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J*COMPANY YOUTH THEATRE TO PRODUCE
DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Set Design by Tony® Award Nominee David Weiner

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 BEAUTY AND THE BEAST*, an incomparable blend of magic and award-winning music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, and book by Linda Woolverton. *DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST* runs **March 9 through 25, 2007**, at the David & Dorothea Garfield Theatre, 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla.

DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST is the enchanting story of Belle, a strong-willed young woman who is the only one who can break the spell that has turned a handsome prince into a beast. Trying to save her beloved father from the Beast's clutches, Belle agrees to become his prisoner forever. Once she is within the Beast's castle, the members of his court – who have been transformed into household objects like clocks and candlesticks – decide to play matchmakers. As the Beast begins to fall in love with Belle, he becomes progressively less beastly. But the spell can be broken only if the Beast can get her to love him in return – and time is running out.

Directing *DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST* is **Joey Landwehr**, J*Company's Artistic Director. Landwehr has worked extensively as an actor and director in New York City, both on and off Broadway, as well as in national tours and regional theatre. He has had the privilege of working with

great performers such as Phyllis Diller, Sam Harris, Joel Grey, Kaye Ballard, Michael Feinstein and Howard Keel. Landwehr is a member of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG), the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA) and Actors' Equity Association (AEA). Landwehr was honored this year by *San Diego Metropolitan Magazine* as one of the 40 San Diego residents under the age of 40 who are making significant contributions to the community. Landwehr directed both *Oliver!* and *Yours, Anne* for J*Company this year.

“The *DISNEY’S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST* production team for sets, costumes, lighting, and sound is phenomenal. This show will be one of the biggest spectacles J*Company has ever produced,” said Landwehr. “Our cast of 70 young artists from all over San Diego County is of the highest quality. We’re also very excited to have some special needs children in the production.”

As with every show he directs, Landwehr has given the cast an educational activity to enhance the performance experience. “For every J*Company show there should be some sort of educational component,” said Landwehr. “I’ve asked each of the young performers in *DISNEY’S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST* to write a letter to government officials in favor of maintaining funding levels for the arts and inviting them to our performance. It’s not too early for them to learn to exercise their rights as citizens and to be involved in policy-making.”

Musical Director is **Rayme Sciaroni**, who directed J*Company’s hilarious, fast-paced production of *Guys & Dolls* last year, and was recently the Musical Director for *Oliver!* Sciaroni has directed, choreographed or served as musical director for a number of New York shows from off-Broadway 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*, and *Pippi Longstocking*.

The set for *DISNEY’S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST* is by Tony® Award nominee David Weiner (*700 Sundays*, starring Billy Crystal), lighting is by **Jen Setlow**, sound by **Robbie Henry**, and **Shulamit Nelson** is the costume designer.

Sixty-eight children will be featured in the show. The role of Belle will be played by **Dorothy Guthrie** (Sarah Brown in J*Company’s 2005 production of *Guys & Dolls*), the Beast by **Phillip Bowen** (Aslan in *The Chronicles of Narnia* at San Diego Junior Theatre), and Gaston by **Trevor Bowles** (title role in San Diego Junior Theatre’s *Aladdin*).

Production dates and times:

Friday, March 9, 10:00 a.m. (school show)
Saturday, March 10, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 11, 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 15, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, March 16, 10:00 a.m. (school show)
Saturday, March 17, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 18, 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 18, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 24, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 25, 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 25, 4:30 p.m.

Tickets for *DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST* 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 Celebrating Jewish Music Concert Series, 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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