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**A NOISE WITHIN PRESENTS *GHOSTS*,
HENRIK IBSEN'S HAUNTING TALE**

Saturday, March 21 – Saturday, May 9, 2009

A Noise Within (ANW), the acclaimed repertory theatre company, stages Henrik Ibsen's *Ghosts*, a haunting tale of unrequited passion, revelation and horror, which opens Saturday, March 21 and runs through Saturday, May 9, 2009 (previews begin Saturday, March 14). Directed by Michael Murray, the cast features Mark Bramhall (Engstrand), J. Todd Adams (Oswald), Jaimi Paige (Regina), Deborah Strang (Mrs. Alving) and Joel Swetow (Manders).

Considered the most shocking and disturbing play of its time, *Ghosts* is described by Murray as "a combination of film noir and Greek tragedy and still relevant to our times." He adds, "I've written a new adaptation, set in the early 1900's but stripped down and modern in tone, stressing the emotional and erotic undercurrents among the five characters."

Written by "the father of modern drama," *Ghosts* 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 of a society dominated by men, she looks to a bright future with her beautiful boy and struggles to free both of them from the deadening hand of the past, but sins of the fathers and secrets of the dead reach out to decimate the foundation of her world.

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. ANW is led by Founders/Artistic Directors Julia Rodriguez-Elliott and Geoff Elliott.

Over the last 17 years, 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. 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 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

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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.

A Noise Within's 2008-09 season is dedicated to the De Pietro family for their unflagging generosity and support for the past 17 years.

Single Tickets are \$44 (Friday and Saturday evenings, Sunday matinees); \$40 (Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings, Saturday matinees); and \$28 (previews). Groups (10 or more) are \$25, or \$30 on Saturday evenings and Sunday matinees; School Groups (10 or more) are \$15, or \$20 on Saturday evenings and Sunday matinees.

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.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Ghosts marks the fifth play **MICHAEL MURRAY** (director) has directed for A Noise Within. The others are *The Night of the Iguana*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Touch of the Poet*, and *Arms and the Man*. He has served as Producing Director of the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park for nine years where he directed more than 25 productions, including *Heartbreak House*, *Sweet Bird of Youth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night*, *And a Nightingale Sang*, *Compulsion*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Where's Charlie?*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *Threepenny Opera*, *Julius Caesar*, *A Month in the Country* and *The Baker's Wife*. Murray also co-founded – with Olympia Dukakis and others – and served as Artistic Director of the pioneering Charles Playhouse in Boston, a company that included at various times Al Pacino, Jane Alexander, Jill Clayburgh, Linda Lavin, John Seitz and Ned Beatty. He has directed at numerous regional and New York theaters such as the Hartford Stage Company, Center Stage in Baltimore, the Philadelphia Drama Guild, the Huntington Theater Company in Boston and the Alaska Repertory Theater. Recently he was Blanche, Barbara and Irving Laurie Professor of Theater Arts and Director of the Professional Theater Training Program at Brandeis University. He holds a BA from Catholic University and an MFA from Boston University.

J. TODD ADAMS (Oswald) recently played Orestes in *Andromache* at the Evidence Room and has appeared as a commedia dell'arte acrobat in Franco Zeffirelli's production of *Pagliacci* at the LA Opera, starring Placido Domingo, as well as with the Washington Opera, which was filmed for PBS. His previous ANW's credits include *Henry IV, Part 1*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Phaedra*, *As You Like It*, *Babbitt*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Misanthrope*, *What the Butler Saw*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. He performed at The Mark Taper Forum in *Gross Indecency* and at the Ahmanson Theatre as an understudy in Sir Peter Hall's productions of *Measure for Measure* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He studied at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, where he performed in mainstage productions of *Scapin*, *Dinner at Eight* and *The Dutchess of Malfi*. With the Aurora Theatre Company he played Oswald in *Ghosts* and Frank in *Mrs. Warren's Profession*. He won a Drama-Logue Award for his portrayal of Will Draper in the world premiere of *The Dead Boy* at the San Francisco Theatre Project and another for his role of Lt. Ralph Clark in PSC's production of *Our Country's Good*. He has performed in numerous productions with the Utah Shakespearean Festival, Park City Shakespeare Festival and the Actor's Repertory Ensemble as well as working with A Noise Within where he played Ligniere in *Cyrano De Bergerac*. J. Todd's has also appeared in the feature film *Warriors of Virtue*.

