



MEDIA RELEASE

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For photos and interviews please contact
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San Jose Repertory Theatre Presents the Regional Premiere of *A Picasso*

A sexy and intoxicating look at art, politics and censorship.

SAN JOSE, CA. (January 16, 2009)—San Jose Repertory Theatre roars into the new year with the Regional Premiere of ***A Picasso*** (Barrymore Award for Best New Play), a provocative play by one of America's most widely produced playwrights, **Jeffrey Hatcher**. **Jonathan Moscone**, Artistic Director of California Shakespeare Theater, directs this smart and sexy exploration of art, politics and censorship. ***A Picasso*** runs January 24 – February 22, 2009 at San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio in downtown San Jose. Preview performances are January 24, 25, 28, and 29. **Press Opening is Friday, January 30 at 8:00 p.m.**

Tickets are available at the San Jose Rep Box Office at 101 Paseo de San Antonio or can be purchased online at www.SJRep.com or by calling (408) 367-7255.

“San Jose Rep has had a long and wonderful relationship with playwright Jeffrey Hatcher, so we're very pleased to be presenting the Bay Area premiere of this very literate, smart and funny play,” comments Artistic Director **Rick Lombardo**. “Picasso was a fascinating figure both as an artist and a citizen, and it's a delight to see him square off in Hatcher's play with a representative of the Third Reich – and an art critic to top it off.”

It's Paris 1941 and the city renowned for its artistic freedom is under the oppressive rule of German occupation. The 60-year-old Pablo Picasso (James Carpenter) has been brought to a vault beneath the city to authenticate three paintings that have recently been “acquired” by the Germans. What ensues is an intense and passionate verbal tango between Picasso and the beautiful, mysterious and art-obsessed Miss Fischer (Carrie Paff), an adjunct of the Ministry of Culture in Berlin. Each step in this verbal spar is precise, with few unnecessary words - the dialog is clean, witty and biting.

Jeffrey Hatcher won the Barrymore Award for Best New Play of 2003 with ***A Picasso***. He is the author of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *Ella* and *Tuesdays with Morrie* – all of which have been seen on San Jose Repertory Theatre's stage. Mr. Hatcher authored the book for the Broadway musical, *Never Gonna Dance*. Off-Broadway, he has had several plays produced, including *Scotland Road* and *The Turn of the Screw* at Primary Stages, *Tuesdays with Morrie* (with Mitch Albom) at Minetta Lane Theatre, *Neddy* at The American Place Theatre and *Fellow Travelers* at Manhattan Punchline. His plays – among them *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, *Murderers*, *Mercy of a*

Storm, Smash, To Fool the Eye and *Work Song* (with Eric Simonson) have been seen in hundreds of theatre's across the nation and around the world. Mr. Hatcher wrote the screenplays for *Stage Beauty*, *Casanova* and *The Duchess*.

Jonathan Moscone directed *Long Day's Journey into Night* at San Jose Rep. He will soon begin his tenth season as Artistic Director of California Shakespeare Theater where his work has earned him Bay Area Critics Circle and Dean Goodman Choice Awards for Best Direction and Production, with his productions of *Man and Superman*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Ghosts* (Berkeley Rep), *Twelfth Night*, and *The Seagull* all named among the ten best productions by *The San Francisco Chronicle* and other area newspapers.

The cast of **A Picasso** includes James Carpenter as the charismatic Pablo Picasso and Carrie Paff as the enigmatic Miss Fischer. Mr. Carpenter last appeared at the Rep as Logan in *Tranced*. His other credits at San Jose Rep include: *Wintertime*; *By The Bog of The Cats...*; *Cntrl+ Alt+ Delete*; *Sideman* and *The Matchmaker*. Ms. Paff appeared as the transgender Mr. Hyde in the Rep's production of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. She recently returned from playing London's West End in *Joan Rivers: A Work In Progress by a Life In Progress*.

The creative team includes **Erik Flatmo** (Set Designer); **Meg Neville** (Costume Designer); **Japhy Weideman** (Lighting Designer) and **Jeff Mockus** (Sound Designer). The stage manager is **Laxmi Kumaran**.

