



# MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## **San Jose Rep presents hilarious comedy *The Foreigner*** **Long-running Off-Broadway production brings laughter to San Jose Repertory Theatre!**

SAN JOSE, CA. (August 15, 2008)—San Jose Repertory Theatre launches its 2008-09 blockbuster season with a colossal comic classic, ***The Foreigner***. Winner of two Obie awards and two Outer Critics Circle Awards, including Best New American Play and Best Off-Broadway Production, ***The Foreigner*** continues to be one of America's most beloved comedies. Penned by Larry Shue and staged by Andrew Barnicle, the artistic director of The Laguna Playhouse, ***The Foreigner*** runs from August 30-September 28, 2008, at San Jose Repertory Theatre, located in downtown San Jose at 101 Paseo de San Antonio. Preview performances are August 30, 31, September 3 and 4. **Press Opening is Friday, September 5 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](http://www.SJRep.com) or by calling (408) 367-7255.**

Meet Charlie Baker (Louis Lotorto). Charlie has proclaimed himself the "world's dullest man." He is horribly shy, a problem which appears solved when his traveling companion, Froggy LeSuer (Steve Irish), devises a plan to introduce Charlie as an exotic "foreigner" who can't speak English. The chaos ensues when Charlie and Froggy travel to a small remote fishing lodge located in rural Georgia, and Froggy begins to introduce Charlie as a foreigner who neither speaks nor understands English. Charlie finds himself learning the secrets of the various guests at the inn, including Betty (Phoebe Moyer), the good-natured hostess at the inn; Catherine (Anna Bullard) and Ellard Simms (Aaron Wilton), a pretty heiress and her dull-witted brother; and the smooth-talking Reverend David Marshall Lee (Craig Marker). The adventure begins as sinister plots and evil plans are revealed in the context of comedy, intrigue, and love.

"***The Foreigner*** is a comedy with a heart as big as all of Georgia," Barnicle comments. "It is a sweet, funny, scary play about people's need to fit in, and their ability under extreme circumstances to create family from the likes of perfect strangers. If we can fight off our xenophobia, fight through the things that set us apart, we'll find that we're all a lot more alike than we thought. Humans need each other more than ever before, and we need to admit that."

**Larry Shue** was born in New Orleans and raised in Kansas. A graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University and the Harlequin Dinner Theatre in Washington, he also honed his skills at Milwaukee Rep where he appeared in a wide variety of productions. As a playwright, he penned ***The Foreigner*** which, following a record-breaking run of 700 performances at New York's Astor Place Theatre, has been produced successfully internationally. His last play, ***Wenceslas Square*** was performed Off-Broadway at the New York Shakespeare Festival. He also wrote ***The Nerd***, which ran successfully on Broadway, with a National Tour, and many productions overseas. Larry Shue was also the author of ***Grandma Duck is Dead*** and, as an actor; he assumed the title role in ***The Foreigner*** after

Anthony Heald. He originated the role of the Rev. Dr. Crisparkle in the New York Shakespeare Festival's *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* at the Delacorte Theatre. He was killed in a plane accident in 1985.

**Andrew Barnicle** has been the artistic director of The Laguna Playhouse since 1991, where he has produced over 100 productions and directed 37, including three plays by Richard Dresser: the world premiere of *The Pursuit of Happiness*, *Rounding Third*, and *Wonderful World*; the U.S. premiere of Bernard Farrell's *Many Happy Returns*; and the Southern California premiere of Michael Hollinger's *Red Herring*. Mr. Barnicle is making his San Jose Rep directorial debut with ***The Foreigner***, but his partnership with the Rep spans several years.

"Our [The Laguna Playhouse] relationship with San Jose Rep goes back a ways," Barnicle remarks. "Together we enjoyed a very successful co-production of Mitch Albom's *Tuesdays with Morrie*. I had a blast performing in the developmental workshop of *The Haunting of Winchester*, we are working together again on *Around the World in 80 Days*, and here I am directing *The Foreigner*. It's a lot like having a home away from home. I can't say enough good things about the staff, the creative atmosphere, or the inherent quality of the cast."