MARK BRAMHALL (Engstrand) appeared as Lucky in A Noise Within's acclaimed production of *Waiting For Godot* in both the current and past season. He began his professional acting career in 1966 as a member of the original company of The American Conservatory Theatre (A.C.T.) in San Francisco. In five seasons there, he played leading roles under the guidance of some of the country's foremost theatrical directors, including William Ball, Ellis Rabb, Alan Schneider and Nagle Jackson. In his New York debut, he starred as George in *Our Town* opposite Henry Fonda, Robert Ryan, Estelle Parsons and Jo Van Fleet. In Los Angeles, he appeared at the Mark Taper Forum in the "New Plays For Now" series, directed by Gordon Davidson. He abandoned his burgeoning acting

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career for 17 years to father four daughters and pursue political activism, and, in the throes of mid-life crisis, returned to his art—and his birthplace, Los Angeles—in 1990. Since then, he has appeared at the Pasadena Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, Colony Theatre, Pacific Resident Theatre Ensemble, Skirball Cultural Center, Egyptian Arena, Theatre Forty, Tamarind Theatre, Taper Amphitheatre, Theatricum Botanicum, Arizona Theatre Company, and Portland Center Stage. He has been a Resident Artist for 15 years at A Noise Within, where he has played leading roles in thirty celebrated productions. Among his favorite roles are Alceste in *The Misanthrope*, Harpagon in *The Miser*, Dr. Prentice in *What The Butler Saw*, Howard in *Picnic* and Virgil in *Bus Stop*. His acting awards and nominations include LA Drama Critics Circle, Ovation, Dramalogue, LA Weekly and Robby honors, as well as industry awards for Books On Tape narration. Among his film and television roles are *All Through The Night*, *Vanilla Sky*, *Too Pure*, *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge*, *Sliver*, *Fools*, *One Is A Lonely Number*, *NYPD Blue*, *Dark Skies*, *The Burning Zone*, *7th Heaven*, *X-Files*, and recurring roles on *Alias*, *That 70's Show*, *Days Of Our Lives*, *The Young and the Restless*, *Passions*, and *General Hospital*. Bramhall holds a B.A. from Harvard, and has studied at U.C. Berkeley, London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (Fulbright Scholar), American Conservatory Theatre, Classical Theatre Lab and Steve Eastin Studio.

JAIMI PAGE (Regina) makes her ANW debut in *Ghosts*. Her extensive stage credits include *Green Eyes and Adam and Eve on a Ferry* at the Tennessee Williams Theatre Festival (Provincetown), *Proposals* at Old Log Theatre, *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, *Tale of Two Cities*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Enchanted April* and *The Violet Hour* at Park Square Theatre, *A Devil Inside*, *The Crucible*, and *Independence* at Gremlin Theatre, as well as *Hamlet* and *Rozenkrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* at the Theatre Pro Rata. Page has also appeared in such film and television productions as *Peacock* starring Cillian Murphy and Ellen Page, *2084* (in production), *Horrible Flowers*, *Gigi 12x5*, and *Diagnosis X*, and currently stars in *Ghost Whisperer: The Other Side III* at www.cbs.com/ghost. She studied at the University of Minnesota and with the Margolis-Brown Theatre Co.

DEBORAH STRANG (Mrs. Alving) has been a Resident Artist with A Noise Within for 16 years and has performed in more than 40 productions. Most recently she played Gertrude in *Hamlet*. Other productions have ranged from Shakespeare to Tennessee Williams, and Chekhov to Alfred Jarry. Her favorite roles include Maxine Faulk in *The Night of the Iguana*, Mrs. Dearth in *Dear Brutus*, Paulina in *The Winter's Tale*, the Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*, Nora Melody in *A Touch of the Poet*, Ma Ubu in *Ubu Roi*, Dolly Levi in *The Matchmaker*, Amanda Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie*, Mrs. Antrobus in *The Skin of Our Teeth*, Regina in *Little Foxes*, Alexandra in *O Pioneers*, Ranyevskaya in *The Cherry Orchard*, Rosemary in *Picnic* and as Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in a co-production with the LA Philharmonic at the famed Hollywood Bowl. Also at ANW, Strang co-directed Moliere's *The Learned Ladies* on the main stage as well as productions of *Comedy of Errors* and *Twelfth Night* for the Summer With Shakespeare teen programs. She currently teaches Acting Shakespeare and coaches the interns in the ANW Conservatory and recently spent two weeks as a guest artist at the acclaimed Oklahoma Arts Institute at Quartz Mountain. Her film and TV credits include *Cold Case*, *Close to Home*, *Numb3rs Ghostwhisperer*, *Threshold*, *Carnivale*, *The X-Files*, *Deep Space Nine*, *Kiss the Girls*, *Things To Do In Denver*, and the soon to be released *Eagle Eye* with Shia LaBeouf. Strang can be heard most Saturday mornings as the voice of Aunt May in the new animated TV series *The Spectacular Spider-Man*. Strang, a coal miner's daughter, was born and raised in Apalachia, Virginia.

