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**A NOISE WITHIN,  
LOS ANGELES' CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED  
CLASSICAL REPERTORY THEATRE COMPANY,  
LAUNCHES 2008-09 SEASON WITH SIX-PLAY SLATE  
AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF  
\$16 MILLION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN  
TO BUILD NEW, PERMANENT HOME IN PASADENA**

**17th Season Begins at Company's Present Theatre in Glendale on September 27 with Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, N. Richard Nash's *The Rainmaker* and Dickens' *Oliver Twist* in Fall '08; Season Continues in Spring '09 with Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, Ibsen's *Ghosts*, and Anouilh's *The Rehearsal*; Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* from 2007-08 Season Returns for Ten Performances**

**Company Has Raised \$8 Million to Date for New 35,000-Square-Foot Pasadena Facility Designed for Audience Growth and Fully Realized Educational Program**

A Noise Within, the critically acclaimed classical repertory theatre company founded in 1991 with \$3,000 and a performance of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, launches its 2008-09 season with the announcement of a six-play slate that comes full circle with an opening production of *Hamlet* beginning September 27 at the company's present theatre in Glendale as well as a \$16 million capital campaign to build a new home in Pasadena. *Hamlet* is followed in the fall by N. Richard Nash's *The Rainmaker* and Dickens' *Oliver Twist* and in spring 2009 by Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, Ibsen's *Ghosts* and Anouilh's *The Rehearsal*. Additionally, Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* from the 2007-08 season returns in January for ten performances. A Noise Within (ANW) is the only classical repertory company in Southern California and one of only a handful in the entire country dedicated solely to producing classical dramatic literature year-round and working in the repertory tradition of rotating productions using a resident company of professional artists.

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The 2008-09 *Season of Awakenings* reflects the vision of ANW Founders/Artistic Directors Julia Rodriguez-Elliott and Geoff Elliott, who note that each play's characters' struggles to awaken their true natures can be compared to A Noise Within's challenges as the company enters the next phase of its development with the attainment of a permanent home. To date, ANW has raised \$8 million in combined gifts and pledges in support of the project, which is designed to expand artistic possibilities, offer a greater scope of educational opportunities, meet ticket demand and allow A Noise Within to reach its full potential. The new Pasadena site accommodates a 35,000-square-foot facility providing the company plenty of opportunity for audience growth as well as a fully realized education program. A Noise Within's new home, located in the historic Stuart Pharmaceutical building, is a textbook example of adaptive reuse which will breathe fresh life into this mid-century modern structure, constructed in the mid-fifties and listed on the National Register in 1998.

Spearheading the fundraising campaign is Andrea Van de Kamp, well known in Los Angeles area cultural circles and a seasoned, accomplished fundraising professional. Among the key committed sources of funding for the capital campaign are The Ahmanson Foundation (\$2 million), board and individual pledges and payments (\$2,437,000), the Weingart Foundation (\$750,000), The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation (\$500,000) and a gift of land donated by SMV Technology Partners.

"The opportunities this world-class theatre facility will present matches our mission of unwavering commitment to the presentation and preservation of classical theatre in the region," notes Elliott. Rodriguez-Elliott adds, "We're exceedingly grateful to our donors to date and look forward to continuing financial support that brings us to our \$16 million goal, ensuring the success of this project and a permanent home for the classics in Southern California."

ANW has attracted fiercely loyal audiences and high praise from the media for its productions of great works of world drama and also as a leading regional force in arts education. The company's consistent dedication to quality has been rewarded with 26 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards, Los Angeles' highest recognition for theatrical achievement, and other similarly substantial honors.

## **A NOISE WITHIN'S 2008/2009 SEASON**

### ***Fall 2008***

***THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK***, SHAKESPEARE's greatest drama, opens September 27 and closes December 7 (previews begin September 20) and is directed by Michael Michetti. Mourning the untimely death of his father and nettled by festering resentment over the

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premature marriage of his mother and uncle, the core of Hamlet's soul is shaken by a visitor from beyond the grave. Lost in a labyrinth of guilt and rage, the young prince is forced to confront his own humanity.

**THE RAINMAKER** by N. RICHARD NASH, a joyful romantic comedy, opens October 11 and closes December 6 (previews begin October 4) and is directed by Andrew Traister. Set on the water-starved western plains, it's the story of Lizzie Curry, who has resigned herself to a life without love as she and the men of the family struggle to keep the farm from collapsing under the weight of devastating drought. Out of the arid ether of this parched land, a shadow larger than life fills the horizon, awakening the hopeful dreamer in all of us.

Neil Bartlett's wildly theatrical and musically vibrant stage treatment of CHARLES DICKENS' **OLIVER TWIST** opens November 8 and closes December 14 (previews begin November 1). Julia Rodriguez-Elliott and Geoff Elliott direct the famous tale peopled by unforgettable underworld characters and breathtaking turns of fate. Comedy and tragedy mingle in a Victorian music hall setting as young Oliver Twist struggles to navigate the dark alleyways of a whimsically cruel world.

