



MEDIA RELEASE

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San Jose Repertory Theatre Presents the West Coast Premiere of *Splitting Infinity* A provocative exploration of faith, love and science

SAN JOSE, CA. (Sept. 29, 2008) — San Jose Repertory Theatre continues its entertaining season with the West Coast Premiere of *Splitting Infinity* (Laurie Foundation Theatre Visionary Award), a new play by renowned playwright Jaime Pachino. Associate Artistic Director Kirsten Brandt directs a talented cast in this smart and witty exploration of faith, science, love, and ambition. *Splitting Infinity* runs October 11 – November 9, 2008 at San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio in downtown San Jose. Preview performances are October 11, 12, 15, and 16. **Press Opening is Friday, October 17 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.

“Several years ago, a noted physicist published a book purporting to prove the existence of God through physics,” comments Playwright Jaime Pachino. “The writer in me could only wonder: What provoked this act? What was the reaction of his colleagues? Of the scientific community? Of the religious community? And in particular— of his loved ones? These questions, coupled with the wrestling I had been doing on my own over religion’s place in my world and in my own life (not to mention the national debates on the subject), led me to the fertile ground that would become *Splitting Infinity*.”

To Leigh Sangold (**Amy Resnick**), a Nobel prize-winning astrophysicist, the mysteries of the universe can be answered with an absolute scientific equation. On the eve of her 49th birthday, she takes on the definitive scientific challenge: to use physics to prove whether God exists. Leigh’s quest threatens her closest relationships with Saul Lieberman (**Robert Yacko**), a tenderhearted Rabbi who’s been her confidant since childhood and her lover, Robbi March (**Chad Deverman**), a competitive post-doctoral student, who is the son of a Christian Scientist. When Robbi is seriously injured in an accident, Leigh is confronted by Robbi’s mother, Mrs. March (**Cindy Goldfield**), the devout Christian Scientist. Mrs. March and Leigh’s belief systems collide, leaving Leigh frustrated with the struggle between science and faith.

“I have always been interested in the intersection of religion and science and this play asks a lot of BIG questions about who we are and why we are here,” states Director Kirsten Brandt. “It makes us look at the choices we’ve made in our lives and wonder if things could be or should be different. But at its core is a relationship between two people, their love for each other and their desire to shift the universe.”

Splitting Infinity takes place within the Ten Days of Atonement during the Jewish High Holy Days, the period beginning with Rosh Hashanah and ending with Yom Kippur. For Leigh, this period becomes her personal

journey in search for identity and to understand the fundamental mysteries of the universe. In her 49th year, she begins to question her decisions and momentarily ponders the meaning of her choices, for once uncertain of her devotion to science over faith. ***Splitting Infinity*** tests the boundaries of relationships and zealous ambition. It seeks to answer the questions we have about ourselves, each other, and the universe through the scientific and religious equation.

“Framed by the Ten Days of Atonement (the 10 days between the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur),” Pachino continues, “I aimed to create a play where seeking was the action, where past sins had to be acknowledged, and answers might be as knotty and unmanageable as the people pursuing them.”

Jaime Pachino is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter with national and international credits. Her play, *Splitting Infinity*, was named the winner of the Laurie Foundation Theatre Visionary Award, and the STAGE competition for plays about science. Other plays include *Waving Goodbye* (world premiere Steppenwolf Theatre, winner of the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays Award, and Chicago’s Jeff Award for Best New Work); *The Return to Morality* (winner of eight national awards, produced throughout the U.S.); *Aurora’s Motives*, *Race* and *Theodora: An Unauthorized Biography*.

Kirsten Brandt, San Jose Rep’s Associate Artistic Director, helms this production of ***Splitting Infinity***. Brandt is in her second season at San Jose Rep where she has directed *This Wonderful Life* and *Rabbit Hole*. She has worked with prestigious theatres around the nation (The Old Globe, San Diego REP, La Jolla Playhouse, Sierra Rep and TheatreWorks) and is the recipient of numerous KPBS Awards, a Backstage West Garland Award and two San Diego Critics Circle Awards. She was the Artistic Director of San Diego’s avant-garde theatre company, Sledgehammer Theatre, from 1999-2005.

Splitting Infinity’s outstanding cast includes **Christine Sage Behrens** (Young Leigh Sangold); **Kevin Dedes** (Young Saul Lieberman); **Chad Deverman** (Robbie March); **Cindy Goldfield** (Mrs. March); **Amy Resnick** (Leigh Sangold) and **Robert Yacko** (Saul Lieberman)

The creative team includes **Robin Sanford Roberts** (Set Designer); **Brandin Barón** (Costume Designer); **Jaymi Lee Smith** (Lighting Designer) and **Paul Peterson** (Sound Design). The stage manager is **Joshua M. Rose**.