A Noise Within resident artist **JOEL SWETOW** (Pastor Manders), played Estragon in *Waiting for Godot*, which also featured fellow cast member Mark Bramhall. Also with ANW, he portrayed Duke Vincentio in *Measure for Measure*, Philante in *The Misanthrope*, Jagers in *Great Expectations*, Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, Vershinin in *The Three Sisters*, Arnolphe in *The School for Wives*, the title role in *Tartuffe*, Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*, as well as major roles in *Under Milk Wood*, *The Seagull*, *Major Barbara*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Blood Wedding*, *Man and Superman*, *The Duchess of Malfi* and *The Way of the World*. For ANW he also co-directed *The Learned Ladies*. Among his numerous roles with New York City and regional theatre companies, Swetow played Marc Antony in *Antony and Cleopatra* at Theatricum Botanicum, appeared in *Mad Forest* at the Matrix Theatre Company, and played lead roles in *The Normal Heart*, *Talley's Folly*, and *The Sound of Teeth*. He directed *The Cherry Orchard* at Interact Theatre Company, which earned the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award, Best Production of 1999, *As You Like It* at Actor's Co-op, and the world premieres of *My Brain Tumor* and *Muckrakers*. Swetow directs *The Crucible* at Actors Co-op this spring. His film and television credits include *Burn Notice*, *Charmed*, *Alias*, *Judging Amy*, *Stargate*, *She Spies*, various *Star Treks*, *Days of our Lives*, *3 Ninjas*, *Live From Baghdad*, *The President's Man 2*, Clive Barker's *Lord of Illusions*, the award winning shorts *Chicxulub* and *Vartan LLP*, and many others.

EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

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CALENDAR LISTING

WHO: A Noise Within – one of the nation’s leading repertory theatres

WHERE:

A Noise Within
234 South Brand Blvd., Glendale, CA 91204

TICKET PRICES:

\$44 (Friday and Saturday evenings, Sunday matinees);
\$40 (Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings, Saturday matinees);
\$28 (previews).
Group rates and special rates for school groups available

TICKETS & INFO: 818-240-0910 x1 www.ANoiseWithin.org

WHAT: HENRIK ISBEN’S *GHOSTS*

Cast and Crew

Mark Bramhall (Engstrand)
J. Todd Adams (Oswald)
Jaimi Paige (Regina)
Deborah Strang (Mrs. Alving)
Joel Swetow (Manders).

Michael Murray, Director
Rita Cofield, Stage Manager
Angela Calin, Set Designer
Nikki Delhomme, Costume Designer
Susan Gratch, Lighting Designer
Rebecca Baillie, Production Manager
Adam Lillibridge, Technical Director
Jennifer Inglis, Scenic Artist
Ronnie Clark, Master Electrician

WHEN:

Previews:

Saturday, March 14, 8 pm
Sunday, March 15, 7 pm
Wednesday, March 18, 8 pm
Thursday, March 19, 8 pm
Friday, March 20, 8 pm

Opens:

Saturday, March 21, 8 pm

Runs:

Sunday, March 22, 2 pm
Sunday, March 29, 2 pm
Sunday March 29, 7 pm
Wednesday, April 1, 8 pm
Thursday, April 2, 8 pm
Saturday, April 25, 2 pm
Saturday, April 25, 8 pm
Sunday, April 26, 2 pm

Sunday, April 26, 7 pm
Wednesday, April 29, 8 pm
Thursday, April 30, 8 pm
Friday, May 1, 8 pm
Friday, May 8, 8 pm
Saturday, May 9, 2 pm
Saturday, May 9, 8 pm

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