SAMUEL BECKETT's **WAITING FOR GODOT**, one of ANW's 2007-08 season's most popular productions, returns for 10 performances opening January 15 and closing January 25, 2009. Directed by Andrew Traister, this wickedly witty treatise on the nature of human existence is considered one of the greatest plays of the 20th century. Atop a blasted landscape Didi and Gogo cling to the flickering faith that Godot will come, Godot will bring answers, Godot will bring meaning, Godot will bring happiness. When will Godot come?

### **Spring 2009**

The second half of A Noise Within's 2008-09 season begins with SHAKESPEARE'S **THE TAMING OF THE SHREW**, a rough and raucous ride on the road to romance and one of the Bard's most beloved comedies. Directed by Geoff Elliott, the production opens March 7 and closes May 17 (previews begin February 28). Shakespeare's most famous pugilist lovers, "Kate the Curst" and "Madcap Petruchio" jab, swing and duck their way to wedded bliss (or perhaps wedded blisters!). *The Taming of the Shrew* is a rollicking game of love played for keeps by graduates from the school of hard knocks.

**GHOSTS** by HENRIK IBSEN, a haunting tale of unrequited passion, revelation and horror, opens March 21 and closes May 9 (previews begin March 14). Directed by Michael Murray, the story by "the father of modern drama" is set in the isolated grandeur of Scandinavia's fjord country where Mrs. Alving relishes the homecoming of her artist son Oswald. An independent woman unafraid to brook the rigid moral code

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of a society dominated by men, she looks to a bright future with her beautiful boy. But sins of the fathers and secrets of the dead reach out to decimate the foundation of her world.

Celebrated French playwright JEAN ANOUILH creates a world of both brave affirmation and bitter protest, a world crackling with sharp wit and icy romanticism in ***THE REHEARSAL***, which opens April 18 and closes May 24 (previews begin April 1) and is directed by Julia Rodriguez-Elliott. In one of Anouilh's most critically acclaimed and popular plays, leading character Count Tiger, disillusioned by a life spent pursuing pleasure, may find salvation in the purity of a young visitor to his court. Threatened by disruption of the fragile status quo, members of the jaded, sated court are bent on ferreting out and annihilating his innocent savior.

### **A NOISE WITHIN'S CURRENT FACILITY**

At A Noise Within's inception in 1991, its home was – and currently remains – a privately-owned former Masonic Temple building in Glendale whose owners, the DePietro family, have supported the company and allowed it to continue residence under a generous lease agreement. From the start, ANW grew quickly, and the 145-seat theatre immediately presented challenges in producing and presenting plays as well as accessibility, patron comfort and parking issues because it was not designed as a theatre complex. Yet even with these limitations, the quality of A Noise Within's productions attracted a loyal and growing audience, resulting in higher ticket demand than can be accommodated. ANW has approximately 1,500 subscribers and an 80% subscriber renewal rate (17% higher than the national average) and operates at 90% capacity. Furthermore, A Noise Within's comprehensive education programs operate at 100% capacity with many schools being turned away due to lack of space. Additionally, the present location's owners are currently developing plans for the building that cannot include the company.

### **A NOISE WITHIN'S NEW, PERMANENT HOME**

In 2005, A Noise Within was invited by a Pasadena developer to become part of a mixed-use project in Pasadena. The developer offered the company a large parcel of land located at the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Sierra Madre Villa that includes the historic, mid-century modern Stuart Pharmaceutical Building designed by renowned architect Edward Durell Stone. The mixed use development also includes residential units, convenient parking, easy access, and visibility. Under the direction of Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard, a long time fan of A Noise Within, this project is receiving full enthusiasm and support from Pasadena City staff and Council.

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A Noise Within's new facility will:

- provide a 350-seat state-of-the-art performance space with a thrust stage, offering the same intimacy that audience members enjoy in ANW's current theatre.
- include ample backstage and support facilities, offices, classrooms, storage and parking.
- increase audience participation to 55,000 annually.
- house an education resource center for teachers and students that will include a library of audio-visual resources as well as a wealth of study guides, reference and curricula all designed to bring the classics to life. The center will also serve as a venue for expanded teacher training programs.

With a signature building and grounds (including the restored Durell Stone structure and a striking landscape garden designed by Thomas Church), A Noise Within is poised to expand its role as a leading force in the presentation and preservation of classical theatre. Design review likely takes place in the next few months, and construction is projected to begin in early 2009, with the theatre opening in early 2010.