A Picasso is sponsored by **Applied Materials**, co-sponsored by **J. Lohr** and supported, in part, by a **Cultural Affairs grant from the City of San Jose**.

About the Rep

San Jose Rep is the premier non-profit, professional theatre company in the South Bay, presenting six main stage productions each year. As a major contributor to South Bay's cultural community for 28 years, the Rep's mission is to engage, entertain and inspire people. The Rep produces innovative theatrical performances that offer fresh perspectives into the human condition, educational programs that promote life-long learning, and outreach initiatives that benefit our diverse community. For more information, visit www.SJRep.com



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FACT SHEET

WHAT: San Jose Repertory Theatre presents **A Picasso**

It's Paris, a city renowned for its artistic freedom. But it's 1941 and the German occupation has established a paranoid culture at its most oppressive. Pablo Picasso has been brought to a storage

See below chart for days, times, and prices.

Day & Time	Orchestra	Parterre	Balcony
Previews: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday Evenings & Matinees	\$47.00	\$39.00	\$32.00
All: Tuesday Evenings Wednesday Matinees			
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday Evenings	\$54.00	\$46.00	\$39.00
Saturday Matinees & Sunday Matinees	\$61.00	\$53.00	\$46.00

Students (full-time, with valid ID) - 1/2 off tickets for all performances, all seats.

Seniors (65 yrs +) and Teachers - \$6 off tickets all performances, all seats.

ADA or ASL discount - \$6 off your ticket and your companion's ticket.

Subscriber Single Ticket Discounts - \$6

Rush Ticket Discounts - \$12

HOW:

By phone: 408.367.7255

Online: www.sjrep.com

By mail: Rep Box Office, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose, CA 95113

By fax: 408.367.7236

In person: Rep Box Office, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose
Between South 2nd & 3rd Streets

For group sales: 408.367.7295

SHOW-RELATED EVENTS (please include in calendar listings)

WHAT:

Post Show Discussions: Join the cast and artistic staff in presentation/panel discussion about the artistic process behind **A Picasso**

WHEN:

Dec 28th and 31st and Jan 1st, 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 21st and 22nd after matinee performances

WHERE:

San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose between S. 2nd & 3rd

PRICES:

Included in price of ticket

HOW:

Call the box office at 408.367.7255 or boxoffice@SJRep.com.

WHAT: **Creative Playshops:** Creative Playshops are held during each Saturday matinee for **kids ages 6 to 12** in the Rep's upstairs studio theatre. Led by San Jose Rep professionals, these playshops explore the imagination through interactive theatre activities related to the themes of the play. Just drop the kids off before the show, enjoy the performance and pick them up afterwards.

WHEN: **Saturdays, January 31st to February 21st, 3:00pm**

WHERE: San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose between South 2nd & 3rd

PRICES: \$10 per child per show, \$8 for subscribers

HOW: Call the Box Office 408.367.7255 or email boxoffice@sjrep.com for reservations.

WHAT: **ASL-Interpretation:** Will be provided for the show and post-show discussion.

WHEN: **Saturday, January 21st, 2009, 3:00pm**

WHERE: San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose between South 2nd & 3rd

HOW: For tix or info, email ASL@sjrep.com. TDD users can use the CA State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378).

Cast

James Carpenter (Picasso) appeared last year at San Jose Rep as Logan in *Tranced*--his other credits at San Jose Rep include: *Wintertime*; *By The Bog of The Cats...*; *Cntrl+ Alt+ Delete*; *Sideman* and *The Matchmaker* (as Ms. Flora Van Huysen). His Bay Area credits include *Scrooge* at American Conservatory Theatre, The Aurora Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and TheaterWorks. Mr. Carpenter was an Associate Artist for 14 years with Berkeley Repertory Theatre appearing in over 30 productions and is now an Associate Artist with the California Shakespeare Theatre. Out of town credits include The Old Globe Theatre, The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Intiman, Arizona Theatre Company, Dallas Theatre Center, and the Huntington. Screen credits include the feature films *The Rainmaker* and *Metro* and the independent films *Singing and The Sunflower Boy*, *Presque Isle*, and the series *Nash Bridges*.

