



PRESS CONTACTS:

Laura Stegman, (310) 470-6321, laura_stegman@hotmail.com
Libby Huebner, (562) 799-6055, nyjazz@aol.com

**A NOISE WITHIN PRESENTS THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PREMIERE OF
NEIL BARTLETT'S WILDLY THEATRICAL TREATMENT OF
CHARLES DICKENS' *OLIVER TWIST***

**Saturday, November 8 – Sunday, December 14, 2009
(previews begin November 1)**

A Noise Within (ANW), the acclaimed repertory theatre company, continues its 17th season with the Southern California premiere of Neil Bartlett's wildly theatrical treatment of Charles Dickens' classic *Oliver Twist*, directed by ANW Co-Founder/Co-Artistic Director Julia Rodriguez-Elliott, which opens November 8 and runs through December 14, 2008. (Previews begin November 1.) The cast features Shaun Anthony (Artful Dodger), Jessica Berman (Rose), Brian Dare (Oliver Twist), Apollo Dukakis (Bumble), ANW Co-Founder/Co-Artistic Director Geoff Elliott (Bill Sikes), Tom Fitzpatrick (Fagin) and Jill Hill (Nancy) as well as ensemble members Robertson Dean, William Dennis Hunt, Christina Ishizaki, Stephen Rockwell, Koko Sandmeyer, Aurea Tomeski, Anne Troup and Tim Venable. David O composes original music, which plays a key role in moving the action forward, and violinist Endre Balogh performs live on stage.

Oliver Twist, based on Dickens' second novel, is peopled by unforgettable underworld characters and portrays 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.

Describing the uniqueness of Neil Bartlett's adaptation, Rodriguez-Elliott states, "The production stresses the actor-driven, page-turning drama of the piece. It does not shy away from the cruelty that *Oliver Twist* endures, but at the end of the play Oliver is safe at last. There is hope. The adaptation is by design very theatrical, and Bartlett takes it a step further by having the actors play multiple roles and create the world of the play in collusion with the audience. All roles are played by adults -- adults play children, men play women, women play men. The production stresses the shifts of tone in a rather bold and dramatic way using music, actor-driven soundscapes and a cappella singing. It pushes the idea that we are in a theatre and these are actors, making the audience very often aware of that fact as actors transform right before their eyes, putting on a wig, changing costumes etc. Reinforcing this concept is the design, where we see a backstage area with all the trappings – ghost lights, ladders, show curtain, follow spots, footlights, rehearsal furniture and ropes – and the objects transform to serve the various locations throughout the play. There are also certain Victorian references that combined with the objects giving us a sense of time and place."

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.

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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.

A Noise Within's 2008-09 season is dedicated to the De Pietro family for their unflinching 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

Director **JULIA RODRIGUEZ-ELLIOTT**, co-founder and co-artistic director of A Noise Within along with her husband Geoff Elliott, has co-produced close to 100 productions and has 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*, *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, Rodriguez-Elliott has 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. 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. Rodriguez-Elliott holds a BFA from the University of Florida and an MFA from the American Conservatory Theatre.

SHAUN ANTHONY (Artful Dodger) makes his A Noise Within debut in this production of *Oliver Twist*. The Los Angeles native currently resides less than a mile from where he grew up in North Hollywood. After graduating from Notre Dame High School, Anthony attended Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas, Texas, where he received his B.F.A. in acting. As a student, he performed such roles as Danny in *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*, Paris in *Romeo and Juliet*, Orlando in *As You Like It*, and Bogdan in Caryl Churchill's *Mad Forrest*. Following graduation, he spent a summer at the Dallas Shakespeare Festival performing Florizel in *A Winter's Tale*. Subsequently, he moved to Milwaukee, where he spent a season at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater as an acting intern, serving as an understudy and performing as the nervous intern Braun Oakes in *Laughing Stock* directed by Jim Sullivan, among other roles. Having moved back to Los Angeles, Anthony co-founded The Shoreline Theater with some other SMU grads, which presented its first show last May, Neil LaBute's *The Distance from Here*. He also recently shot a national Bud light commercial and is in pre-production on the Desert Lion Film's sci-fi thriller *Revelations*. In addition to acting, Anthony enjoys soccer, Fantasy Football and anything that has to do with the Lakers. He also plays guitar.

