



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Photos by Joseph Hoyt on Display at San Jose Rep to accompany World Premiere of *The Kite Runner* AFGHANISTAN 1970 – 1975 *Images From an Era of Peace* by Joseph Hoyt**

SAN JOSE, CA (March 4, 2009) — Fifty remarkable black and white photographs of Afghanistan will be on display in the San Jose Repertory Theatre's second floor gallery, March 21, 2009 – April 26, 2009. The exhibition is the work of photographer Joseph Hoyt and accompanies San Jose Rep's world premiere of the stage adaptation of Khaled Hosseini's international best-selling novel, ***The Kite Runner***.

The photos depict portraits, landscapes and ancient ruins in the poor but culturally and historically rich nation before the start of conflict and turmoil.

"I love when the arts complement each other and create an opportunity for a deeper appreciation of a story or a theme," says Rick Lombardo, Artistic Director for San Jose Rep. "This is why I'm so pleased we are presenting this exhibit while *The Kite Runner* will be on our stage. It will certainly deepen our appreciation and understanding of a place and culture that is still so foreign for so many."

Photographer Hoyt states, "The photographs in this collection reveal an Afghanistan very different from the one we hear about today. What we see in these images is not just an Afghanistan at peace, but a people and a country at peace with itself – a remarkable country and its resilient people going about their daily routines," says Hoyt. "Nomadic tribes, stunning landscapes, the Buddhas of Bamian, textile markets and centuries-old architecture are reflected in the photographs. They portray the lives of a rugged and courageous people; their surroundings, their handsome faces and laughing children living as they have for centuries."

The Afghan poet Jellaludin Rumi once said, "Only from your heart can you touch the sky." In one photograph a child is seen flying a kite from a rooftop, a carefree and beloved Afghan tradition, a simple pastime once banned by the oppressive Taliban regime. Hoyt spent more than three years exploring Afghanistan, capturing the people, landscapes, and culture at peace, with bustling markets, a thriving economy and a welcoming people.

A beautifully produced book of the images complementing the exhibition will be available for purchase in San Jose Rep's Curtain Call Patron Lounge. The catalogue features 50 duotone black-and-white photographs along with detailed captions and the author's comments and reminiscences. Proceeds from the sale of the book

will benefit the San Jose Repertory Theatre and several Bay Area Afghan relief organizations. Copies of the photographs are also available for purchase.

Joseph Hoyt has had an abiding interest in Afghanistan and the tragedies that have befallen the Afghan people since the Russian invasion and ensuing civil war. This interest has resulted in the resurrection of long stored photographs taken in the early 1970s. His photographs were originally exhibited at the Miami Dade County Public Library in 2007. An exhibition at the San Francisco Public Library drew hundreds of viewers and strong reviews during its run from October 2008 through January 2009. Hoyt has been a resident of south Florida for over 40 years. For further information, please view the photographer's website at: [www.imagesofafghanistan.com](http://www.imagesofafghanistan.com)

***The Kite Runner*** is a haunting story of friendship and redemption in modern Afghanistan. The story was adapted by Bay Area resident Matthew Spangler and will be directed by David Ira Goldstein, artistic director of the Arizona Theatre Company. ***The Kite Runner*** is presented by Hitachi Data Systems and runs from March 21-April 19, 2009 at the San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio in downtown San Jose. Press Opening is March 27 at 8:00 p.m. For ticket information, please call (408) 367-7255 or visit [www.SJRep.com](http://www.SJRep.com).

### **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](http://www.SJRep.com).

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