Carrie Paff (Miss Fischer) has performed at San Jose Rep in *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* (a co-production with Arizona Theatre Company) and *The Haunting of Winchester*. Ms. Paff recently returned from playing London's West End in *Joan Rivers: A Work In Progress by a Life In Progress*. Bay Area credits include *A Streetcar Named Desire* at Marin Theatre Company, *After the War* at American Conservatory Theater, *Small Tragedy* and *Betrayal* at Aurora Theatre Company, *The Mousetrap*, *How the Other Half Loves* (Shellie Award—Best Actress), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* at Center REPeritory Theatre, and *The Right Kind of People* at Magic Theatre. Film credits include *Presque Isle* (Rob Nilsson) and *Opal's Diary* (Dina Ciraulo). She holds a master's degree in educational theater from New York University and is the cofounder of StageWrite, Building Literacy through Theatre.

ARTISTIC PROFILES

Jeffrey Hatcher (Playwright) is the author of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *Ella* and *Tuesdays with Morrie* – all of which have been seen on San Jose Repertory Theatre's stage. Mr. Hatcher authored the book for the Broadway musical, *Never Gonna Dance*. Off-Broadway, he has had several plays produced, including *Three Viewings* and *A Picasso* at Manhattan Theatre Club, *Scotland Road* and *The Turn of the Screw* at Primary Stages, *Tuesdays with Morrie* (with Mitch Albom) at Minetta Lane Theatre, *Murder by Poe* and *The Turn of the Screw* with The Acting Company, *Neddy* at The American Place Theatre, co-author of *Work Song: Three Views of Frank Lloyd Wright* at Arizona Theatre Company and *Fellow Travelers* at Manhattan Punchline. His plays – among them, *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, *Murderers*, *Mercy of a Storm*, *Smash*, *To Fool the Eye* and *Work Song* (with Eric Simonson) – have been seen at such theatres as Yale Repertory Theatre, The Old Globe, South Coast Repertory, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Florida Stage, The Empty Space, California Theatre Center, Madison Repertory Theatre, Illusion Theater, Denver Center Theatre Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Coconut Grove Playhouse, Asolo Repertory Theatre, City Theatre, Studio Arena Theatre and dozens more in the U.S. and abroad. Mr. Hatcher wrote the screenplays for *Stage Beauty*, *Casanova* and *The Duchess*. He has also authored episodes of the Peter Falk series, *Columbo*. He is a member and/or alumnus of The Playwrights' Center, The Dramatists Guild of America, Writers Guild of America and New Dramatists.

Jonathan Moscone (Director) is pleased to be back at San Jose Rep where he last directed *Long Day's Journey into Night*. He will soon begin his tenth season as Artistic Director of California Shakespeare Theater where his work has earned him Bay Area Critics Circle and Dean Goodman Choice Awards for Best Direction and Production, with his productions of *Man and Superman*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Ghosts* (Berkeley Rep), *Twelfth Night*, and *The Seagull* all named among the ten best productions by *The San Francisco Chronicle* and other area newspapers. He recently directed *Eurydice* at Milwaukee Rep and the world premiere of Richard Nelson's *How Shakespeare Won the West* for Huntington Theatre; other regional credits include Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, San Jose Repertory Theater, Dallas Theatre Center, Goodspeed Musicals, Triangle Opera, Portland Stage Company, and Magic Theatre. He is the recipient of a Stanford Graduate School of Business Center for Social Innovation Fellowship and currently serves on the board of LoveLife Foundation and on the advisory boards of Redwood High School, both in Oakland. He has also served as a grant review panelist for the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Theater Communications Group, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Erik Flatmo (Set Designer) is designing his first production for San Jose Rep. Regionally his set designs were seen in *You, Nero* (South Coast Repertory and Berkeley Repertory), *The Imaginary Invalid*, *The Government Inspector* (American Conservatory Theatre), *Betty's Summer Vacation* (Yale Repertory), *The Constant Wife* (Asolo Repertory), *Richard III* and *Uncle Vanya* (California Shakespeare Theatre), *Radio Golf* (TheatreWorks), *Endgame* and *Playboy of the Western World* (Shakespeare Santa Cruz). Other notable projects include the Operas: *Eugene Onegin*, *The Magic Flute* (Opera San Jose) and *La Cenerentola* (San Francisco Opera and Merola Program). In addition he has designed for Dance: Joe Goode Performance Group, Trajal Harrell (Danspace Project, The

