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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

(Los Angeles, CA – September 14, 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.

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. Coincidentally the prolific and popular Ray Cooney's comedies *Tom, Dick and Harry* will open at the Long Beach International Theatre in October/November and his *Funny Money* will open at the Norris Theatre in Pacific Palisades in November.

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 Director 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."*

Synopsis

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 Boston 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*.

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

Calendar:

TWICE UPON A TIME

WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL EVENT!

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

Producers are James A. Blackman, III (Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities) and Ray Cooney

Associate Producers Stephanie Coltrin and Christopher Beyries.

Musical Director Dennis Castellano

Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center

The corner of Aviation and Manhattan Beach Blvd.

Call 310-372-4477 www.civiclighthouse.com

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