*The Foreigner* is made up of an outstanding cast including Louis Lotorto (Charlie Baker); Steve Irish (Froggy LaSeur); Phoebe Moyer (Betty Meeks); Craig Marker (Reverend David Lee); Aaron Wilton (Ellard Simms); James Asher (Owen Musser); and returning San Jose Rep actress Anna Bullard (Catherine Simms).

The creative team includes **Kent Dorsey** (Set Designer); **B. Modern** (Costume Designer); and **Paulie Jenkins** (Lighting Designer). The production stage manager is **Laxmi Kumaran**.

*The Foreigner* is sponsored by KPMG, Crowne Plaza 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 27 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](http://www.SJRep.com)

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# FACT SHEET

**WHAT:** San Jose Repertory Theatre presents *The Foreigner*

Winner of two Obie Awards, Best New American Play and Best Off-Broadway Production, *The Foreigner* is an uproariously inspired comedy that celebrates our curiosity and empathy for “the outsider”. Englishman Charlie Baker, self-proclaimed “world’s dullest man,” takes a vacation at a rural fishing lodge with his eccentric army buddy, Froggy LeSuer. Froggy concocts an outrageous scheme to save Charlie from his pathologically shy self by introducing him as an exotic “foreigner” who can’t speak English. It isn’t long before Charlie’s guileless persona backfires and the mix of good-hearted, slow-witted and devious lodge guests share their deepest secrets and most sinister plans. What ensues is a series of hilarious and heartwarming revelations, which leads to the ultimate good guys vs. bad guys climax!

**WHO:** By **Larry Shue**  
Directed by **Andy Barnicle**

Set Designer	<b>Kent Dorsey</b>
Costume Designer	<b>B. Modern</b>
Lighting Designer	<b>Paulie Jenkins</b>
Sound Designer	<b>Steve Schoenbeck</b>
Stage Manager	<b>Laxmi Kumaran</b>
Assistant Stage Manager	<b>Matisse Michalski</b>

**CAST:**

Owen Musser	<b>James Asher</b>
Catherine Simms	<b>Anna Bullard</b>
Froggy LeSuer	<b>Steve Irish</b>
Charlie Baker	<b>Louis Lotorto</b>
Reverend David	<b>Craig Marker</b>
Betty Meeks	<b>Phoebe Moyer</b>
Ellard Simms	<b>Aaron Wilton</b>

**DATES, TIMES & PRICES:** **Previews:** August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
**Opens:** September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
**Closes:** September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
**Price range:** \$15- \$59

PERFORMANCES						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			AUG	SEP		30 8pm
31 2pm D 7pm	1	2	3 11am D 8pm	4 8pm	5 8pm ★ OPENING NIGHT	6 3pm P D 8pm
7 2pm D	8	9 7:30pm	10 8pm	11 8pm	12 8pm	13 3pm P D 8pm
14 2pm D	15	16 7:30pm	17 8pm	18 8pm	19 8pm	20 3pm P D 8pm
21 2pm D	22	23 7:30pm	24 11am D 8pm	25 8pm	26 8pm	27 3pm P D 8pm
28 2pm D						

D = Post-show Discussion  
P = Creative Playshop  
★ = American Sign Language Interpreted Performance Saturday, Sept. 27 at 3p.m.  
Co-sponsored by **KPMG**  
Participating sponsor CROWNE PLAZA

**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** - Balcony price for that performance

**HOW:** **By phone:** 408.367.7255  
**Online:** [www.sjrep.com](http://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:** 408.367.7279

## SHOW-RELATED EVENTS (please include in calendar listings)

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**WHAT:** **Post Show Discussions:** Join the cast and artistic staff in presentation/panel discussion about the artistic process behind *The Foreigner*.