Splitting Infinity is co-sponsored by **Bijan Bakery & Café** 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 *Splitting Infinity*

In this smart and witty exploration of faith, science, love, and ambition, Leigh Sangold, a Nobel prize-winning astrophysicist, takes on the definitive scientific challenge: to use physics to prove whether God exists. Leigh's quest for a renewed sense of self in her life threatens her closest relationships with Saul Lieberman, a tenderhearted Rabbi who's been in love with her since childhood, and her lover, a competitive post-doctoral student who is the son of a Christian Scientist. *Splitting Infinity* tests the boundaries of relationships and zealous ambition. It seeks to answer the questions we have about ourselves, each other, and the universe through the scientific and religious equation.

WHO: By **Jamie Pachino**
Directed by **Kirsten Brandt**

Set Designer	Robin Sanford Roberts
Costume Designer	Brandin Barón
Assistant Costume Designer	Josanne Bowser
Lighting Designer	Jaymi Lee Smith
Sound Design	Paul Peterson
Stage Manager	Joshua M. Rose
Assistant Stage Manager	Wendy Jones

CAST:	Young Leigh Sangold	Christine Sage Behrens
	Young Saul Lieberman	Kevin Dedes
	Robbie March	Chad Deverman
	Mrs. March	Cindy Goldfield
	Leigh Sangold	Amy Resnick
	Saul Lieberman	Robert Yacko

DATES, TIMES & PRICES: **Previews:** October 11th – 16th, 2008
Opens: October 17th, 2008
Closes: November 9th, 2008
Price range: \$16- \$61

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 *Splitting Infinity*

WHEN: Oct 12th, 18th, 19th, 25th, and 26th, and Nov 1st, 2nd, 8th and 9th 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, October 18th to November 8th, 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:** Stage Hands of the Bay Area provides ASL interpretation for the show and post-show forum.

WHEN: **Saturday, November 8th, 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. TDD users can use the CA State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378).

ARTISTIC PROFILES

Jamie Pachino (Playwright) is an award winning playwright and screenwriter with national and international credits. Her play, *Splitting Infinity*, was named the winner of the Laurie Foundation Theatre Visionary Award, and the STAGE competition for plays about science, among others, and was produced previously with Geva Theatre, Florida Stage and the SPF festival in NYC. Other plays include *Waving Goodbye* (world premiere Steppenwolf Theatre, winner of the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays award, and Chicago's Jeff Award for Best New Work); *The Return to Morality* (winner of eight national awards, produced throughout the U.S.); *Aurora's Motives*; *Race* and *Theodora: An Unauthorized Biography* (all multiply awarded and produced). Ms. Pachino's film and television work includes features for Disney, DreamWorks, Vanguard Films and Walden Media, and teleplays for Lifetime Television and the Hallmark Hall of Fame. Ms. Pachino has served on the faculty of Northwestern University and the University of California (Irvine) and currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two children.

Kirsten Brandt (Director /Associate Artistic Director) is in her second season as Associate Artistic Director of San Jose Rep where she directed *This Wonderful Life* and *Rabbit Hole*. She has directed for Theatreworks, The Old Globe, San Diego REP, La Jolla Playhouse, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Sierra Rep, Diversionary Theatre, The Fritz, Playwrights Project, New Dramatists, NYU Tisch School of Drama, UC San Diego's MFA program, UCSC and ASK Theatre Projects. She was the Artistic Director of San Diego's avant-garde theatre company, Sledgehammer Theatre, from 1999-2005 where she produced 23 theatrical events, directed 15 productions and wrote *The Frankenstein Project*, *NU: Parts I & III*, and *Berzerkergang*. She studied playwrighting at the University of Birmingham, England and directing at UC San Diego and has trained with the SITI Company. She is the recipient of numerous KPBS Awards, a Backstage West Garland Award and two San Diego Critics Circle Awards. Brandt is a lecturer at UC Santa Cruz. She is the proud mother of Sophia Grace.

