

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:
Forrest & Associates
(818) 693-0964**

CLOSBC's Hermosa Beach Playhouse Celebrates 10th Anniversary with a Five-Show Season



(LOS ANGELES, CA – July 6, 2007) – **James A. Blackman, III Executive Producer with Associate Producers Stephanie Coltrin and Christopher Beyries announce the 10th Anniversary Season for the** Hermosa Beach Playhouse, a subsidiary of Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities. Celebrating 10 years of providing professional, quality theatre to the South Bay cities, the Hermosa Beach Playhouse offers an impressive season of five diverse classics: **COME BACK TO THE 5 & DIME JIMMY DEAN, JIMMY DEAN, SISTER'S CATECHISM CHRISTMAS, STEEL MAGNOLIAS, THE NERD and TRACERS.**

Come Back To The 5 & Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean
October 23 – November 4, 2007
Written by Ed Graczyk

Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean opened in 1981 and later became a film launching many careers. The stage and screen versions were both directed by the late Robert Altman and starred Sandy Dennis, Cher (nominated for a Golden Globe), Mark Patton (his first film role), Karen Black, Sudie Bond and Kathy Bates.

Inside a rundown Woolworth's department store in McCarthy, Texas, the ultimate fan club, The Disciples of James Dean, meet up on the anniversary of his death and mull over their lives in the present and in flashback, revealing the truth behind their complicated lives. Who is the mysterious Joanne and what's the real story behind Mona's son, James Dean Junior? By the end of the stormy evening, secrets and self-deceptions with which the Disciples have been living are exposed.

**Sister's CSI Catechism Christmas:
They Mystery of the Magi's Gold**
November 6 – November 8, 2007

Starring Maripat Donovan Critics Choice LA Times

It's not "The Nutcracker" and it sure isn't "A Christmas Carol." It's more like **"CSI" meets Bethlehem! The infamous Sister of Late Nite Catechism is back* on the case**, solving the greatest story never told: The Mystery of the Magi's Gold. As she points out in her opening, "We know what happened to the myrrh and the frankincense - Mary used them as a sort of potpourri. They were in a barn after all. But who was the culprit who made off with the gold coins and left Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus in that lousy stable without any chance to upgrade to a suite?" Using techniques from her favorite TV show, "Forensic Files," and audience participation, Sister proceeds to solve the mystery in a hilarious evening of fun!

In 1993, Maripat Donovan and Vicki Quade created Late Nite Catechism, which has been running in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Dublin and around the world for more than a decade. Donovan has successfully taken her highly recognizable and tremendously funny role as the ruler-wielding Sister and created Late Nite Catechism 2 and Sister's Catechism Christmas. In these interactive theater experiences, the audience is transformed from being a passive theatergoer to a student in Sister's class. Maripat Donovan and her Late Nite series was the longest-running show in Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities' history at the Hermosa Beach Playhouse. The Late Nite series is what the Los Angeles Times calls: *"The longest running comedy in the history of Los Angeles..."*

In addition to providing hilarious and interactive theater, the "Sisters" have used the classroom for a "higher cause" - real sisters in need. Since the Vatican had opted out of paying into the Social Security system, aging nuns have not had adequate care. In the 14 years since Donovan's first "Late Nite" launched in Chicago, the many acting "sisters" have raised more than \$2 million for nuns in retirement homes.

Steel Magnolias January 15 – January 27, 2008 Written by Robert Harling

The stage play, written by Robert Harling, is still popular today and has frequent productions mounted throughout the United States. It was originally staged Off-Broadway. All of the action of the play takes place solely on one set - Truvy's beauty salon (which is part of her house). There are only six characters (all female) that appear on stage. There is the voice of a DJ on the radio that is heard during the play. All the other characters (like the male characters) that appear in the film version are only referred to in the dialogue. The original stage production opened at the WPA Theatre, in New York City, in March of 1987. It was directed by Pamela Berlin, and featured Margo Martindale as Truvy, Constance Shulman as Annelle, Kate Wilkinson as Clairee, Mary Fogarty as Ouiser, Blanche Baker as Shelby, and Rosemary Prinz as M'Lynn. In the spring of 2004, the play made its official Broadway debut at the Lyceum Theatre. The cast included Delta Burke as Truvy, Christine Ebersole as M'Lynn, Rebecca Gayheart as Shelby, Marsha Mason as Ouiser, Lily Rabe as Annelle and Frances Sternhagen as Clairee. At the close of its run, the staging had played 23 previews and 136 regular performances.

