

RELEASE: July 19, 2007

CONTACT: Phantom Projects Press / Press@phantomprojects.com / 714-690-2900

**PHANTOM PROJECTS' YOUNG ARTIST WORKSHOP UNITES 14 PERFORMERS FOR A UNIQUE EVENING OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE IN LA MIRADA, AUGUST 4 AT 7 P.M.**

LA MIRADA, CA – Put 14 promising teenage artists in a workshop environment with no creative limits, stir with the guidance of a veteran director and cook under the pressure of a public performance within weeks and what do you get? You get a theatrical event that blends drama, Hip-Hop, poetry, comedy, film, dance and storytelling.

Phantom Projects Educational Theater Group's first Young Artists Workshop is currently providing this kind of crucible for a talented troupe of former strangers who are suddenly experiencing the joy and pressure of creating professional theatre. They will perform their evening program at 7 p.m. on August 4 at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts. For tickets (\$5 to \$15) or additional information, call 714-690-2900 or visit [PhantomProjects.com](http://PhantomProjects.com).

The Young Artists Workshop is the brainchild of Steve Cisneros, Phantom Projects Founder and Artistic Director, who launched the program as part of his company's 10th Anniversary.

"I didn't know if there would be good creative chemistry in the group," said Cisneros, who is directing the workshop. "But at the first meeting the cast immediately began bouncing ideas around and we all became enthusiastic about the possibilities. I think audiences are going to experience something that is both innovative and meaningful."

The participating artists are Pamela Bishop, Mallory Fehrensen, AVI, John Guevarra, Caitlin Joyce, June M. Kaewsith, Dashawn King, Vivian Martinez, Adam Mesa, Johanna Middleton, Ebone Sajna, Matt True, Ryan Wade and Jon Wayne.

The Young Artist Workshop 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 a three-week rehearsal process leading up to the public performance in La Mirada.

-- over --

Participants applied online or by phone and each were brought in for individual interviews to decide what talents they could bring to the project. Only two have had previous experience with Phantom Projects, though several were prompted to apply after seeing the theatre troupe's issue-oriented plays for teens.

“Each year, we hope that the Young Artists Workshop will allow young people to have their visions come to life in a major Southland venue,” said Cisneros. “They will contribute to a performance that is completely written, created and performed by some of Southern California's brightest young artists. It should be as exciting for the audience as it will be for these future stars to test their talents.”

“Because it is a fluid rehearsal project, as much for development and encouragement of the creators and performers as to prepare for a specific show, the great benefit for the participants will be the emersion into a ‘real working environment’ like they will eventually experience at a professional theatre,” he said. “We are also optimistic that from this first class of 2007 we will forge relationships with new collaborators who will play a part in our regular season productions and tours to schools.”

Each year, Phantom Projects Educational Theatre Group mounts a season of plays at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts and touring productions to middle and high schools in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The fully staged productions in La Mirada include interpretations of classic work currently on school curricula as well as one original script, by La Mirada High School teacher Bruce Gevirtzman, that addresses issues of immediate concern to teenagers. The touring productions are re-mountings of earlier issue-oriented plays. Among these are *No Way to Treat A Lady* (teen pregnancy), *The Center of the Universe* (prejudice and tolerance), *Through These Eyes* (self-image and eating disorders) and *Out, Out Brief Candle* (substance abuse) which will be part of the 2007-08 Season.

Thanks to additional funding from the La Mirada City Council and a \$50,000 first federal grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Phantom Projects not only was able to expand its season and enhance its outreach, but add to its staff and deepen their experience with new training programs. The Council boosted its annual support to \$38,300 last June, nearly doubling previous years funding.

For more information call 714-690-2900 or visit [www.PhantomProjects.com](http://www.PhantomProjects.com). You can also join in the community at [www.MySpace.com/PhantomProjects](http://www.MySpace.com/PhantomProjects)

#####

## YOUNG ARTIST WORKSHOP CAST BIOS

**Pamela Bishop (17, La Mirada)** is 17 and a senior at La Mirada High School. She has been involved in theatre for 10 years and has loved every second. She hopes to start a non-profit fine arts organization for children. “I think Phantom Projects conveys an inspiring message for the people who need to hear it.” She would like to thank God for giving her these gifts, and her wonderful family and friends for supporting her.

**Mallory Fehrensen (19, Pomona)** – “I’m a Cal Poly Pomona theatre major. I’m an actress and a poet who loves working with children. My goal is to become a high school theatre teacher. I’ve been working in the theatre since high school. My debut was Bonita High School’s *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and my latest performance was in *Bondage* at Cal Poly Pomona.”

**AVI (20, West Covina)** – “I go by AVI. That is my stage name; David without the Ds. I’m a rapper, poet, producer and performer straight out of West Covina. I like to collaborate with people who have better musicianship skills than I do. I chose to audition for Phantom Projects because big productions that I can be a part of are very vital to my growth as a producer.”