Robin Sanford Roberts (Scenic Designer) designed the set for San Jose Rep's production of *This Wonderful Life*. Roberts' Broadway credit includes *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues*. Her regional credits include upcoming Arthur Miller's *The Price* at the Old Globe Theatre. Regional: *The Prince of L.A.*, *Fiction*, *Bus Stop*, *Blue/Orange*, *Rounding Third*, *Faithhealer*, *Betrayal*, *Da, Art*, *God's Man in Texas*, *Old Wicked Songs*, *Private Eyes*, *Collected Stories*, *The Old Settler*, *Scotland Road*, *Sylvia*, *Voir Dire*, *The Substance of Fire*, at the Old Globe Theatre; *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Restless Spirits*, *Fire on the Mountain*, *Working*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Avenue X*, at San Diego Repertory Theatre; *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *Permanent Collection*, at Arizona Theatre Company; *Waiting for Godot*, *Angels in America, Parts 1 & 2*, and *Flesh and Blood* at Swine Palace Productions. Ms. Roberts teaches and designs scenery at the University of San Diego. She would like to thank her family and theatrical friends for their love and support.

Brandin Barón (Costume Designer)'s design highlights include *This Wonderful Life* at San Jose Repertory Theater; *Cloud Tectonics*, *Dogeaters*, *Sweet Bird of Youth* and *Our Town* at La Jolla Playhouse; *Dogeaters* at Public Theater/New York Shakespeare Festival; *The Illusion*, *The Whole World is Watching* (Premiere), *The Mad Dancers* (Premiere) and *Cabaret* at San Diego Repertory Theatre; *Private Jokes*, *Public Places* at the Aurora Theater; *The Tempest* and *Endgame* at Shakespeare Santa Cruz and *Monkey Room* (Premiere) and *The K of D* at The Magic Theatre. Mr. Barón was a 1997 recipient of the NEA/TCG Career Development Program for Directors and Designers

and was awarded the Backstage West Garland Award for Excellence in Costume Design. Mr. Barón is currently an Assistant Professor of Design at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Jaymi Lee Smith (Lighting Design ER) is thrilled to return to San Jose Rep after previously designing *The Haunting of Winchester*. Other theatres at which she has worked include Hartford Stage, The Goodman, Steppenwolf, Northlight Theatre, Victory Gardens Theatre, The Getty Villa, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Madison Repertory Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, The Next Theatre, Irish Repertory Theatre, The Court Theatre and Lookingglass Theatre Company. Her work has been seen in thirty-four cities nationwide as well as in Ireland, Scotland, Spain and Italy. In addition to theatrical productions, she also does architectural lighting design, event design and production management for large scale events. She was the 2003 recipient of the Michael Merrit/ Michael Maggio Emerging Designer Award. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Lighting Design at the University of California, Irvine.

Paul Peterson (Sound Design ER) is making his San Jose Rep debut with *Splitting Infinity*. His work in regional and national theatres consist of over 65 shows at The Old Globe in San Diego, including *Back Back Back*, *The Women*, *Sight Unseen*, *The Pleasure of his Company*, *Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas!*, *Bell, Book & Candle*, *Hold Please*, *Restoration Comedy*, *The Sisters Rosensweig*, *Pig Farm*, *Lobby Hero*, *Vincent In Brixton*, *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *Blue/Orange*, *Time Flies*, *Pentecost*, *Splendour*, *Compleat Female Stage Beauty* and many others. Mr. Peterson also designed for Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, San Diego Repertory Theatre and Baltimore's Centerstage. Locally, his work was heard recently in The Lorraine Hansberry Theatre's production of *I Just Stopped By to See The Man*. Mr. Peterson holds a BFA in Theatre with an emphasis in Technical Design for the Theatre and is a member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829.

Cast

Christine Sage Behrens (Young Leigh) is honored to be joining San Jose Rep's theatre community. Ms Behrens is delighted to work with Kirsten Brandt again having previously played the Goddess Ceres in her production of *The Tempest* with Shakespeare Santa Cruz. Other Shakespeare Santa Cruz credits include Juliet in the Shakes-To-Go's *Romeo and Juliet*, Princess Pretencio in *The Princess and the Pea*, and Boo in *Sleeping Beauty*. Behrens is finishing her final year at UC Santa Cruz. Her favorite collegiate production credits include: *Foreign Bodies*, *Dr Faustus*, *Good Person of Sezuan*, *Othello*, *The Nightingale* and *A Little Too Young*. Ms Behrens appreciates theatre that makes you think, and patrons who come to be stimulated.

