

DEMAND PR

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MEDIA ALERT FOR THEATRE EDITORS AND REVIEWERS
AND CALENDAR LISTINGS

**LA MIRADA THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS &
MC COY RIGBY ENTERTAINMENT**

present the Fourth Production of their 2007/2008 Season!

I DO! I DO!

A Musical About Marriage

Book & Lyrics by Tom Jones

Music by Harvey Schmidt

Directed by Will Mackenzie

*Limited Engagement begins April 11 at
La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts!*

(Press Opening Saturday, April 12)

“At once amusing, astonishingly touching and truly endearing.”- New York Post

March 17, 2008...La Mirada, Calif....LA MIRADA THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS & MC COY RIGBY ENTERTAINMENT present the fourth production of their 2007-2008 season, Brad Little and Barbara McCulloh starring in the musical, **I DO! I DO!**, with Book & Lyrics by Tom Jones, Music by Harvey Schmidt and directed by Will Mackenzie. **I DO! I DO!** will begin performances on Friday, April 11 (with a press opening on Saturday, April 12) and will run through Sunday, April 27 at La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, 14900 La Mirada Boulevard in La Mirada, near the intersection of Rosecrans Avenue.

Performed by real life married couple (and musical theatre veterans!) Brad Little and Barbara McCulloh, **I DO! I DO!** is an intimate two-person musical that follows the marriage between Michael and Agnes on their wedding day and travels with them over a period of 50 years. They raise a family, negotiate mid-life crises, quarrel, separate, reconcile and grow old together, all lovingly to the strains of a score written by the same duo that brought us the classic and timeless musical, *The Fantasticks*.

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ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

TOM JONES (*Lyricist*) and Harvey Schmidt wrote *The Fantasticks* for a summer theatre at Barnard College. After its Off-Broadway opening in May 1960, it went on to become the longest-running production in the history of the American stage and one of the most frequently produced musicals in the world. It is currently running in a successful revival in New York. Their first Broadway show, *110 In The Shade*, was successfully revived a few years ago by the New York City Opera and is scheduled for a new Broadway production this April, produced by the Roundabout Theatre, starring Audra MacDonald. *I DO! I DO!*, their two character musical starring Mary Martin and Robert Preston, was a success on Broadway and is frequently done around the country and the world. (One production, in Minneapolis, played for twenty-two continuous years with the same two actors in the leading roles.). For several years, Jones and Schmidt worked privately at their theatre workshop, concentrating on small-scale musicals in new and often untried forms. The most notable of these efforts were *Celebration*, which moved to Broadway, and *Philemon*, which won an Outer Critics Circle Award. They contributed incidental music and lyrics to the Off-Broadway play *Colette*, starring Zoe Caldwell, then later did a full-scale musical version under the title *Colette Collage*. In 1998, *The Show Goes On*, a musical revue featuring their theatre songs and starring Jones and Schmidt, was presented at the York Theatre, and *Mirette*, their musical based on the award-winning children's book, was premiered at the Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut. In addition to an Obie Award and the 1992 Special Tony Award for *The Fantasticks*, in 1999 Jones and Schmidt were inducted into the Broadway Hall of Fame at the Gershwin Theatre and on May 3rd of that year, their "stars" were added to the Off-Broadway Walk of Fame outside the Lucille Lortel Theatre.

HARVEY SCHMIDT (*Music*), born in Texas, 1929, is a writer of musical theatre, best known for the longest running musical in history, *The Fantasticks*, which has been running off-Broadway since 1960. All of Schmidt's major musicals were written with lyricist Tom Jones whom he met at the University of Texas. In addition to an Obie Award and the 1992 Special Tony Award for *The Fantasticks*, in 1999 Jones and Schmidt were inducted into the Broadway Hall of Fame at the Gershwin Theatre and on May 3rd of that year, their "stars" were added to the Off-Broadway Walk of Fame outside the Lucille Lortel Theatre.

