



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

UP-DATE: September 1, 2009

For photos and interviews please contact
Michelle Hou, Communications Manager
(408) 367-7202 / michelleh@sjrep.com

San Jose Repertory Theatre's Artistic Director, Rick Lombardo, makes his San Jose Directorial Debut with Shakespeare's Captivating Comedy, *As You Like It*. *A modern twist on Shakespeare's sophisticated and bewitching comedy*

SAN JOSE, CA (August 20, 2009) — Ever consider leaving it all behind? Duke Senior has done just that. Forced into exile by his brother, Duke Senior has embraced the Forest of Arden as his home and left the rat race of the royal courts behind. This fall, San Jose Rep invites theatre-goers to leave it all behind, too, as the company opens its 2009-2010 season with what the New York Times hails as "Shakespeare's finest comedy," ***As You Like It***. Artistic Director **Rick Lombardo's** inaugural production is a contemporary re-imagining of this wicked tale of sibling rivalry, royals in exile, mistaken identities, cross dressing and "love at first sight." Previews for ***As You Like It*** begin Saturday, August 29, and opening night is Friday, September 4. The show closes Sunday, September 27. **Press Opening is Friday, September 4 at 8:00 p.m.**

"I've been inspired by Silicon Valley in putting this production together," **Lombardo** comments. "With technology so omnipresent in our modern lives, I'm even more fascinated by Shakespeare's theme of the power of nature to heal the heart and the soul, and his notion of the necessity of a return to "older virtues" to nourish our lives. I love the fact that we'll be telling this story using some of the most advanced technology available for the stage, which will create a powerful and very, very modern feeling to the world of the play."

While Duke Senior (**Andy Murray**) sets up camp in the Forest of Arden, his daughter, Rosalind, (**Anna Bullard**), who was allowed to remain back at court because of her friendship with her cousin Celia (**Cristi Miles**), is now perceived as a threat. Rosalind flees with Celia (BFF) and the clown, Touchstone, (**Steve Irish**) to seek refuge with the denizens of Arden, including Orlando (**Blake Ellis**), the man Rosalind loves. Disguised as a boy, Rosalind teaches Orlando how to woo—her! The royal romance between Rosalind and Orlando is played out amidst battling brothers, mishap adventures and chance encounters that lead to hilarity! Artistic Director **Rick Lombardo's** inaugural production will also emphasize the transformative power of romantic love and nature's force to heal the scars of political and technological oppression.

Rick Lombardo is in his second season as Artistic Director of San Jose Rep. He was previously the Artistic Director for thirteen years at the award-winning New Repertory Theatre, the leading mid-size resident theatre in the greater Boston area. Last spring, he was awarded the Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence from the Boston Theatre Critics Association for his work at New Rep. He has also been the recipient of four individual Elliot Norton Awards and is a nine-time winner of the "IRNE" award for his productions of *The Clean House*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Ragtime*, *Waiting for Godot* and *The Weir*. His world premiere of *According to Tip* transferred to Boston's theatre district last fall. His New Rep production of *Bill W. and Dr. Bob* enjoyed an extended run off-Broadway in 2006.

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.

As You Like It features some of the Bay Area's finest actors. Returning to San Jose Rep's stage are **Anna Bullard** (Rosalind), **James Carpenter** (Jaques/Old Adam), **Steve Irish** (Touchstone), **Craig Marker** (Charles/Silvius), **Andy Murray** (Duke Senior/Duke Frederick/Corin) and **Adam Yazbeck** (Oliver). **Bullard** appeared last season in *The Foreigner* and *Around the World in 80 Days*. Additional credits include Ophelia in the educational DVD *This is Hamlet*, *Collected Stories* with Carol Mayo Jenkins at Cinnabar Theater. **Carpenter** appeared last season as Pablo Picasso in *A Picasso*. His many credits include performances at American Conservatory Theatre, The Old Globe Theatre, The Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Intiman Theatre. **Irish** appeared last season in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *The Foreigner*. Other Bay Area credits include *Sex at the Aurora* Theater; *Enchanted April* and *Nixon's Nixon* at Center Rep; and *Man and Superman* at California Shakespeare Theater. **Marker** appeared at the Rep in *The Foreigner*, *Iphigenia at Aulis* and *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*. His other Bay Area credits include *Romeo and Juliet* at California Shakespeare Theater, *Third* at TheatreWorks and *Love's Labour's Lost* at San Francisco Shakespeare Festival. **Murray** last appeared at San Jose Rep in *Rabbit Hole*. He has worked at American Conservatory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and California Shakespeare Theater. **Yazbeck** appeared in last season's world premiere of *The Kite Runner*.

Making their San Jose Repertory Theatre debuts are **Blake Ellis** (Orlando), **Cristi Miles** (Celia), **Sepideh Moafi** (Audrey/Amiens), **Jeanette Penley** (Phebe/Lord), **Alexander Prather** (LeBeau/William) and **Jonathan Shue** (Dennis/Martext/Jaques de Boys). **Ellis** was last seen in Berkeley Repertory Theatre's production of *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*. **Miles** has worked with Teatro Milagro, Actors' Shakespeare Project and New Repertory Theatre. **Moafi** has performed at venues including The Kennedy Center and Davis Symphony Hall. **Penley** has performed regionally at Center Repertory Theatre and internationally at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the International Theatre Festival in Cyprus, Greece. **Prather** is a recent graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in Los Angeles. **Shue** has appeared in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Rough Crossing* and *The Matchmaker*.