**WHEN:** Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:boxoffice@SJRep.com).

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**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, September 6<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:boxoffice@sjrep.com) for reservations.

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**WHAT:** **ASL-Interpretation:** Stage Hands of the Bay Area provides ASL interpretation for the show and post-show forum.

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 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](mailto:ASL@sjrep.com). TDD users can use the CA State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378).

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## ARTISTIC PROFILES

**Andrew Barnicle** (*Director*) is making his San Jose Repertory Theatre directing debut. Mr. Barnicle has been the artistic director of The Laguna Playhouse since 1991, where he has produced over 100 productions and directed thirty-seven, including three plays by Richard Dresser: the world premiere of *The Pursuit of Happiness*, *Rounding Third*, and *Wonderful World*; the U.S. premiere of Bernard Farrell's *Many Happy Returns*; and the Southern California premiere of Michael Hollinger's *Red Herring*. Mr. Barnicle previously served as the Associate Artistic Director of the North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach. He has also directed at San Diego's The Theatre at Old Town, Michigan's Meadow Brook Theatre, and productions of *Gunmetal Blues* and *Rounding Third* at The Colony Theatre in Los Angeles.

**Kent Dorsey** (Scenic Designer) has designed San Jose Rep productions including *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (World Premiere), *The Wind Cries Mary* (World Premiere), *Enter the Guardsman*, *The Master Builder* and *The Innocents*. New York theater productions include *Alligator Tales*, *About Time*, *The Cocktail Hour*, *Yankee Dawg You Die*, *Suds*, *Another Antigone* and *Silence*. He has designed scenery or lighting on over 95 productions for San Diego's Old Globe Theatre and has designed for most of the major resident theater companies including the Kennedy Center, The Ahmanson, American Conservatory Theater, La Jolla Playhouse, the Geffen Playhouse, Seattle Repertory Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theatre. In opera, his designs include the World Premiere of *The Conquistador* (San Diego Opera), *The Lighthouse* (San Diego Opera and Chicago Opera Theatre), *La Boheme* and *Samson et Dalila* (Palm Beach Opera), *The Crucible*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Werther* and *The Merry Widow* (Opera San Jose).

**B Modern** (*Costume Designer*) is delighted to return to the Rep, where she has designed over 35 productions including *Tranced*, *Rabbit Hole*, *A Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *Nixon's Nixon*, *A Christmas Story*, *Hannah and Martin*, *The Immigrant*, *Bad Dates*, *Mary's Wedding*, *Humpty Dumpty*, 'ART,' *Las Meninas*, *Ctrl+Alt+Delete*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Enter the Guardsman*, *Drawer Boy*, *Side Man*, *Having Our Say*, *Desire Under the Elms*, *Over the Tavern*, *Legacy*, *Three Days of Rain*, *Old Wicked Songs*, and *The Lady Is Not for Burning*. She is an Associate Artist at Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and at Geva Theatre Center, New York. Other regional theater credits include productions for Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Globe Theatres, TheatreWorks, Magic Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Center REPeritory Company, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Georgia Shakespeare Festival,

Syracuse Stage, and American Musical Theater. Opera credits include productions at Opera Theatre of St. Louis and Opera San Jose. Ms. Modern shares a home and studio in Santa Cruz with two cantankerous cats.

**Steve Schoenbeck** (Sound Designer) is in his eighth season as Associate Sound Designer at San Jose Rep and has been the Sound Designer for the Rep's productions of *Souvenir*, *Long Day's Journey into Night*, *The Immigrant*, *Enchanted April*, *Bad Dates*, *Wintertime*, *Cookin' at the Cookery*, Eric Bogosian's *Humpty Dumpty* and *A Flea In Her Ear*. Mr. Schoenbeck's sound design credits also include *Frozen* and *Love Song* at Marin Theatre Company, *The Little Foxes* at American Conservatory Theatre, the Assembly Theatre's production of *Finder's Fee* for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and TheatreWorks' productions of *Bat Boy: the Musical*, *Harold & Maude: An Intimate Musical*, *Be Aggressive*, *Over The River & Through The Woods* and *Holiday Memories*. In addition, he's designed sound for short films, animation and mixed numerous musicals for both San Jose Rep and TheatreWorks. He is a graduate of the Sound Arts program at the Ex'pression College for Digital Arts and the Theatre Arts department at UC Santa Cruz.