WILL MACKENZIE (*Director*) has received six Emmy nominations for outstanding direction of a television series for such shows as "Scrubs (My Musical)," "Everybody Loves Raymond," "Family Ties," and "Moonlighting". Mr. Mackenzie won the Directors Guild Award for the "Moonlighting" episode Atomic Shakespeare, based on Shakespeare's play *The Taming of the Shrew* and the one-hour episode of "Family Ties," titled "My Name is Alex". He has directed many other series including "Newhart," "WKRP in Cincinnati" and "Reba".

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On stage, Will directed the critically acclaimed revival of *I Do! I Do!* in New York City starring Karen Ziemba and David Garrison and the Gershwin musical *Funny Face* at the Goodspeed Opera House. In Los Angeles he directed the Reprise! Productions of *Finian's Rainbow* with Andrea Marcovicci, *The Pajama Game* with Christine Ebersol and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* for South Bay CLO. Born and raised in Providence, Rhode Island, Will graduated from Brown University and received a Fulbright Scholarship to the London Academy of Music and Drama. As an actor, he appeared on Broadway as Cornelius Hackle in *Hello Dolly!* starring Carol Channing, Ginger Rogers, Betty Grable and Martha Raye, *Half A Sixpence* with Tommy Steele and the tours of *Promises, Promises* and *The Apple Tree* with his dancing wife of forty years, Patricia Cope Mackenzie. Will played Larry Bondurant on the original "Bob Newhart Show", which led to his first directing assignment in television.

ABOUT THE CAST

BRAD LITTLE (*Michael*) has played the role of the Phantom over 2,000 times in theaters across America, on Broadway, and in Asia since 1997. Brad is a native Californian raised in Redlands. At the time Mr. Little was asked to join *The Phantom of the Opera* touring company, he was performing at the Majestic Theatre playing the role of Raoul in *The Phantom of the Opera* Broadway production. His other Broadway and National tour credits include: *Cyrano, the Musical*, playing the role of Captain De Castel Jaloux; *Fiddler on the Roof*, with Topol; the Lincoln Center production of *Anything Goes* directed by Jerry Zaks, in which he understudied and played the role of Billy Crocker opposite Leslie Uggams. New York Times head theater critic, Ben Brantley, gave Brad a rave review for his portrayal of Willy in *I Married an Angel* written by Rodger and Hart in New York City. He won the 2001 Barrymore Award for Best Actor in a Musical and also Philadelphia Inquirer's Philly Award for Best Actor in a Musical for his portrayal of Che in Bristol Riverside Theatre's production of *Evita* in Bristol, PA. During this run of *Evita*, he took a few days off to go to Wisconsin to perform his solo symphony concert with the Green Bay Symphony Orchestra. Brad also has won international acclaim for his portrayal of Jesus in the European tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and Tony in *West Side Story*. Some of the other shows he's starred in include *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (Percy) at The Music Circus in Sacramento; *Beauty and the Beast* (The Beast) at North Shore Music Theatre in Beverly MA; *Jekyll & Hyde* (Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde) at Long Island's Gateway Playhouse; *A Little Night Music* (Carl-Magnus) at Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut; *South Pacific* (Lt. Cable) with Howard Keel at Atlanta's Theatre of the Stars; *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!* at Cincinnati's Playhouse in the Park; *Babes in Toyland* (Allen) with Eddie Bracken as the Toymaker at the Houston Grand Opera; *Rags* (Saul) at Music Theatre of Wichita; and many others.

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But, his finest performance was on Labor Day of 1992, when at sunset on a beach at Cape May, NJ, Brad Little married his long time sweetheart, actress Barbara McCulloh, in a ceremony performed by his dad, Dr. Paul J. Little.

