

Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities Promotes

Christopher Beyries to Associate Producer

REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA (March 31, 2007) James A. Blackman, Executive Producer/ Director of the Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities recently announced the promotion of Christopher Beyries to Associate Producer of the CLOSBC. He shares this title and cross over responsibilities with Stephanie Coltrin. While Christopher's expertise continues as technical and the design director for the 8 (soon to be 9) productions yearly at the - Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center and the Hermosa Beach Playhouse, his new role as Associate Producer augments Blackman and Coltrin in selecting shows with a careful eye to budgeting and designing the physical and artistic vision for each show..

"Christopher who was originally employed as the Technical Director for the company, has played a major role in our new revitalized success, and we are thrilled to promote him to this important position," said Blackman. "He is the only person whom I know in this business who can take an idea from concept to blueprints to lumber/construction to paint to opening night! He is in fact *the Swiss Army knife* of professional theater... and if need be, he can also design the lighting plot of a show. He is also now sitting in casting decisions for the company; he truly understands fully the art form."

Mr. Beyries, 33, joined the company in 2004. Prior to coming to the South Bay he had worked in theatres and performing arts centers across the country as Technical Director, Set Designer/Master Carpenter roles. His roots began in the Bay Area and San Jose where coincidentally Blackman spent his early childhood.. The real coincidence is that Beyries father was a mentor and mathematics teacher to James Blackman in the '70's at Aviation High School, the same structure that is now the center core of the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center. When Beyries was hoping to find employment and move from North Carolina back to California he sent a message to the CLOSBC Executive Producer saying: *My Dad says I can only use his name only once.* It worked! He hired him the next day.

Beyries received his BA degree from the prestigious USC School of Theatre. He has worked for the Santa Monica Playhouse and the South Carolina Art Center of Coastal Carolina. While serving as Technical Director for both performing arts organizations he also taught Design and Technical classes.

Since coming to CLOSBC Beyries has designed and built award winning sets for *Grease*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Fully Committed*, *Sophisticated Ladies*, *Oliver*, *Dial M*, *Quilters*, and *Godspell*. He has also created a full scenic design shop for the CLO where he initially drafts the designs and then executes the full productions. The set for *Godspell* is based on director Stephanie Coltrin's theme of *the day after Katrina in New Orleans* and was created by Beyries with much thought and dramatic impact. Blackman feels that Christopher Beyries has the rare gift of dramatic visualization combined with the equal

ability of saving money and keeping the organization on a stringent budget. *We are so lucky to have him on our team.*

Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities is now in its 16th Season. The company produces four major musicals a year at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center and beginning next season there will be five plays and musicals yearly at the Hermosa Beach Playhouse. Over 30,000 patrons yearly attend both venues for their theatrical enjoyment.

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