**John Guevarra (19, Carson)** – “I am an aspiring community educator and am sensitive to aesthetic beauty. I’m addicted to naturalistic settings, poetry and colors. I hope to educate and empower individuals and community around the world.”

**Caitlin Joyce (17, Anaheim Hills)** has been performing since the age of 10. Her stage credits include *Annie* (Annie), *Peter Pan* (Jane), *The Sound Of Music* (Martha), *The Secret Garden* (Mary Lennox), *Oliver!*, *Joseph...* and *Cinderella* (Ensemble). She has trained in ballet for seven years. Her dance credits include *The Nutcracker* (Spanish Lead), *Coppelia* (Kitri’s friend), *Sleeping Beauty* (Lilac Fairy), *Swan Lake* (Swan) and *Don Quixote* (Cupid). She is also a coloratura soprano and has trained with Jane Harrison in Yorba Linda for seven years. Her first production with Phantom Projects was the world premiere of *Through These Eyes* (Maura). She has also had the privilege to perform with their touring of *No Way to Treat a Lady* (Gina). Caitlin feels very fortunate to have found Phantom Projects and hopes to be part of their productions for a long time.

**June M. Kaewsith (20, Cerritos)** – “I am a junior at CSULB with a major in Cultural Studies through the arts. I enjoy anything that challenges my creativity. I hope to train and educate young people through artistic expression. I have been involved with Phantom Projects for three years and participate in theatre of the oppressed at CSULB. I enjoy Phantom Projects because I am a firm believer in creating art with a positive message.”

**Dashawn King (19, La Puente)** – “I go to Mount SAC Junior College. I write poetry and songs. I want to open my own clothing line, music magazine, and radio station / Club/ dine in spot. As a true career I would like to be in Real Estate.”

**Vivian Martinez (21, Torrance)** – “Well let’s see...I just graduated from college. I have a B.A. in theatre. I am trying to break into film or theatre. I want to keep on learning everything I can, maybe even study cinematography. I’ve been in a lot of shows. On stage, off stage, in the booth...I’ve done it all. Let’s see...I studied abroad in London last fall semester. I traveled all over Europe while maintaining a GPA of 4.0. I guess I’m really proud of that.”

**Johanna Middleton (17, Los Angeles)** was born in Connecticut and moved to New York, then New Jersey and then Florida, where she lived for five years before moving to L.A. six years ago. She will be attending Northwestern University next year as a freshman in theatre. Johanna developed her interest in acting and performing in high school and, after attending the National High School Institute ‘Cherubs’ Theatre Arts programs, wants more theatre!

**Adam Mesa (17, West Covina)** – “I’m from West Covina. I create music, spit lyrics, create graffiti art, and try to live life to the fullest!”

**Eboné Sajna (16, Long Beach)** – “I am a dancer and a singer. I am attending high school. I am a very fast learner. My learning skills come from all my years of dancing. I have been introduced to mostly all types of dancing. I am very experienced in the R&B style singing. I am very interested in getting involved with new forms of Performing Arts.”

**Matt True (17, Yorba Linda)** – “I go to Esperanza High School and am involved in many different activities such as swing dancing, acting, paint ball and snow boarding. I don’t talk about myself much in writing because I never know what to say. I’m crazy fun when I have energy. I want to be an actor. Talk to me I’m interesting. Every new character personality I discover becomes an occasional voice in my head. La La La...Okay I’m done.”

**Ryan Wade (15, Anaheim)** – “I grew up in Newark, New Jersey. I was in *Romeo and Juliet* four times: as Romeo (twice), Paris and Balthasar. I was in *Lil’ Abner* and have been cast for *Chicago* later this year. My hobbies are music, acting and foreign languages. I speak a little French, sign language and very little Italian. The reason I came to Phantom is because of conflicting options in my last theatre group and I wish to pursue the art in a friendlier environment. I’m hoping to find in Phantom. I’m usually cast as a villain (contrary to *Romeo and Juliet*, of course). I try to be the best in everything I do. I’m currently in my second year of high school and I’ve worked with previous theatre groups and drama departments. I love children and animals, Johnny Cash, and

country/honky tonk music. I also love surfing and interacting with special needs children. I feel I have a lot to bring to the table at Phantom and hope this choice is a most auspicious one.”

**Jon Wayne (17, La Habra)** – “I started theatre freshman year and as time passed I really got into it. From there I started writing poetry and whatnot. There’s not much to say, other than I have really bad penmanship. I like being creative.”

# # # # #

**MEDIA: FOR INTERVIEWS AND PRESS PHOTOS AND B-ROLL, please email [press@phantomprojects.com](mailto:press@phantomprojects.com) or call 714-690-2900**