**Paulie Jenkins** (*Lighting Designer*) has designed the lighting for over 400 productions at such regional theaters as the San Jose Repertory Theater (*Arms and the Man*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*), the Pasadena Playhouse, Mark Taper Forum, South Coast Rep, Seattle Rep, Alley Theatre, Denver Center, and Atlanta's Alliance Theatre. Internationally, Ms. Jenkins has designed stage shows in Sweden, Australia, Czechoslovakia, Poland and a royal wedding in Saudi Arabia. She has also served as lighting designer for stage shows and electrical parades at Disneyland, Tokyo DisneySea, Universal Studios/Japan, Universal Studios/Hollywood, Lotte World/Korea and Six Flags Magic Mountain. Long running projects include *Parade of Dreams* at Disneyland and *Mystic Rhythms* at Tokyo DisneySea. Jenkins has been honored as an exemplary alumna of the University of Wyoming and received the LA Drama Critics Circle Angstrom Award for Career Achievement. Her novel entitled *Following the Eagle* is available at AbeBooks.com and Amazon.com.

**James Asher** (*Owen Musser*) has performed in New York with Tectonic Theater in *The Laramie Project*, the Town Hall Theater (*Brave New World*), the Theater for the New City (*Sajjil "Record"*), Second Stage Studio (*Destination America*), and at the New York Theater Workshop (*1000 ABU Ghraibian Nights*). Regionally, he has appeared in the national tours of *Gross Indecency*, *The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*; at Berkeley Rep and La Jolla Playhouse (*The Laramie Project*); the Magic Theater (*Tape*); Thick Description Theater (*Back of the Throat*); the Waterstone Theater in Los Angeles (*Below the Belt*); Shakespeare Santa Cruz (*The Merry Wives of Windsor*); and at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival (*Love's Labour's Lost*). His film and television credits include *Singularity is Near* and *New York's Dirty Laundry* which showed at the Cannes Film Festival in 2007, *Sweet Jane* (Dimension Films), *The Confessional*, *Fall of the Austrian Sun*, and *Spicy City* on HBO. He holds an MFA from American Conservatory Theatre.

**Anna Bullard** (*Catherine Simms*) is delighted to return to San Jose Rep, where she last appeared in the San Jose Rep/Arizona Theatre Company co-premiere of Jeffrey Hatcher's *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*. Other regional credits include *Moot the Messenger* and *Uncle Sam's Satiric Spectacular* for the Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville, *Blackbird* at American Conservatory Theater (Una u/s), *Ambition Facing West* for TheatreWorks, and *The Mousetrap* and *Nonsense* for Dorset Theatre Festival. In the Bay Area, her credits include Lee Sankowich's production of *Killer Joe* at Marin Theatre Company, *The Hopper Collection* at Magic Theatre, *Enchanted April* with Porchlight Theatre

Company, and the audio play *The Redeemer* with Crazy Dream Sound Productions. She is a graduate of Whitman College and trained as an Acting Apprentice at Actors Theatre of Louisville.

**Steve Irish** (“Froggy” *LeSueur*) recently played Henry Kissinger in *Nixon’s Nixon* at CenteRep directed by Michael Butler. Professional credits include Mae West’s *Sex* at the Aurora Theater; California Shakespeare Theater (*Man and Superman*); the American Conservatory Theater (*A Christmas Carol, The Gamester, Lilies*); The Magic Theater (*The Long Christmas Ride Home, ‘Bot*); The Shakespeare Theatre (*Henry IV 1 & 2*); Baltimore’s CenterStage (*The Show-Off, Twelfth Night*); and Off-Broadway in *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* starring John Turturro. He costars in the upcoming feature film, *Portable Storage*, and appeared in the films *Just Like Heaven* and *The Darwin Awards*. Steve received his training at The Juilliard School. He extends gratitude and love to Maya, Isabelle and Leon.

