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Center REPeritory Company Presents

All Shook Up

Book by **Joe DiPietro**

Inspired by and Featuring the Songs of **Elvis Presley**

Musical Director **Dolores Duran-Cefalu**

Directed and Choreographed by **Robert Barry Fleming**

Press Night is September 8th at 7:30 pm

Walnut Creek, CA, August 18, 2009—Center REPeritory Company presents *All Shook Up*, from September 3 through October 10, 2009. Directed and Choreographed by **Robert Barry Fleming** and with Musical Direction by **Dolores Duran-Cefalu**, *All Shook Up* is the first production of Center REP's 43rd subscription season. Press night is Tuesday, September 8th at 7:30 pm. *All Shook Up* is made possible by the generous support from **Chevron, The Contra Costa Times** and **Diablo Regional Arts Association**.

ELVIS MEETS SHAKESPEARE. That is the unlikely premise of the 2005 Broadway hit *All Shook Up*, a musical based on the plot of William Shakespeare's comedy *Twelfth Night* and told through the songs of Elvis Presley. *All Shook Up* comes to Walnut Creek's Center REPeritory Company in September.

Artistic Director **Michael Butler** is certainly opening the 2009-10 season with a bang. Twenty-five of the King's hits, including "Devil in Disguise," "Heartbreak Hotel," and, of course, "All Shook Up," help tell a tale, set in the 1950s, of love, tolerance, and laugh-out-loud gender-bending disguises.

"I think people will be surprised and completely delighted at how well these songs work as theatre music. They're great story-telling songs," says Butler, who is an Elvis fan himself. Butler recalls his first "Elvis Experience," watching Presley perform in a television special in the 60s. "It was just him, all in black, playing with his original band, all of them sitting in a circle, playing these songs like they were on fire. You couldn't watch Elvis and not think he was great."

And more than 50 years later, the legacy of the rock 'n' roll icon is still "on fire," having sold more than a billion records worldwide—a feat matched only by the Beatles.

The name “Elvis” is now synonymous with wholesome ‘50s Americana coupled with wild rebellion. Even in 2009, it’s hard to go a day without running into his presence. From wall clocks to T-shirts, his image can be found everywhere, as can cocktails and sushi rolls bearing names of his songs, such as “Blue Hawaii,” “Jailhouse Rock,” and “Love Me Tender.”

Even posthumously, Presley continues to win over the world with his extraordinary combination of charisma, talent, and heart. A respectable young man who loved his mother and enlisted in the US Army, Presley showed that even good boys are capable of being sex symbols, shaking his hips and using his baritone voice to make the crowds swoon. “His songs and his singing were so emotional, almost spiritual,” says Butler, “but naughty too.”

In *All Shook Up*, that winning charismatic combo belongs to Chad, an Elvis-inspired character who, according to Butler, is a “guitar-playing, motorcycle-driving roustabout who shows up in this small town and gets everybody, well, all shook up.”

When the female lead character falls for the Presley-esque rebel, she disguises herself as a man in order to get closer to him, leading to hilarity, confusion, and love—all to the beat of rock ‘n’ roll. For Center REP’s production, Butler has put together a creative team including director/choreographer Robert Barry Fleming, who helmed Center REP’s production of *Ain’t Misbehavin’*, and **Kelly Tighe**, whose work with Center REP has won numerous Shellie Awards for set design.

To break in the 2009-2010 season, Butler explains that he wanted something “that tells a good love story, makes us laugh and dance, and, of course, I just love putting a rockin’ band on stage.”

The cast is as follows: **Dane Paul Andres, Anika Bobb*, Evan Boomer, Andrea Brembry*, Renee DeWeese, Lynda DiVito*, Jason Hite, Ji Kim, Lillian Kurtz, Mindy Lym, Ron Pickett, Benjamin Pither, Christa Rower, David Sattler*, Will Skrip*, Brian Sterling, Colin Thomson*, and Elise Youssef.**

The design team features:

Lighting Designer: **Kurt Landisman**, Sound Designer: **Lewis Mead**, Props: **Justin Cesarin**, Casting Director: **Jennifer Perry**, Scenic Designer: **Kelly James Tighe**, Costume Designer: **Melissa Anne Davis**, Stage Manager: **Patricia Mason***, and Wig Designer: **Judy Disbrow**.

