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**A NOISE WITHIN,
LOS ANGELES' CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED
CLASSICAL REPERTORY THEATRE COMPANY,
LAUNCHES 2008-09 SEASON WITH SHAKESPEARE'S *HAMLET***

**September 27 - December 7, 2008
(previews begin September 20)**

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 by coming full circle with an opening production of *Hamlet*, which runs Saturday, September 27 through Sunday, December 7, 2008, at the company's theatre in Glendale. (Previews begin Saturday, September 20.)

THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK, Shakespeare's greatest drama, is directed by Michael Michetti. The cast includes Freddy Douglas in the title role, Tony Abatemarco (Polonius), Deborah Strang (Gertrude), Dorothea Harahan (Ophelia), Jacob Sidney (Guildenstern), Steve Cooms (Horatio), Matthew Jaeger (Laertes/Rosencrantz), and Francois Giroday (Claudius). Hamlet, mourning the untimely death of his father and nettled by festering resentment over the premature marriage of his mother and uncle, finds the core of his soul 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.

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 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.

(MORE ON REVERSE)

MICHAEL MICHETTI (director) is directing his fourth production for A Noise Within. He previously directed *As You Like It*, *Don Juan* and *Phaedra* for the renowned repertory company. He also serves as the Co-Artistic Director of The Theatre @ Boston Court in Pasadena, where he has directed his own adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *A Picture of Dorian Gray*, Carlos Murillo's *dark play or stories for boys*, *Paradise Lost: Shadows and Wings*, Sinan Ünél's *Pera Palas*, which received L.A. Drama Critics Circle Awards for both production and direction, Charles L. Mee's *Summertime*, and Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Among his other credits, Mr. Michetti directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Stella Adler Theatre, which garnered Ovation Awards for production and direction; David Mamet's *A Life in the Theatre*, starring Hal Holbrook, at the Pasadena Playhouse; Tom Jacobson's *Ouroboros* at the Road Theatre; David Hare's *Amy's View*, starring Carol Lawrence, at Florida Rep; Bertolt Brecht's *Edward II* and Aphra Behn's *The Rover*, both for Circle X. He also directed *Titanic* for the Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities; Stephen Sondheim & Arthur Laurents' *Anyone Can Whistle* at the Matrix Theatre; Sondheim & Hugh Wheeler's *Sweeney Todd*, starring Amanda McBroom & George Ball, at the Scherr Forum Theatre; Sheila Callaghan's *Crawl, Fade to White* for Theatre of NOTE; and *Chekhov X 4: The Anniversary* for the Antaeus Company.

FREDDY DOUGLAS (Hamlet/Ghost) made his ANW debut last season as Prince Hal in Shakespeare's *Henry IV*, Part 1. He has also appeared as Oberon/Thesius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Bollingbrook in *Richard II* and Jaques in *As You Like It* at Barnsdall Park LA. In the U.K., Mr. Douglas played Jean in *Miss Julie* at Westminster London, Lord Byron in *Bloody Poetry* at the Troubadour Theatre (London), Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet* at Embassy Theatre (London), Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Perrelli in *Sweeney Todd* at the Edinburgh Festival, Konstantin in *The Seagull* at Watford Playhouse, Tony in *Private Wars* at Embassy Studio London, and Cleante in *The Hypochondriac* at Tristan Bates Theater. His extensive film/TV credits include roles in *El Cartel*, *Faith Happens*, *Evil Ground*, *The Delivery*, *Magic Time*, *Alive and Kicking*, *Dreaming of Joseph Lees*, *Queen of the East*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Channel Four Films), *The Odyssey*, *Kind David*, *Heroes and Villains*, *The Chief*, *The Bill*, and *The Geeks*. He trained in London at the Central School of Speech and Drama, London Contemporary Dance School, and Pineapple Studios.

TONY ABATEMARCO (Polonius), an award-winning actor, director, writer, producer and teacher based in Los Angeles, starred as Salieri this season in the acclaimed Pittsburgh Public Theatre production of *Amadeus*. A graduate of The Julliard Drama Division, he has won top honors for his lead performance in *The Mystery of Irma Vep* (Ovation & LA Weekly), *Bach at Leipzig* (LA Drama Critics' Nominee), *La Bete* (Ovation Nominee), *Camaralenta* (LA Weekly & LA Drama Critics' Circle Nominee), and his original *Four Feathers* (LA Weekly and Dramalogue), as well as for his direction (6 LA Weekly's, 18 Dramalogues). He was awarded the first Ted Schmitt Innovation in Small Theatre Award by Theatre LA, founding two performance venues of his own-The Accident Theatre and The Night House. Mr. Abatemarco also received two NEA Fellowships, and the first DGA/SSDC George Stevens Observership. He served as director of LA Live! at the Natural History Museum and was Artistic Director of Jacques D'Amboise' National Dance Institute at The Mark Taper Forum, where he served as Guest Director of Special Projects for Gordon Davidson. Under Michael Ritchie's Center Theatre Group, he has produced four benefits, including Culture Clash's 22nd Anniversary. He directed Julie Harris in *Lucifer's Child* on Broadway and in a special televised version for A&E, and has directed at the Pasadena Playhouse, The Taper, Too, Santa Fe Stages, La Mama ETC, and Theatre Grévin in Paris. Internationally, he also starred in *Plato's Symposium* at the ICA in London and in *Electra* at the International dSocrates Festival in Delphi, Greece. He performed his original short story, *Cologne*, Off-Broadway and in LA, Santa Fe and Miami. He will be seen in Richard Loncrain's upcoming feature, *My One and Only*, marking his fourteenth film appearance. *The L Word*, *ER*, and *Frasier* are among his two dozen TV guest spots. He is guest director at the USC School of Theatre and an Endowed Chair at Santa Monica Emeritus College.