### **MORE ABOUT A NOISE WITHIN**

Since its founding in 1991, A Noise Within has presented more than 120 plays from the classics of world literature, each season producing a minimum of six plays from authors ranging from Shakespeare and Molière, to Ibsen, O'Neill and Shaw, to Miller and Williams. The theatre's consistent dedication to quality has been rewarded with 26 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards, including the Polly Warfield Award for Excellence and the Margaret Harford Award for Distinguished Achievement. The Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle named A Noise Within's production of O'Neill's *A Touch of the Poet* Best Revival of 2006, and the LA Stage Alliance nominated Jarry's *Ubu Roi* for six Ovation Awards. In 2004, the theatre collaborated with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen in a tandem performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Hollywood Bowl.

Educational programming at A Noise Within has always been a priority as the company takes seriously its commitment to augment middle and high school students' classroom discovery of classic texts. The company's educational initiatives have introduced over 180,000 students (approximately 10,000 per year) to the magic of live classical theatre; 245 schools (middle and high school through college) have participated in A Noise Within programs; and 200 serious young actors have graduated from the Professional Internship Program. Educational programs at A Noise Within are designed to complement classroom studies and enable teachers to promote literacy and cultural awareness. Conforming to California's educational content standards, the theatre's programs primarily attract English and Literature classes but have also proven to be valuable for ESL students and those studying foreign languages. A

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Noise Within's educational programming serves a diverse population of students from public, private and parochial schools, from the inner city to the suburbs. Approximately 30% of ANW's budget is dedicated to educational programs.

**JULIA RODRIGUEZ-ELLIOTT AND GEOFF ELLIOTT  
FOUNDERS/ARTISTIC DIRECTORS**

Geoff Elliott and Julia Rodriguez-Elliott, co-founders and co-artistic directors of A Noise Within, have produced close to 100 productions and have directed/co-directed more than 40 including the performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Hollywood Bowl with the Los Angeles Philharmonic conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen. Other directorial credits include *The Winter's Tale*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Othello*, *The Tempest*, *Coriolanus*, *Macbeth*, *Ubu Roi*, *Loot*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Mourning Becomes Electra*, *Great Expectations*, *Buried Child*, *Another Part of the Forest*, *Life is A Dream*, *Master Builder* and *The Price*. For four consecutive years, Elliott and Rodriguez-Elliott have conducted a workshop for the National Endowment for the Arts Journalism Institute in Theatre and Musical Theatre at the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication.

Julia Rodriguez-Elliott has extensive experience teaching theatre arts to students from middle school to college and regularly conducts student workshops as part of A Noise Within's educational programming. She has served on theatre panels for organizations such as the National Endowment for the Arts, Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the LA Stage Alliance. In addition, she regularly conducts lectures for CalArts, the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and schools throughout the California State and University of California school systems, to name a few.

Geoff Elliott has performed major roles for some of the leading regional theatres in America, including The American Conservatory Theatre, South Coast Repertory, Arizona Theatre Company, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and California Shakespeare Festival. He has received three Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle awards and more than a dozen other awards for acting. His Shakespearean roles include Iago in *Othello*, Theseus/Oberon in a *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Coriolanus, Richard in *King Richard III* and Hamlet. He has also performed leading roles in classic plays by such authors as O'Neill, Miller, Ibsen, Rostand, Wilde and Williams.

Elliott and Rodriguez-Elliott each hold a BFA from the University of Florida and an MFA from the American Conservatory Theatre.

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## SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS AND SINGLE TICKETS

### Subscriptions

Premier Package (6 Plays)

\$240 (Friday evening, Saturday evening and Sunday matinee)

\$216 (Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings and Saturday matinee)

\$156 (Previews)

4-Play Patron Choice Package

\$168 (Friday evening, Saturday evening and Sunday matinee)

\$152 (Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings and Saturday matinee)

\$104 (Previews)

As You Like It Flex Pass

(vouchers redeemable for any 2008-09 production)

\$320 (8 vouchers)

\$240 (6 vouchers)

Age 25-and-Under Package

\$150 (6 plays)

\$100 (4 plays)

Senior Package (6 Plays)

\$228 (Friday evening, Saturday evening and Sunday matinee)

\$204 (Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings and Saturday matinee)

\$156 (Preview)

(senior package not available for the 4-play Patron Choice or As You Like It Flex Pass)

### Single Tickets

\$44 (Friday and Saturday evenings, Sunday matinees)

\$40 (Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings, Saturday matinees)

\$28 (previews)

Groups (10 or more)

\$25

\$30 (Saturday evenings and Sunday matinees)

School Groups (10 or more)

\$15

\$20 (Saturday evenings and Sunday matinees)

## CONTACT A NOISE WITHIN TO PURCHASE TICKETS OR MAKE A DONATION

A NOISE WITHIN is located at 234 South Brand Boulevard, Glendale, CA 91204. To purchase tickets or for a full season brochure, call 818-240-0910 x1 or visit [www.ANoiseWithin.org](http://www.ANoiseWithin.org). To support A Noise Within's capital campaign and for more information about A Noise Within's new home in Pasadena, call 818-265-7964 or visit [www.ANoiseWithin.org](http://www.ANoiseWithin.org).

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