Robert Barry Fleming (Director/Choreographer) Directing and/or choreography credits include: *Ain’t Misbehavin’* at Center REP, *The Little Dog Laughed* at the Diversionary Theatre, *The Game of Love and Chance* (San Jose Repertory), *Twelfth Night* (The Alabama Shakespeare Festival) *Honk!* (Circuit Playhouse) *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom* (Theatre Memphis) *Sueno, Marat/Sade* and *Songs for a New World*. He has performed in leading roles in productions like *Ragtime* and *Stand-Up Tragedy* on Broadway, *Insurrection: Holding History* at The Public Theatre, Young Jelly in the world premiere of George C. Wolfe’s *Jelly’s Last Jam* at the Mark Taper Forum. He can be seen in the films and television programs *L. A. Confidential*, *Twilight of the Gods*, *Family Matters*, and as a series regular on the Disney Channel’s *Adventures in Wonderland*. He is also a Dialect and Vocal Coach and his credits include *The Adding Machine*, *Most Wanted*, and *The Wiz* (La Jolla Playhouse) *A View from the Bridge* and *Death of a Salesman* (Arena Stage) and *Sight Unseen* (The Old Globe). Robert is an Associate Professor and the Director of Theatre Arts at the University of San Diego. He received his M.F.A. from The University of Alabama/Alabama Shakespeare Festival/ Professional Actor Training Program.

Dolores Duran-Cefalu (Musical Director) was last seen in June at San Jose Repertory Theater where she was music director/conductor of *Spelling Bee*. Last year Dolores played keyboards for a year with SF's Teatro Zinzanni, and has played for many shows in SF including: *The Producers*, *Hairspray*, *Mamma Mia!*, and *White Christmas*. She performed over 25 shows at American Musical Theater of San Jose as keyboardist, music director and/or conductor, including *Christmas Dreamland*, which she composed/arranged/conducted. Achievements include: Outstanding Rock Keyboardist—Yamaha Soundcheck; Kennedy Center Meritorious Achievement Award for orchestral work in a production of Cole; nominated for Best Keyboardist-South Bay Blues Awards; and received a 2008 Achievement in Music Award from the National League of American Pen Women. She's also the music director at California's Great America. She's been in several bands in the SF Bay Area. Right now she has a show band project called Joie De Vivre—"old-fashioned new fangled music" (www.joietheband.com). Love to family and pals.

Elvis Aaron Presley, in the humblest of circumstances, was born to Vernon and Gladys Presley in a two-room house in Tupelo, Mississippi on January 8, 1935. His twin brother, Jessie Garon, was stillborn, leaving Elvis to grow up as an only child. He and his parents moved to Memphis, Tennessee in 1948, and Elvis graduated from Humes High School there in 1953.

His musical influences were the pop and country music of the time, the gospel music he heard in church and at the all-night gospel sings he frequently attended, and the black R&B he absorbed on historic Beale Street as a Memphis teenager. In 1954, he began his singing career with the legendary Sun Records label in Memphis. In late 1955, his recording contract was sold to RCA Victor. By 1956, he was an international sensation. With a sound and style that uniquely combined his diverse musical influences and blurred and challenged the social and racial barriers of the time, he ushered in a whole new era of American music and popular culture.

He starred in 33 successful films, made history with his television appearances and specials, and knew great acclaim through his many, often record-breaking, live concert performances on tour and in Las Vegas. Globally, he has sold over one billion records, more than any other artist. His American sales have earned him gold, platinum or multi-platinum awards for 150 different albums and singles, far more than any other artist. Among his many awards and accolades were 14 Grammy nominations (3 wins) , the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, which he received at age 36, and his being named One of the Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Nation for 1970 by the United States Jaycees. Without any of the special privileges his celebrity status might have afforded him, he honorably served his country in the U.S. Army.

His talent, good looks, sensuality, charisma, and good humor endeared him to millions, as did the humility and human kindness he demonstrated throughout his life. Known the world over by his first name, he is regarded as one of the most important figures of twentieth century popular culture. Elvis died at his Memphis home, Graceland, on August 16, 1977.

*appears courtesy of Actor's Equity Association.

Center REpertory Company, the resident professional theatre company of the **Leshner Center for the Arts** (LCA), celebrates its 43rd Subscription Season of high-quality theatrical productions during 2009-10. **Center REpertory 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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