

San Jose Rep announces 30th anniversary lineup

[Robert Hurwitt, Chronicle Theater Critic](#)

Friday, February 5, 2010

A world premiere by Philip Kan Gotanda and West Coast premieres of plays by Robert Clyman and Frank Higgins take center stage in San Jose Repertory Theatre's 30th anniversary season, to be announced today by Artistic Director Rick Lombardo. The season will also feature the inauguration of the company's new education outreach program, San Jose Rep on Tour, to bring professional productions of classic plays to high schools.

The season opens in September with Higgins' "Black Pearl Sings," a musical drama about the budding relationship between a driven white female ethnomusicologist and a street-smart African American prisoner in Texas. Clyman's biomedical thriller, "Secret Order," in which corporate greed and politics clash over cancer research, follows in October. In December the company turns to Christopher McGovern's musical bio of Ginger Rogers, "Backwards in High Heels."

The company opens the new year with Ken Ruta as the veteran Shakespearean actor and James Carpenter as his devoted helper in Ronald Harwood's "The Dresser." A play still to be selected will fill an open slot in March and April, and the season will close with the premiere of Gotanda's "Love in American Times," a romantic comedy about the modern art of matchmaking, bringing together a successful white businessman and an accomplished, attractive Asian woman.

The new educational outreach program will open in the fall with a school touring production of "The Glass Menagerie." For information about subscriptions, call (408) 367-7255 or go to www.sjrep.com.

E-mail Robert Hurwitt at rhurwitt@sfchronicle.com.

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/02/05/DD381BQ4OL.DTL>

This article appeared on page **F - 2** of the San Francisco Chronicle