

**For Theatre Editors and Calendar Listings**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: 714-690-2900 [Press@phantomprojects.com](mailto:Press@phantomprojects.com)

**PHANTOM PROJECTS EDUCATIONAL THEATRE GROUP ANNOUNCES PLAY TITLES  
FOR ITS 2008-09 SEASON AT LA MIRADA THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS;  
OPENING OCTOBER 23 WITH STEINBECK'S CLASSIC "GRAPES OF WRATH"**

LA MIRADA, CA. — Phantom Projects Educational Theatre Group, which brings teens and adults together as actors and audience, has announced its 2008-09 Season. A blend of classic and socially conscious plays will be offered at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts as both daytime performances for local schools as field trips, and as public performances for adults and their teens.

Phantom Projects' 12th season will again combine three fully staged productions in La Mirada, and a two-week Young Artist Project that ends with a showcase before a paying audience.

The productions in La Mirada are *The Grapes of Wrath* (October 26, 2008), *The Outsiders* (February 26, 2009), *The Center of the Universe* (May 20, 2009), and The Third Annual Young Artist Project: *YouthAmericaVoice* (August 8, 2009).

**THE LA MIRADA PRODUCTIONS**

**The Grapes of Wrath** by Frank Galati, from the novel by John Steinbeck and directed by Janet Miller follows the Joads as they pile their few possessions on a battered old truck and head west for California where their waning hopes of finding work and a better life are dealt a final blow by the stark realities of the Great Depression. Holding to the simplicity and directness of the novel, the play uses the sparest of technical means to convey the strength of the human spirit against an uncaring society.

*\*Contains mature content based on the era and setting of the novel.*

**There will be two performances on October 23 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.**

**The Outsiders** based on the book by S.E. Hinton has been adapted by Christopher Sergel. The Outsiders is seen through the eyes of Ponyboy, a Greaser on the wrong side of life who is caught up in territorial battles between the have-it-made rich kids—the Socs—and his tough, underprivileged family and friends. In the midst of urban warfare, Ponyboy somehow can't forget a short poem by Robert Frost that speaks of their fragile young lives. *"I always remembered it because I never quite got what he meant by it."* As these young people try to find themselves and each other, the sadness of sophistication begins to reach them...and change them. The 1983 movie based on the book was directed by Francis Ford Coppola and starred Patrick Swayze, Matt Dillon, and Rob Lowe.

**There will be two performances on February 26 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.**

**The Center of the Universe** by Bruce Gevirtzman, takes audiences on a journey into the past allowing a new perspective on the present as stories from slavery, and the Holocaust are woven with events inspired by today's headlines. Written by the author of the new book *An Intimate Understanding of America's Teenagers: Shaking Hands with Aliens*, this powerful production will leave audiences motivated with an unforgettable message about the value of human life. \*Features an all-teen cast and a post-show discussion.

**There will be two performances on May 20 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.**

**The Young Artist Project: YouthAmericaVoice** will begin on July 25, 2009 and present its showcase production at the La Mirada Theatre on August 8. It brings together aspiring theater artists between the ages of 15 and 21 to merge their unique talents – whether writing, directing, acting, singing, dancing, etc. – in a collaborative effort to develop one-act plays and performance pieces by members of the group. All are asked to contribute in more than one area over the two-week rehearsal process leading up to the public performance.

**There will be one performance on August 8, 2009 at 7:00pm.**

Performances of these productions will be at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts. Morning performances (there is no morning performance of the Young Artist Project) are \$6 and the evening show tickets are \$20, with reduced prices of \$12 for High School students and \$6 for Middle School students.

LA MIRADA THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS is located at 14900 La Mirada Blvd in La Mirada, near the intersection of Rosecrans Avenue where the 91 and 5 freeways meet. Parking is free.

To schedule press interviews, photos, media comps, or for more information, please contact: Steve Cisneros, Producing Artistic Director at 714.690.2900 or by e-mail at [stevecisneros@phantomprojects.com](mailto:stevecisneros@phantomprojects.com); Photos and press information is available at [www.PantomProjects.com/Press.html](http://www.PantomProjects.com/Press.html)

PHANTOM PROJECTS EDUCATIONAL THEATRE GROUP, now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, has been a leader in providing high quality theatre aimed at teen audiences. In addition to the La Mirada Theatre season, Phantom Projects brings live theatre into elementary, middle, and high schools throughout Southern California. The year is rounded out by a summer series of classes for new actors.

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