Kitchen and Dance Theatre Workshop), Holcombe Waller (On the Boards, Seattle and The Public Theatre's Under the Radar Festival). He is the resident designer for the Magic Theatre. Mr. Flatmo received his education at Columbia University and Yale School of Drama. He is currently teaching at Stanford University.

Japhy Weideman (Lighting Designer) is a freelance lighting designer living in New York City. Recent lighting designs include *Fiddler on the Roof* (The National Theater of Korea) and *Phillip Roth in Khartoum* (LAB/Public Theater NYC). Other notable projects include *Bluebeard's Castle/Il Prigioniero* (Teatro alla Scala in Milan), *Electra* (Ancient Theater of Epidauros in Greece), *Eugene Onegin* (Opéra de Lyon), *Troilus and Cressida* (Royal Shakespeare Company and Edinburgh International Festival), *Blackbird* (West End, London), *The Little Flower of East Orange* (The Public Theater NYC), and *No Foreigners Beyond This Point* (Ma-Yi Theatre Company/Culture Project). Regional credits include: American Conservatory Theater, La Jolla Playhouse, Huntington Theater Co, and Westport Country Playhouse, among others. He received Drama Desk nominations for *Jack Goes Boating* at The Public Theater in 2007 and for the Flying Machine's *Frankenstein* at Soho Rep in 2005. www.japhyweideman.com

Meg Neville (Costume Designer) has designed for San Jose Rep, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, California Shakespeare Theater, the Magic Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, Joe Goode Dance and the San Francisco Opera Center. Her recent productions at Berkeley Repertory Theatre include *Yellowjackets*, *Tragedy a Tragedy*, *Eurydice* (also staged at Yale Rep and Off Broadway at Second Stage) and *Ghosts* (with Jonathan Moscone). Recent California Shakespeare Theatre design credits include: *An Ideal Husband* (with Jonathan Moscone) and *King Lear*, as well as many past productions including *Twelfth Night*, which received a Bay Area Critics Circle Award for costume design. She has designed in New York and at regional theatres across the country with credits that include Monteverdi's *Orfeo* at BAM and Chicago Opera Theater, Yale Rep, Center Stage, Hartford Stage, NY Stage and Film, The Atlantic Theater Company, Dallas Theater Center, Portland Stage, South Coast Repertory, and the NY Fringe Festival. Neville is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama (Harrison Senie Award for excellence in costume design) and resides in the San Francisco with her husband, Chris Wanger, and three children.

Jeff Mockus (sound design) served as Resident Sound Designer for San Jose Rep from 1994-2007, returning now as a guest artist for his 68th production. Some of his favorites here include: *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Rabbit Hole*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *A Christmas Story*, *The Haunting of Winchester*, *Nixon's Nixon*, and *Thunder Knocking On The Door*. His work on *Old Wicked Songs* and *Mary's Wedding* earned Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards, while *By The Bog of Cats...*, "ART," and *Major Barbara* received Dean Goodman Choice Awards. His recent work includes *The Circle* and *The Rainmaker* for ACT, *Pericles*, *An Ideal Husband*, and *Uncle Vanya* for California Shakespeare Theater, *Ain't Misbehavin'* and *Hank Williams' Lost Highway* for Center Repertory Theatre, as well as the world premieres of *La Llorona* for The Western Stage, *Tracy's Tiger* for Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and *Lend Me A Tenor: The Musical* for Utah Shakespeare Festival. He recently designed sound effects for a benefit performance of *The World Of Nick Adams* at Davies Symphony Hall, and his upcoming projects include ACT's world premiere of *War Music* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* here at San Jose Rep.