The film version opened on November 15, 1989 starring the stellar cast of Dolly Parton (Truvy Jones), Olympia Dukakis (Clairee Belcher), Shirley MacLaine (Ouiser

Boudreaux), Sally Field (M'Lynn Eatenton), Julia Roberts (Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie) and Daryl Hannah (Annelle Dupuy-Desoto) went on to gross more than \$183.7 million at the box office. Julia Roberts received her first Oscar nomination, for Best Supporting Actress for her role as Shelby

The Nerd

March 25-April 6, 2008

Written by actor/playwright Larry Shue

The Nerd premiered in April 1981, and was produced successfully in London's West End. It transferred to Broadway in 1987. Larry Shue, a talented young actor and playwright, had his career cut short at the age of 39 by the crash of a commuter plane in Weyer's Cove, Virginia in 1985. He left behind a small but celebrated body of work including a children's musical, "My Emperor's New Clothes," a one-act comic memoir about his college years, "Grandma Duck is Dead," a bittersweet political drama, "Wenceslas Square," set in 1974 Prague after the Soviet invasion, and two twin comic achievements in "The Nerd" and "The Foreigner," which have enjoyed remarkable success worldwide.

Now an aspiring young architect in Terre Haute, Indiana, Willum Cubbert has often told his friends about the debt he owes to fellow ex-GI Rick Steadman who saved his life in Vietnam. Willum is delighted when Rick shows up at his dinner party unexpectedly but his delight soon fades as it becomes apparent that Rick is a hopeless "nerd"—a bumbling oaf with no social sense, little intelligence and less tact. As Rick stays on and on, his continued presence among Willum and his friends leads to one uproarious incident after another, until the normally placid Willum finds himself contemplating violence—which is staved off by the surprising "twist" ending of the play.

Tracers

May 27 – June 8, 2008

Conceived by John DiFusco

Written by the original cast: Vincent Caristi, Richard Chaves, John DiFusco, Eric E. Emerson, Rick Gallavan, Merlin Marston, and Harry Stephens, with Sheldon Lettich.

"Tracers," whose title is a metaphorical reference to tracer bullets, is a powerful, unsettling, free-flowing documentary collage on the devastating account of the Vietnam War, written (and first performed) by men who were there. Successfully presented in Los Angeles, Chicago, New York and London by the Vietnam Veterans Ensemble Theatre Company, the play evokes both a sense of the horror and futility of war itself, and a renewed awareness of the misguided, if well-meant, policies which allowed a "police action" to escalate into a trauma which divided the nation. "Tracers" is a timely play of a nation's horror tale told by its actual witnesses - and told with an abundance of theatricality and honesty.

"This is an evening in the theater you should not miss—both as a theatregoer and as a person." —NY Post

"...a jivey, at times funny, language that combines timeless military lingo with rock 'n' rock cadences, drug jargon, pidgin Vietnamese and English, and an almost surreal litany of profanity." —NY Times

"A land mine of a play that blows complacency to shreds." —Newsweek Magazine
"Eventually, every one of these soldiers, whether dead or merely dented, becomes one of our casualties, someone we sacrificed to this dreadful, unnecessary war."
—NY Magazine

The Hermosa Beach Playhouse, a division of the Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities was created for the greater South Bay area to expand the availability of programming by providing a more intimate setting for smaller productions. This beautifully appointed 500-seat venue enables us to present a new catalog of production of straight plays as well as musicals. Perfect seats, full bar service, and a warm and friendly staff await your arrival to Southern California's newest and finest Playhouse program west of Broadway. For more information on The Hermosa Beach Playhouse, please visit: <http://hermosabeachplayhouse.com>

###

Forrest & Associates

Pegge Forrest, Jay Irwin, Lisa Bianconi

Phone 818-508-0281/818-760-0964

Cell 818-693-0964

RNFRST@aol.com