

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STEVE CISNEROS, PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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\$500,000 Donation of Assets and Inventory Gifted to

La Mirada Theatre Group, Phantom Projects

Irvine-based *The Costume House* gives thousands of costumes, props, wigs, and more to the non-profit arts group.

LA MIRADA-Phantom Projects has become the recipient of the entire inventory of Irvine-based company THE COSTUME HOUSE, appraised at a value \$500,000, in one of the largest donations of its kind, Phantom Projects' Producing Artistic Director Steve Cisneros announced today. The donation is the culmination of nearly 30 years of costuming by former costuming company and consists of thousand of vintage and hand-made costume pieces, wigs, props, hats, as well as costume racks and warehouse mounts; in addition to the many individual items, the gift includes entire shows including *Guys and Dolls*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Wiz*, *7 Brides for 7 Brothers*, and nearly 50 other complete productions.

"We are thrilled at the generosity of The Costume House. This donation will allow us to find a new revenue stream during an economic crisis that has negatively affected so many arts organizations. For the past 13 years, Phantom Projects has introduced hundreds of thousands of new audiences, specifically teens, to the magic of theatre. This gift will allow us to prepare for the next 13 years." commented Cisneros. The group plans to open its own costume rental company in the Spring, 2010.

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The goal of the new costume company will be to charge far less to local non-profit organizations than many mainstream costumes charge. *“Over the years, we have been thankful for the generosity of others. By opening a costume rental company, we can continue to not only fund our own group, but also, hopefully, help slash some budgets for groups that need to rent .Funding for the arts is as low as ever. We should be a partner in the hunt for survival that many theatre groups find themselves in,”* said Cisneros.

For the past 7 years, THE COSTUME HOUSE was the exclusive costumer for the THEATRE FOR A TEEN AUDIENCE series that Phantom Projects produces at the LA MIRADA THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS. When THE COSTUME HOUSE creator Kathy Gillespie decided to retire from the business, she made the decision to donate the inventory. *“I’ve seen firsthand, the high-quality Phantom Projects brings to La Mirada Theatre and to teens in Southern California. These costumes are like my children, and I needed to make sure they went to a good home where they would continue to benefit local young people,”* said Kathy Gillespie about her decision to make the donation.

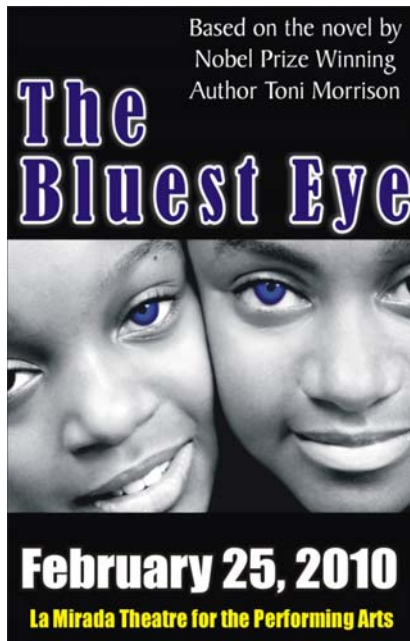
INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST BY BOTH PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR STEVEN CISNEROS AS WELL AS THE DONOR, KATHY GILLESPIE OF THE COSTUME HOUSE. THE 5,000 SQ FT FACILITY THAT HOUSES THE COSTUMES WILL BE OPEN TO PHOTOGRAPHERS AND REPORTERS AS NEEDED.

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2010 SEASON

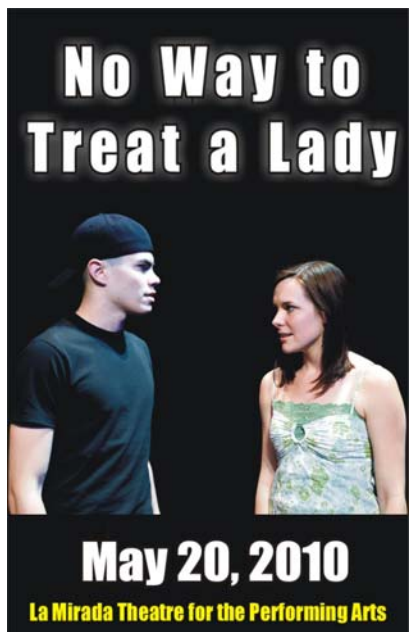
Theatre for a Teen Audience Series

La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts



February 25, 2010: *The Bluest Eye* Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* is a story about the tragic life of a young black girl in 1940's Ohio. Eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove wants nothing more than to be loved by her family and schoolmates. Instead, she faces constant ridicule and abuse. She blames her dark skin and prays for blue eyes, sure that love will follow. With rich language and bold vision, this powerful adaptation of an American classic explores the crippling toll that a legacy of racism has taken on a community, a family, and an innocent girl. **The production is adapted by Lydia R.**

Diamond from the novel by Toni Morrison and is directed by Janet Miller



May 20, 2010 *No Way to Treat a Lady* A pregnant teen, a baby with HIV, and a young couple at the crossroads of their relationship. Hear true stories of teens and their daily struggle with one of today's most difficult pressures. Delivered by a cast of young actors, *No Way to Treat a Lady* shatters the misconceptions of teen sex while creating a realistic portrayal of today's youth. The message is simple: self-control.

The production is written by Bruce Gevirtzman and is directed by Steve Cisneros

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August 7, 2010 *The Young Artist Project* Going on its 4th year, The Young Artist Project has become the premier event for young people in Southern California! This is the only project of its kind that puts 10 strangers together with just 14 days to create, produce, and present an evening of original theatre, music, dance, film, and much more. Each year, The Young Artist Project finds the brightest and best young performers to give you the opportunity to see the stars of tomorrow, on our stage today.

La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts is located at 14900 La Mirada Blvd in the City of La Mirada. More info can be found at www.LaMiradaTheatre.com/pr_pp.htm or at www.PhantomProjects.org

Each production is at 10AM and 7PM. Morning performances are \$6 and the evening show tickets are \$20. Student discounts are available for evening performances.

Season tickets and single tickets are on sale now by calling the La Mirada Theatre Box office at 714.994.6310 or 562 944 9801.

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