DEBORAH STRANG (Gertrude) has been a Resident Artist with A Noise Within for the past 16 years and has performed in more than 40 productions, ranging 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, Ms. 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*,

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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. Ms. Strang can be heard most Saturday mornings as the voice of Aunt May in the new animated TV series *The Spectacular Spider-Man*. Ms. Strang, a coal miner's daughter, was born and raised in Apalachia, Virginia.

DOROTHEA HARAHAH (Ophelia) returns to ANW after playing Lady Percy in last season's production of *Henry IV, Part I*. Other appearances with ANW include Phebe in *As You Like It*, Aricia in *Phaedra*, Miranda in *The Tempest*, Raina in *Arms and the Man*, and Yvonne Chandel in *A Flea in Her Ear*. Last spring she also originated the role of Deena in Catherine Butterfield's play *Brownstone* at Laguna Playhouse. Regionally, she performed in *Peter Pan* at Actor's Theatre of Louisville, *How I Learned to Drive* at Theater Works, *Voir Dire* at HB Playwright's Foundation, *Santos & Santos* at Imua! Theatre Company and understudied roles in *Ah, Wilderness!* at Lincoln Center and *Arcadia and Journey to the West* at the Huntington Theatre Company. Ms. Harahan has appeared on the TV shows *Swingtown, House, Gilmore Girls, The Guardian* and *Kat + 1* and in the film *Some Fish Can Fly*. She received her BFA in Acting from Boston University.

MATTHEW JAEGER (Laertes/Rosencrantz), has been a film and stage actor for more than ten years. While studying Theatre in Milwaukee, WI, he was cast in the primetime television special *The Elevator* with Elizabeth Berkeley, Greg Lauren and Christopher B. Duncan from the *Jaime Foxx Show*. Two years later, he and his father packed up a 2001 Chevy Cavalier, kissed his mother and two younger brothers goodbye and drove West. Since then, he has appeared on stage at The Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum, The Antaeus Company, ICT Long Beach, and The Road, to name a few. He has also appeared in films both in the States and abroad and just wrapped shooting the lead role in *Just Say Love* on the East Coast. He currently lives in Glendale with his fiance, Misha Bouvion.

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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EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE: **CALENDAR LISTING**

WHO:

A Noise Within – one of the nation's leading repertory theatres -- opens 2008-09 season

WHAT:

Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

Cast and Crew:

Freddy Douglas (Hamlet/Ghost)
Tony Abatemarco (Polonius/Others)
Deborah Strang (Gertrude)
Dorothea Harahan (Ophelia)
Jacob Sidney (Guildenstern/Osric/Others)
Steve Cooms (Horatio)
Matthew Jaeger (Laertes/Rosencrantz)
Francois Giroday (Claudius)
Mark Bramhall (1st Player/Gravedigger/Others)

Michael Michetti, Director
John Pennington, Choreographer
Sara Clement, Set/Costume Designer
Peter Gottlieb, Lighting Designer
Kari Seekins, Composer/Sound Designer
Monica Sabedra, Hair/Make-up
Ken Merckx, Fight Choreographer
Rebecca Baillie, Production Manager
Susan Coulter, Stage Manager
Adam Lillibridge, Technical Director
Jennifer Inglis, Scenic Artist
Ronnie Clark, Master Electrician

WHEN:

Previews:

Saturday, September 20, 8 p.m.
Sunday, September 21, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, September 24, 8 p.m.
Thursday, September 25, 8 p.m.
Friday, September 26, 8 p.m.

Opening:

Saturday, September 27, 8 p.m.

Run:

Sunday, September 28, 2 p.m.
Sunday, September 28, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, October 15, 8 p.m.
Thursday, October 16, 8 p.m.
Friday, October 17, 8 p.m.
Saturday, October 18, 2 p.m.
Saturday, October 18, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, November 12, 8 p.m.

Thursday, November 13, 8 p.m.
Friday, November 14, 8 p.m.
Saturday, November 22, 2 p.m.
Saturday, November 22, 8 p.m.
Sunday, November 23, 2 p.m.
Sunday, November 23, 7 p.m.
Sunday, December 7, 2 p.m.
Sunday, December 7, 7 p.m.

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.

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8/29/08

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