JESSICA BERMAN (Rose/Ensemble), currently a student at Loyola Marymount University (LMU), is just beginning what she hopes will be a long career in the theatre as well as in film and television. She began acting at a young

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age, inspired by her parents who were both actors at A.C.T. in San Francisco and where her mother currently teaches speech. Her first major role occurred in high school, where she played Gwendolyn in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Knowing that she wanted to pursue acting as a career, she chose to attend college in LA to study theatre. Locally, she has also studied at the Margie Haber Studio and The Film Actors Workshop. She has acted in college in productions of *Henry IV* part I and *The Laramie Project*. In her first professional theater work, she played the role of Margaret in *Dear Brutus* at A Noise Within and was brought back for the second half of the season to play Lady Mortimer in *Henry IV* part I in which she both spoke and sang in Welch. She will graduate a semester early from Loyola Marymount University with a BA in theatre and plans to stay in LA and continue to pursue a career in theatre, film, and television.

This production marks **BRIAN DARE**'s (*Oliver Twist*) debut with A Noise Within. Among his theatrical credits, he played Gus in *Augustus in Arcadia* and Homer in *The Human Comedy* at Theresa Lang Theatre (NYC), The Toy Soldier in *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* at Dean Leshner Regional Theatre, Jesus in *Godspell* and A Chronic in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* at Alhambra LMC Theatre, Dodger in *Oliver!* at Pittsburgh Community Theatre, *Shenandoah* and *On Golden Pond* at The Masquer's Theatre, Linus in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* at Antioch Regional Center. Trained at Marymount Manhattan College, he also appeared in the film *Lloyd Neck*, a 2008 Sundance Film Festival Selection in the education/training category.

APOLLO DUKAKIS (Bumble/Ensemble) is a resident artist of A Noise Within and has appeared in more than a dozen productions with company, including Mr. Dimanche/A Poor Person in *Don Juan*, Brabantio/Gratiano in *Othello*, Horace Vandergelder in *The Matchmaker*, Cominius in *Coriolanus*, Elbow/Barnardine in *Measure for Measure*, Pantalone in *The King Stag*, Argan in *The Imaginary Invalid*, Abbess/2nd Merchant in *The Comedy of Errors*, The Stage Manager in *The Skin of Our Teeth*, Dubois in *The Misanthrope*, Doctor Baugh in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Ragueneau in *Cyrano de Bergerac* (1998 and 1995), Baptista in *Taming of the Shrew*, Boss Mangan in *Heartbreak House* and Shepherd in *Oedipus the King*. Previously, Dukakis co-founded and served as associate artistic director, and resident actor at The Whole Theatre in New Jersey from 1973 to 1990. Other credits include *Homebody/Kabul* at Trinity Repertory Company, *Hecuba* at American Conservatory Theatre, *Nine Armenians* at Mark Taper Forum, *Anna in the Tropics* at Pasadena Playhouse and Palo Alto's TheaterWorks, *Pera Palas* at Theatre @ Boston Court/Antaeus, which received LA Critics Award-Best Ensemble), Glengarry Glen Ross at Dallas Theatre Center, Lear in King Lear at Shakespeare Santa Monica, Rhinoceros at Antaeus, Shylock in Merchant of Venice at Pacific Repertory Theatre (Carmel), Old Actor in The Fantasticks at Arizona Theatre Company, Denver Center Theatre Company, Williamstown Theatre Festival, American Place Theatre, La Mama, George St. Playhouse, Provincetown Playhouse, among others. Active in film and television as well, he has appeared in *American Heart*, *Last Action Hero*, *Shadow of the Blair Witch*, *Arrest and Trial*, *7th Heaven*, *Seinfeld*, *L.A. Law*, *Life Goes On*, *Hunter*, *Dream On* and *Beauty and the Beast*.

GEOFF ELLIOTT (Bill Sikes/Ensemble), co-founder and co-artistic director of A Noise Within with his wife, Director Julia Rodriguez- Elliott, co-produced close to 100 productions and directed/co-directed more than 40. Elliott has also 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 holds a BFA from the University of Florida and an MFA from the American Conservatory Theatre.