As You Like It was collaborated on by a team of talented and creative designers. **David Lee Cuthbert** (Media and Scenic Designer) has designed lights for several Rep productions including *The Kite Runner* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. He designed Billy Crystal's *700 Sundays* on Broadway and its U.S., Canadian and Australian tours. **B. Modern** (Costume Designer) has designed costumes for over 35 productions at San Jose Rep. She has worked at many prestigious theatres around the nation and is an Associate Artist at Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and at Geva Theatre Center, New York. **Dan Meeker's** (Lighting Designer) lighting credits in New York include, *Rock Doves* at the Irish Arts Center, which garnered a Hayes Award nomination. **Haddon Givens Kime's** (Original Music and Sound Designer) off-Broadway work includes scores for *The Atheist*, *The Blowin of Baile Gall*, and *Haymarket* by Zayd Dohrn. He is the recipient of the 2008 IRNE award for his score and sound design for New Rep's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. **Dave Maier's** (Fight Director) recent work includes *Private Lives* and *Romeo & Juliet* at California Shakespeare Theater and *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* at Berkeley Rep. **Amanda Folena** (Movement Consultant) has earned many awards including a Jack Nicholson Award for Best Actress, the USC Dance Award for Best Choreographer and the National Irene Ryan Award at the Kennedy Center ACTF National Competition in Washington, D.C. **Folena** is currently on the artistic staff at City Lights Theater Company in San Jose. The stage manager is **Laxmi Kumaran**.

As You Like It is sponsored by **Hitachi Data Systems** 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 29 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

###



As You Like It

FACT SHEET

WHO: Written by William Shakespeare

Directed by Rick Lombardo

Featuring the work of David Lee Cuthbert (Media & Scenic Designer), B. Modern (Costume Designer), Dan Meeker (Lighting Designer), Haddon Kime (Original Music & Sound Designer), Dave Maier (Fight Choreographer), Amanda Folena (Movement Consultant), Seamus Strahan-Mauk (Associate Lighting & Media Designer) and Laxmi Kumaran (Stage Manager)

Cast Anna Bullard (Rosalind), James Carpenter (Old Adam/Jaques), Jayne Deely (Phebe/Lord) Blake Ellis (Orlando), Steve Irish (Touchstone), Craig Marker (Charles/Silvius/ Lord), Cristi Miles (Celia), Sepideh Moafi (Audrey/Amiens/Lord), Andy Murray (Duke Senior/Duke Frederick/Corin), Alexander Prather (LeBeau/William/Lord), Jonathan Shue (Dennis/Martext/Jaques de Boys/Lord) and Adam Yazbeck (Oliver/Lord)

WHAT: Artistic Director **Rick Lombardo's** inaugural production of Shakespeare's captivating comedy, *As You Like It*, is a contemporary re-imagining of this wicked tale of sibling rivalry, royals in exile, mistaken identities, cross dressing and "love at first sight."

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

WHEN: Previews: August 29th-September 3rd, 2009
Opens: September 4th, 2009
Closes: September 27th, 2009
Press Opening Night: Friday, September 4, 2009 @ 8:00pm

PERFORMANCES		AUG		SEP			
S	M	T	W	T	F	29	
						8pm	
30 2pm D 7pm	31	1	2 8pm	3 8pm	4 8pm OPENING NIGHT	5 3pm D 8pm	
6 2pm D	7	8 7:30pm	9 11am D 8pm	10 8pm	11 8pm	12 3pm D 8pm	
13 2pm D	14	15 7:30pm	16 11am D 8pm	17 8pm	18 8pm	19 3pm D 8pm	
20 2pm D	21	22 7:30pm	23 11am D 8pm	24 11am D 8pm	25 8pm	26 3pm D 8pm	
27 2pm D							

D = Post-show Discussion P = Creative Playshop AS = American Sign Language Interpreted Performance Saturday, Sept. 26 at 3p.m.

Directing Sponsor **HITACHI** Inspire the Next
 Artistic Sponsor

HOW MUCH: \$35.00-\$64.00

Discounts:

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

PHOTOS:

TIX & INFO: 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

WHAT: **Pay What You Will Night** is a new addition to San Jose Rep's extensive community outreach program that supports the company's mission of accessibility and affordability of every member of the community. It is also one more way of broadening our audience and the community conversation that surrounds great theatre.

WHEN: Tuesday, September 1, 2009 at 7:30p.m.

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

PRICES: **Pay What You Will**

HOW: Call the box office at 408.367.7255. Tickets will go on sale one week prior to designated performance.

WHAT: Come dish about the show, unwind, relax and enjoy LIVE piano music, premium wine and the opportunity to chat about the performance you've just seen. On Thursday and Saturday evenings, beginning September 10, you're invited to join us after-hours in the Curtain Call Patron Lounge. Who knows, you may even spot a cast member or two.

WHEN: September 10, 12, 17, 19, 22, and 26 after the evening performance.

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: **Post Show Discussions:** Join the cast and artistic staff in presentation/panel discussion about the artistic process behind *As You Like It*

WHEN: August 30th, September 5th, 6th, 9th, 12th, 13th, 16th, 19th, 20th, 23rd, 24th, 26th, and 27th 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, August 5th to September 26th, 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, September 26th, 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).
