two rival gangs run the city, and Johnny May is the new kid in town.

2008 Boston – rising lawyer Steven Tancred is having doubts about marrying his boss' daughter.

Our hero, Steven Tancred, is a hot shot lawyer who lives in England and works for a large firm whose clients includes a shopping centre developer. A poor little old lady has the unfortunate luck to be living in a lovely house right in the middle of the development. The nasty developer wants her out, and it's the job of our hero to do it. During hypnotherapy intended to cure his smoking, he discovers a past life more exciting than his present one. As Johnny May, rookie hoodlum in the Prohibition-era Chicago gang of Bugs Moran, he falls for Ruby, Bugs's reluctant showgirl moll. As Steven, he is a decent chap with principles, engaged to his boss's daughter and destined for a long career in the family firm. Will his time-travelling exploits on Doctor Patel's couch lead him to rethink his choices?

Both worlds collide as this comedy swings hilariously back and forth between the 1920s and today, begging the question: "Will his past life experiences give him the courage to do the right thing in this life? Or will his time be up?"

Full of toe-tapping tunes and dances and an abundance of laughs, this major new musical from master playwright Ray Cooney harks back to the classic Broadway greats, in a world where gangsters rule with their Tommy guns and every Guy gets his Doll.

Regular Schedule: Tuesdays - Saturdays at 8 P.M.

Saturday & Sunday Matinees: 2 P.M.

Tickets: \$60, \$55, \$50 Weekends & Matinees

\$55, \$50, \$45 Weeknights (Tuesday – Thursday)

\$50, \$45, \$40 Previews

MISS SAIGON

April 30 – May 18

Gala Press Opening: Saturday, May 3 at 8 P.M.

Book by Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil, with lyrics by Boublil and Richard Maltby, Jr.

Nominated for 11 Tony Awards,

Miss Saigon winner of three Tony's: Best Musical, Tony Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actress in a Musical, Tony Award for Best Performance by a Featured Actor in a Musical marked as the third most successful musical in the history of British theatre, having an impressive 4,092 performances on Broadway, and being seen by more than 33 million people worldwide, "Miss Saigon" returns to the CLOSBC. A modern adaptation of Giacomo Puccini's opera Madame Butterfly, "Miss Saigon" similarly tells the tragic tale of a doomed romance involving an Asian woman abandoned by her Caucasian lover. The setting of the plot is relocated to the 1970s Saigon during the Vietnam War, and Madame Butterfly's American Lieutenant and Japanese geisha coupling is replaced by a romance between an American GI and a Vietnamese bar girl. Inspired by a photograph of a Vietnamese mother leaving her child at a departure gate to board a plane headed for the United States where her ex-GI father would be in a position to provide a much better life for the child, Schönberg considered this mother's actions for her child to be "The Ultimate Sacrifice," an idea central to the plot of Miss Saigon.

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BYE BYE BIRDIE

September 17 – October 5, 2008

Gala Press Opening: Saturday, Sep 20 at 8 P.M.

Book by Michael Stewart, lyrics by Lee Adams and music by Charles Strouse.

WINNER OF FOUR TONY AWARDS!

Nominated for seven Tony Awards, "Bye Bye Birdie" won four, including Best Musical and Best Featured Actor, Dick Van Dyke. Originally titled "Let's Go Steady," the satire on American society is set in 1958 and focuses on Conrad Birdie, a hip-thrusting, rock and roll superstar (a.k.a. Elvis Presley) from Allentown, Pennsylvania. It is a satire done with the fondest affection, and tells the story of this heartthrob who is about to be inducted into the army and creates a near-riot in a small town when he stops for one last publicity junket before shipping out. The original cast included Dick Van Dyke, Chita Rivera and the late Charles Nelson Reilly and was made into a movie also starring Dick Van Dyke and Ann Margaret.

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FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

December 3 – December 21, 2008

Gala Press Opening: Saturday, Dec 6 at 8 P.M.

Music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick and book by Joseph Stein.

WINNER OF NINE TONY AWARDS!

"Fiddler on the Roof" has captivated audiences around the globe since its original Broadway opening in 1964. The story of Tevye the dairyman who, like the other fathers in the small village of Anatevka, has raised his children to uphold the age-old Jewish customs of his ancestors. When the time has come to find suitable husbands for his beloved daughters, Tevye soon finds out that the young are guided by their

hearts and not their elders. Winner of nine Tony Awards, the original Broadway cast included Zero Mostel as the protagonist Tevye the Milkman, Maria Karnilova as his wife Golde, Bea Arthur as Yente the Matchmaker, and Bert Convy as Perchik the student revolutionary. This spectacular stage show was the first Broadway musical to surpass the 3,000 performance mark and went on to become a smash-hit Oscar-winning film. "Fiddler on the Roof" features some of the most memorable songs in musical history including features songs loved the world over: "Sunrise," "Sunset," "If I Were A Rich Man" and "Matchmaker," to name a few.

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The largest producing civic light opera in all of Southern California, the Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities (CLOSBC) (<http://www.civiclighthouse.com/>) is a not-for-profit cultural arts institution dedicated to the preservation and presentation of our unique American musical art forms. CLOSBC was founded in 1992 by Executive Director James A. Blackman, III and Director of Finance and Operations Doug Mc Pherson as a producing and educational musical theatre serving the vast populations of South Bay Cities. Through the past 15 years, the company has garnered awards, critiques and audiences while presenting four major musicals per year at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center. They expanded in 1998 to include four smaller plays and musicals at the Hermosa Beach Playhouse (<http://www.hermosabeachplayhouse.com/>). With eight full, professional productions per year, they have achieved the mission of entertaining and serving peoples of all ages, cultures, and abilities who reside in the greater South Bay Region of Los Angeles County. Associate producers for the CLOSBC are Stephanie Coltrin and Christopher Beyries.

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