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Center REPeritory Company Presents

Doubt

By John Patrick Shanley

Directed by Timothy Near

Press Night is Tuesday, October 28th at 7:30 pm

Walnut Creek, CA, September 26, 2008—Center REPeritory Company presents *Doubt* by John Patrick Shanley; from October 24th through November 22nd, 2008, directed by Timothy Near, at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. *Doubt* is the second production of Center REP's 42nd subscription season. Press night is Tuesday, October 28th at 7:30 pm. *Doubt* is made possible by the generous support of the Contra Costa Times, Chevron, and The Diablo Regional Arts Association.

"Doubt can be a bond as powerful as certainty."

Winner of the **Pulitzer Prize for Drama** and the **Tony Award for Best Play**, *Doubt* is a riveting drama that has had audiences on the edge of their seats since its groundbreaking New York run. On the surface, it is a ripped-from-the-headlines story of a questionable priest and his relation with a young parishioner. Deeper down, however, it is one of the most balanced psychological dramas ever written, pitting a doctrine-wielding nun (legendary actress **Lorri Holt**) against a progressive Father (**Kevin Rolston**). In the end, the audience will be left wondering who, if anyone, is just.

The defendant in this case, Father Flynn, is a popular young Catholic priest at a parish school. An older nun, Sister Aloysius, who has worked with her share of ethically compromised clergy, accuses the priest of having an inappropriate relationship with a male eighth-grade student. She has her suspicions, based on her interpretations of Flynn's actions, along with her traditional ideas about faith and right and wrong. Father Flynn presents himself as more compassionate, progressive and open-minded—the kind of adult role model any parent would want for her child. Flynn says he's done nothing wrong.

Doubt is what this drama is meant to induce in audience members. The uncertainty of what Flynn did or didn't do, and what Aloysius knows or hopes she knows, is what drives Shanley's drama. "[Shanley] rescues the idea of doubt from a sort of disreputable place and makes it a really interesting idea to think about," says Artistic Director Michael Butler.

Lorri Holt (the original Angel in *Angels in America*) plays Sister Aloysius. Butler says, "She's not only one of the Bay Area's finest actors, but has national respect as well." **Kevin Rolston** plays Father Flynn. Butler calls him a "real powerhouse. It will be exciting to see these two face off."

Timothy Near (last season's acclaimed production of *The Mousetrap*) directs. There is no one better for this kind of play than [Near]," he says. "Her grasp of the complexities at play in human nature is really astonishing. And her ability to render it on stage is extraordinary."

The cast is as follows: **BW Gonzales*** (**Mrs. Mueller**), **Lorri Holt*** (**Sister Aloysius Beauvier**), **Laura Morache*** (**Sister James**), **Kevin Rolston*** (**Father Brendan Flynn**).

The production team features **Eric Sinkkonen** (*Scenic Design*), **Elizabeth Poindexter** (*Costume Design*), **Kurt Landisman** (*Light Design*), **Will McCandless** (*Sound Design*) and **Peter Royston*** (*Stage Manager*).

*appears courtesy of Actor's Equity Association.

Center REPeritory Company, the resident professional theatre company of the **Lesher Center for the Arts (LCA)**, will be celebrating its 42nd Subscription Season of high-quality theatrical productions during 2008-09. **Center REPeritory Company's mission is to celebrate the power of the human imagination by producing emotionally engaging, intellectually involving, and visually astonishing live theatre and, through our outreach and education programs, to enrich and advance the cultural life of the communities we serve.**

TICKETS: For more information go to CenterREP.org or call 925.943.7469. You can also visit the LCA Ticket Office at 1601 Civic Drive or the Ticket Office Outlet at Barnes & Noble in Walnut Creek.

FREE AT THE CENTER!

Teacher's Night Out. Center REP hosts area teachers from elementary schools, middle schools, high schools and colleges for a pre-show gathering with cookies and coffee. This is a great way to honor teachers while providing them with the tools to broaden their students' understanding of live theatre. Call 925.295.1420 and press 1 for more information or to reserve a ticket.

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