TOM FITZPATRICK (Fagan) has been an actor for 49 of his 67 years, primarily on the stage. After completing graduate work at the Theatre Department of Boston University, he was selected to join the prestigious APA/Phoenix Repertory Company at The Lyceum Theatre on Broadway and was also a company member at various resident theatres around the country, including Baltimore's Center Stage, The Charles Playhouse, The Boston Rep and The Meetinghouse Theatre Company, all in Boston, and The New Mexico Rep. Fitzpatrick also did summer stock at Eugene O'Neill's legendary Provincetown Playhouse on Cape Cod, and in the late '60s and the early '70s appeared at such Off-off-Broadway theatres as La Mama, Theatre Genesis, St. Clement's Space, The Jean Cocteau Repertory Company. Fitzpatrick moved to Hollywood in 1980 and in 1985 began a 10-year engagement as a charter member of Dar A Luz, a performance group created by the late Avant-Garde director Reza Abdoh. From 1990 to 1995, Dar A Luz played repeat engagements in Paris, Berlin, Rome, Barcelona and other European cities and were lionized wherever they went. Fitzpatrick has worked at The Mark Taper Forum, The Pasadena Playhouse, The La Jolla Playhouse, The Los Angeles Theatre Center and The Long Beach Opera and at such smaller venues as Theatre/Theatre, The Playwright's Arena, Moving Arts, The Globe Playhouse, DeJa Vu Coffeehouse, The Ford Amphitheatre, The Actors' Gang, The Evidence Room and A Noise Within. In film,

(MORE ON REVERSE)

Fitzpatrick had the honor of giving Leonardo Di Caprio his first screen kiss in *The Basketball Diaries*. In *The Salton Sea*, he croons Lou Reed's "Take A Walk On The Wild Side," and in *Date Movie* he played the magician Gandalf. He also appeared in the indie films *Ill-Gotten Gain* and *The Confession*, as well as two indies that are currently in post-production, *Tribe* and *A Monster In The Attic*. Fitzpatrick is a silent film fanatic, and possesses a nearly encyclopedic knowledge of that mythic, vanished era.

JILL HILL (Nancy/Ensemble) is a long-time resident artist with A Noise Within. Her numerous roles with the company include Mistress Quickly in *Henry IV, Part 1*, Hannah Jelkes in *The Night of the Iguana*, Hermione in *The Winter's Tale*, Mrs. Purdie in *Dear Brutus*, Fay in *Loot*, Deborah in *A Touch of the Poet*, Queen Rosamund/Anna Stanislas in *Ubu Roi*, Aline Solness in *The Master Builder*, Emilia in *Othello*, Lucienne in *A Flea in Her Ear*, Mrs. Molloy in *The Matchmaker*, Virgilia in *Coriolanus*, Clarice/Smeraldina in *The King Stag*, First Witch/Lady Macduff in *Macbeth*, Princess of France in *Love's Labour's Lost*, Imogen Parrott in *Trelawny of the Wells*, Estrella in *Life is a Dream*, Sabina in *The Skin of Our Teeth*, Mae in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Belle/Charwoman in *A Christmas Carol*, Bianca in *Taming of the Shrew*, Geraldine in *What the Butler Saw*, Teiresias in *Oedipus the King*, Molly/Mrs. Joe in *Great Expectations*, Birdie in *The Little Foxes and Another Part of the Forest*, among others. She has also appeared in productions with American Conservatory Theatre, Nassau Repertory, Kenyon Festival Theatre, The Westbank (NYC), and The Matrix Theatre (LA). Television viewers will recognize her from various soap operas and television guest star roles, and her distinct voice can be heard on such audio books as *Gapcreek* and *The Truest Pleasure* by Robert Morgan, produced by John Runnette. She studied at the English Speaking Theatre in Copenhagen and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London, earned a BFA from Denison University in Granville, Ohio, and is a graduate and company member of the American Conservatory Theatre.

EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE: **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:

CHARLES DICKENS' *OLIVER TWIST*

PREVIEWS:

Saturday, November 1, 8 p.m.
Sunday, November 2, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, November 5, 8 p.m.
Thursday, November 6, 8 p.m.
Friday, November 7, 8 p.m.

OPENS:

Saturday, November 8, 8 p.m.

RUNS:

Sunday, November 9, 2 p.m.

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Sunday, November 9, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, November 19, 8 p.m.
Thursday, November 20, 8 p.m.
Friday, November 21, 8 p.m.
Saturday, November 29, 2 p.m.
Saturday, November 29, 8 p.m.
Sunday, November 30, 2 p.m.
Sunday, November 30, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, December 3, 8 p.m.
Thursday, December 11, 8 p.m.
Friday, December 12, 8 p.m.
December 13, (Victorian Tea) 2 p.m.
Saturday, December 13, 8 p.m.
Sunday, December 14, 2 p.m.

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