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J*COMPANY YOUTH THEATRE OPENS
DISNEY-THEMED 2007-2008 SEASON WITH
DISNEY'S HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

SAN DIEGO – The award-winning J*Company Youth Theatre, a program of the San Diego Center for Jewish Culture at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS, is pleased to announce its production of *DISNEY'S HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL*, the phenomenon that has re-popularized the musical theatre art form and broken all Disney records. *DISNEY'S HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL* runs **October 18 - 28, 2007**, at the David & Dorothea Garfield Theatre, 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla.

DISNEY'S HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL began life as a 2006 telefilm, one of the most successful Disney Channel Original Movies ever produced. A television sequel released in August 2007 followed, and a feature film is in the planning process. *DISNEY'S HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL* has a plot described as a modern retelling of *Romeo and Juliet*. It is the story of two high school juniors from rival cliques: Troy Bolton, captain of the basketball team, and Gabriella Montez, a shy transfer student who excels in math and science. Together, they try out for the lead parts in their high school musical, and as a result, divide the school. Despite other students' attempts to thwart their dreams, Troy and Gabriella resist peer pressure and rivalry, inspiring others not to "stick with the status quo."

Directing *DISNEY'S HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL* is **Rayme Sciaroni**, who directed J*Company's hilarious, fast-paced production of *Guys & Dolls*. Sciaroni has directed, choreographed or served as musical director for a number of off-off New York Broadway shows as well as several large-scale

children's productions such as *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, *42nd Street*, and *Oklahoma!* Sciaroni has served as musical director for other J*Company productions including *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Suds*, *Pippi Longstocking*, *Oliver!*, and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

More dancing than ever before will be seen on the Garfield Theatre stage, with Broadway veteran **Peter Kalivas** serving as choreographer. **Tony Cucuzella** is designing the towering set, and lighting and costume design are by **Andrew Miller** and **Cindy Kinnard**.

“*DISNEY'S HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL* is our huge opener for the 15th anniversary season, kicking off our year-long season of Disney magic,” said J*Company Artistic Director Joey Landwehr. “With this incredible collection of creative minds and an outstanding cast of 71 young artists, we’ll be bringing to life the Disney Channel Original Movie with expertise and panache. The young artists are working incredibly hard as an artistic unit, bring new meaning and spirit to the DHSM song “We’re All In This Together.”

Heading the cast are **Michael Dashefsky** in the role of Troy Bolton, and **Arianna Afsar** in the role of Gabriella Montez. Among the Jocks are **Trevor Bowles** as Chad Danforth and **Ryan Tirman** as Zeke Baylor. The Nerds are **Matt Marez** as Jack Scott and **Casey Jaquez** as Kelsi Neilson. The Thespians include **Adriana Yedidsion** as Sharpay Evans and **Ryan Luster** as Ryan Evans. Brainiacs include **Danielle Levin** as Taylor McKessie and **Mara Jacobs** as Martha Cox. **Stefan Wendel** is the Skaterdude (Ripper).

Production dates and times:

Thursday, October 18, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, October 19, 10:00 a.m. (school show)
Saturday, October 20, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 21, 1:00 & 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 25, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, October 26, 10:00 a.m. (school show)
Saturday, October 27, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 28, 1:00 & 4:30 p.m.

Tickets for *DISNEY'S HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL* are \$12.50 for children and \$16.50 for adults and are available online at www.lfjcc.org or by phone at **858-362-1348**. A complete listing of production dates and show times are online at www.lfjcc.org/jcompany.

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About the San Diego Center for Jewish Culture

The San Diego Center for Jewish Culture is the largest Jewish institution in San Diego dedicated solely to presenting high quality, nationally recognized programs which are unique to San Diego County. The mission of the SDCJC is to expand and enrich cultural life in San Diego by presenting the finest in Jewish artistic expression, encouraging the preservation of Jewish culture and heritage, and nurturing new creativity in the arts. A core belief of the SDCJC is to promote respect for diverse cultures and build community tolerance.

The SDCJC offers a wide variety of multi-disciplinary artistic programs that explore cultural identities and perspectives, promote cross cultural understanding, and highlight human themes of family, tolerance, compassion, and hope. These programs, including the San Diego Jewish Film Festival, the San Diego Jewish Book Fair, New Jewish Plays Project, the San Diego Jewish Music Festival, a Holocaust Education Program, and the J*Company Youth Theatre, foster ideas of cultural appreciation and respect. Its facilities feature a 500-seat theatre, a Judaica library, an art gallery, and a community Holocaust Memorial Garden. Approximately 40,000 tickets are sold or provided annually to residents, visitors, and students for San Diego Center for Jewish Culture events.

About the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS

The mission of the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS is to provide social, cultural, educational, and recreational programs to individuals and families of all ages, religions, races, and financial, physical and mental abilities. Likewise, the JCC provides equal opportunity employment to individuals of all religions and backgrounds. The JCC welcomes San Diego's diverse Jewish community and the community at large. The Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS is located at 4126 Executive Drive in La Jolla.



SAN DIEGO CENTER FOR JEWISH CULTURE

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