BARBARA MCCULLOH (*Agnes*) Whether on stage, screen, or in the concert hall, Barbara McCulloh's varied talents have made her an audience and critical favorite around the country and the globe. Equally at home in musical or dramatic productions, Broadway audiences enjoyed her playing and covering the role of Anna in *The King and I* with Lou Diamond Phillips at the Neil Simon Theatre for well over a year. *Peter Pan* fans will remember her as Mrs. Darling in both the long successful Broadway run and the A&E film starring Cathy Rigby. More recently, she was in the household of Richard Greenberg's *The House In Town* at Lincoln Center and national audiences were treated to her performances as Blanche in the tour of Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. As an accomplished classical actress, Barbara's regional credits include *Hamlet*, *Tom Jones*, *Wings*, *Tartuffe*, *Hayfever*, *Macbett*, *Irma La Douce*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Foreigner*, *Vanities*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Recent starring roles have been in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Sylvia*, *Blithe Spirit*, *As Bees In Honey Drown* at, among others, the Pittsburgh Public, Walnut Street Theatre, Indiana Rep, Studio Arena, Syracuse Stage, Pioneer Theatre, American Heartland Theatre, Sacramento Music Circus, Delaware Theatre Co., Bristol Riverside, Barter, Olney, Tennessee Rep., Ford's, North Carolina Theatre, North Shore, Riverside(Vero Beach), and Virginia Shakespeare. Her performance in *110 In The Shade* earned her a Barrymore nomination as best actress in Philadelphia; her creation of Pauline in the world premiere of *The Sweet Revenge of Louisa May* won her a Helen Hayes nomination, again for best actress. She began her career in New York Off-Broadway in Romberg's *Up in Central Park*, and continued Off-Broadway creating the role of Carolina in the Outer Circle Critics' winner *Kuni-Leml*. From there she did the national tour of *South Pacific* with Richard Kiley. Other Off Broadway credits include the York Theatre's *On the Twentieth Century*, Maury Yeston's *1-2-3-4-5* at the Manhattan Theatre Club and *The High Life* and *Leave It To Me* for Musicals Tonite. As an accomplished classical actress, Barbara's regional credits include *Wings*, *Tartuffe*, *Hayfever*, *Macbett*, *Irma La Douce*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Foreigner*, *Vanities*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *As You Like It*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Not only a theatrical actress, Barbara has had featured roles on television including Kitty in "Courage the Cowardly Dog," Lynn Moody on "Law and Order, SVU" and Caroline Griffin on "Another World." More recently, she has starred in two new independent films, "In The Foxhole," represented at the Boston International Film Festival this June and previously chosen for Virginia's Top Ten Films in America Festival and the just completed "A Child's Laugh." As a narrator for audio books, she has recorded over fifty titles.

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I DO! I DO! has assembled an award-winning design team. The set design is by John Iacovelli. Lighting design is by R. Kent Sheranian. The sound design is by Josh Bessom. The costume design is by Lisa Zinni. The Musical Director is Darryl Archibald. The Choreographer is Janet Watson. The Production Stage Manager is Jill Gold.

I DO! I DO! will begin performances on Friday, April 11 (with a press opening on Saturday, April 12) and run for three weeks through Sunday, April 27. Performances will be Tuesday through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$45 and \$37.50 and can be purchased at La Mirada Theatre's Web site, lamiradatheatre.com. Student, Senior, Children and group discounts are available. For more information, call the La Mirada Theatre Box Office at (562) 944-9801 or (714) 994-6310.

LA MIRADA THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, now in its 30th year, has been hailed by the Los Angeles Times as "one of the best Broadway-style houses in Southern California." This beautiful state-of-the-art theatre has been producing quality productions for its Southern California audiences since 1977. The theatre has produced several National Tours and is the recipient of many accolades including Ovation and Emmy Awards and Tony Award nominations. The theatre is located at 14900 La Mirada Boulevard in La Mirada, near the intersection of Rosecrans Avenue where the 91 and 5 freeways meet. Parking is theatre-adjacent and free. For further information 562-944-9801 or visit www.lamiradatheatre.com

McCOY RIGBY ENTERTAINMENT combines the talents of musical theatre star Cathy Rigby with Tom McCoy's extensive production and theatrical experience and has become one of the nation's premier theatrical production companies. Credits include Tony-nominated Broadway shows, long-running national tours, multiple-award-winning Los Angeles stage productions, and hit TV specials.

The number of major theatrical awards garnered by McCoy Rigby Entertainment includes 3 Ovation Awards, 25 Drama-Logue Awards, 3 Backstage Garland Awards and 3 Tony Award nominations, 20 Ovation nominations and 8 NAACP award nominations for the touring production of "Jesus Christ Superstar." In addition, the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences awarded McCoy Rigby Entertainment an Emmy for Best Scene Design as part of four nominations for the A&E network production of "Peter Pan." www.mccoyrigby.com

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