**Louis Lotorto** (*Charlie Baker*) most recently appeared at San Jose Rep as Troy in Eric Bogosian’s *Humpty Dumpty*. L.A. theatre credits include the Ahmanson in *An Enemy of the People* with Sir Ian McKellen; South Coast Repertory, L.A. Philharmonic, Taper Too, the International City, Odyssey and Colony theatres, as well as six seasons with A Noise Within, most recently earning an Ovation Nomination nod for his portrayal of Camille in *A Flea in Her Ear*. Regional credits include the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Shakespeare Theatre Company in D.C. (Helen Hayes Award Nominee), the California Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Portland Center Stage, Portland Repertory Theatre, Artists Repertory Theatre, Contemporary American Theatre Festival and A Contemporary Theatre in Seattle. His film and television credits include *Fire in the Sky, Nowhere Man, Under Suspicion, Body Language, Fade to Black* and *The Marla Hanson Story*, as well as numerous commercials, voice-overs and industrial films.

**Craig Marker** (Rev. David Lee) has appeared at San Jose Repertory Theatre in *Iphigenia At Aulis* and *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*. Other credits include *Third, Theophilus North, Brooklyn Boy, Dolly West’s Kitchen, and Shakespeare In Hollywood* (TheatreWorks); the world premiere of *First Person Shooter* (San Francisco Playhouse); *The Circle* and *Curse of the Starving Class* (American Conservatory Theater); *The Mousetrap* and *The Marriage of Figaro* (Center REpertory Company); *Bus Stop* (Marin Theatre Company); *Love’s Labour’s Lost* (San Francisco Shakespeare Festival); *The Shape of Things* and *The Persians* (Aurora Theatre Company); and David Edgar’s *Continental Divide* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Barbican Theatre (UK), and La Jolla Playhouse). He will play the title role in *Macbeth* for the Shotgun Players this winter.

**Phoebe Moyer** (*Betty Meeks*) is delighted to return to San Jose Repertory Theatre after appearing as Mrs. Baines in *Major Barbara*. Recently, she has performed at TheatreWorks, the Aurora Theatre Company, and Pacific Alliance. She will next appear as Ethel Thayer in *On Golden Pond* for the Hopgood Theatre Company. Moyer has also been seen at Marin Shakespeare, Sierra Rep, Marine Theatre Company, CenterREP, TheatreFirst, Playhouse West, American Conservatory Theatre (understudy), the Willows Theatre, and Pacific Conservatory of Performing Arts. After a successful career as a performing arts instructor she is now enjoying a career as a director, acting coach, and voice-over artist. Moyer is the winner of five Dean Goodman Choice Awards and six Bay Area Theatre Critics Awards.

**Aaron Wilton** (*Ellard Simms*) is elated to be a part of San Jose Rep’s 08-09 season. His New York City stage appearances include the Greenwich Street Theatre (co-created/performed *Happy Mundanes* for the NYC Fringe Festival), Beckmann Theatre, Ars Nova, Riant Theatre, Shakespeare in the Wild, Curan Repertory Company, and The Drilling Company. Regional stage appearances include the George Street Playhouse, where he worked w/ Oscar nom. Amy Irving and TV’s Dan Lauria; Hudson Stage Company,

where he worked with Broadway's Walter Charles and Susan Pellegrino; Montclair Operetta Club, where he received a Perry Nomination for Best Featured Actor for Willard in *Footloose*; Sacramento Theatre Company; and B Street Theatre. I would like to thank Andy and Bruce for this incredible opportunity and Floyd for the sound advice.