Kevin Dedes (Young Saul) was recently seen in *Richard III* at The California Shakespeare Theater as well as *A Christmas Carol* at The American Conservatory Theater. Additional Bay Area productions include the West Coast premier of Amy Herzog's *The Wendy Play* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde; both part of the 3rd year of ACT's Masters of Fine Arts Program. Before moving to California he performed in the East Coast premier of Sheila Callaghan's *Kate Crackernuts* (The Flea Theater) and new works at The Gallery Players in Brooklyn. Dedes can currently be seen in the short comedic film, "Who's Your Daddy?" as part of Comedy Central's ongoing series, AtomTV and his band, New Agents (newagents.tv) can be seen playing in and around San Francisco. Mr. Dedes would like to thank his family and friends for their continued love and support.

Chad Deverman (Robbie March) is relishing his first season here at San Jose Rep. Off Broadway credits include recent productions of *Moonchildren* with the Engine Theater and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the renowned Workshop Theater. Local credits include: *The Busy World is Hushed* (Aurora Theatre); *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Coronado*, and the world premiere of *First Person Shooter* (SF Playhouse); *Woyzeck* and *The Taming of the Shrew* (Cutting Ball Theater); *The Sisters' Rosensweig* (TheatreWorks); *Restoration Comedy* and *As You Like It* (California Shakespeare Theater). Film credits: *Across the Universe*, *Curves*, and *The Delivery Man* – for which he was nominated Best Local Actor by the Northern California Film Society. Training: NYU Tisch School of the Arts, and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, England.

Cindy Goldfield (Mrs. March) is a two time recipient of both the Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award and the Dean Goodman Choice Award. Regional theatre credits include work at the American Conservatory Theatre, Center Rep, TheatreWorks, Playhouse West, The Willows Theatre, Broadway by the Bay, Marin Theatre Company, 42nd Street Moon, and Golden Thread Productions. Film credits include featured roles in several independent features, including *The Village Barbershop*, currently making the rounds of film festivals. Goldfield has extensive directing and choreography credits in several Bay Area theatres, in addition to numerous corporate shows throughout the country and abroad. She also enjoys a successful voice-over career and the cabaret collaboration of *Goldfield and Koldewyn* with the inimitable Scrumby Koldewyn.

Amy Resnick (Leigh Sangold) is delighted to be returning to San Jose Repertory Theatre where she appeared in *Pride & Prejudice*, *Sisters Rosensweig* and *Oedipus*. New York credits include Cherry Lane, Lincoln Center, and *The Death of Frank* at Synchronicity Space. LA credits include the Mark Taper/Doolittle Theater and South Coast Repertory Theatre. Regional credits include: *Third* (directed by Kirstin Brandt) and *Brooklyn Boy* at Theatreworks, *Orson's Shadow* at Marin Theatre Company. *Small Tragedy* and *Old Neighborhood* at Aurora Theatre, *Pride & Prejudice* (directed by Jon Jory) at Arizona Theatre Company, San Jose Rep and the Alliance Theatre, *The Laramie Project* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, *For Better or Worse* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Arizona Theatre Company, *Tale of the Allergist's Wife*; *Hidden In This Picture* (with Aaron Sorkin); *Around the World in 80 Days*; and *Boston Marriage* at B Street Theatre, *I Think I Like Girls* Encore and La Jolla Playhouse, *Why We Have a Body* and *House of Yes* at the MagicTheatre. Ms. Resnick is the recipient of six Dramalogue awards, a Bay Area Theatre Critic's Award and a Dean Goodman Choice Award for excellence in acting. TV and Film include *Law & Order*, *Picket Fences*, *Haiku Tunnel* and *The Insomniacs*.

Robert Yacko (Saul) was most recently seen with Cathy Rigby in *Sylvia* and in *Can Can* at the Pasadena Playhouse. His next role will be Capt. Hook in Bernstein's *Peter Pan* (American Premiere of Full Score at Santa Barbara Theatre Co.). Yacko appeared in the Broadway/National Tour of *Fiddler on the Roof* (with Herschel Bernardi, directed by Jerome Robbins) and in the West Coast Premieres of *Romance, Romance* (Old Globe) and *Sunday in the Park with George* (LBCLO). His Regional stage appearances include *Five Course Love*, *The Real Thing*, *Company* (with Carol Burnett & Patrick Cassidy), *Into the Woods* (with Leslie Uggams), *Chess*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Grave White Way*, *Lies and Legends*, *Marry Me a Little* (South Coast Rep), *Undiscovered Country* (Mark Taper Forum) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (with Theodore Bikel & Lainie Kazan). Yacko's film credits include *Raising Helen* and *Body Double*, and his TV appearances include *The Closer*, *General Hospital*, *Pickett Fences*, *Golden Girls*, and *Get a Life*.