



**THE NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER ANNOUNCES
THE COMPANY'S 2007-08 PRIDE SEASON
(August 18, 2007-July 6, 2008)**

**WITH ADDED EXCLUSIVE OFF-BROADWAY ENGAGEMENT
THE BIG VOICE: GOD OR MERMAN?
(August 1-19, 2007)
&
BONUS WINTER CABARET SERIES
DIVAS IN DECEMBER
(November 28, 2007 – December 30, 2007)**

**Plus
NCTC launches New Audience Flex Pass Season Subscriptions for ages 18-25**

**For Pride Season 2007-08, NCTC presents a special Press Night
for all performances in the Walker Theatre**

SAN FRANCISCO, March 7, 2007—The New Conservatory Theatre Center Founding and Artistic Director Ed Decker announced today a diverse array of productions for Pride Season 2007-08, an exclusive August limited-engagement of the off-Broadway hit *THE BIG VOICE: God or Merman?* with the original cast, a special winter cabaret series, *Divas in December*, and the launch of a new young-audience subscription package.

Pride Season 2007-08 will present eight productions and includes an NCTC commission comedy by Andrew Black and Patricia Milton titled *It's Murder, Mary*; and *Men in Uniform*, a world premiere compilation of short plays written by members of NCTC gay writers program led by Tom W. Kelly and Garret Jon Groenveld. NCTC's Pride Season 2007-08 also includes the United States premieres of Tommy Murphy's *Holding the Man*, a love story from Australia based on the international best-selling autobiography of Timothy Conigrave, and Salvatore Antonio's drama *In Gabriel's Kitchen* from Canada.

Bay Area favorite *Greater Tuna*, by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, and Ed Howard; Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa's urban drama/comedy, *Based on a Totally True Story*, Doug Wright's Tony Award-winning drama *I Am My Own Wife*, and Steven Dolginoff's musical drama *THRILL ME: The Leopold and Loeb Story* complete the season.

NCTC's Pride Season 2007-08 will be presented August 18, 2007–July 6, 2008 at The New Conservatory Theatre Center at 25 Van Ness Avenue.

“The plays this season exemplify the intersection of rural, urban and suburban perspectives. They also look at history as it informs both the present and our future. Whether comic or dramatic, all of these stories highlight our diverse relationships with one another and the planet,” said Ed Decker. This new season embraces the new ideas, circumstances, and worlds that unfold under the limitless canopy of imagination. Five of the eight productions are new to San Francisco audiences, and all are characteristic of the visionary mission of NCTC to inform, embrace, and educate.

NCTC will jumpstart the 2007-08 season August 1-19 with ***THE BIG VOICE: God or Merman?***, a critically-acclaimed, side-splitting, new off-Broadway musical from New York. This special event limited engagement features writers (and original cast members) Steve Shalchlin and Jim Brochu, and is directed by Anthony Bornao.

A bonus winter cabaret series, ***Divas in December***, sets out to prove that divas and passion will always be in fashion during the holidays. Carole Cook brings her one-woman show *Dress Up* to the Decker Theatre for a special ten-performance engagement. Sharon McKnight will ring in the holiday season with fifteen provocative cabaret performances of *Songs to Offend Almost Anyone for the Holidays*.

Tickets and Transportation Information

Season subscriptions for **Pride Season 2007-08** range from \$140 to \$280. This year, NCTC introduces a **New Audience Flex Pass for ages 18-25**, which includes all nine Pride Season productions for only \$75, with a valid ID. Returning subscribers may purchase subscriptions for Pride Season 2007-2008 beginning April 2, and subscriptions will be available for new subscribers starting May 7. Single tickets are \$20-\$40 and go on sale July 5, 2006. Season samplers (three-show subscriptions) range from \$50-100. Single tickets and subscription packages are available through the NCTC Box Office at (415) 861-8972 Wednesday through Saturday, 1:30-7PM, and Sunday through Tuesday, Noon-3PM. Tickets and subscriptions may also be purchased online at www.nctcsf.org. Student rush tickets may be purchased for \$15 with a valid student ID at the NCTC box office two hours before the performance.

Special Event tickets for *THE BIG VOICE: God or Merman?*, *Dress Up*, and *Songs to Offend Almost Anyone for the Holidays* are sold separately, but may be added onto all 2007-08 Pride Season subscription packages. These tickets will be available starting on July 5 and will range from \$15-\$35 each.

The New Conservatory Theatre Center is located at 25 Van Ness Avenue, near Market Street. Patrons are encouraged to use public transportation to attend NCTC performances. NCTC is within half a block of the Van Ness Muni stop, within 3 blocks of the Civic Center BART station, and near numerous bus lines, including the 6, 7, 9, 21, 26, 42, 47, 49, 71, and F Market Street. There is a bus stop in front of the building. For further public transportation information, please visit www.bart.gov and www.sfmta.com.

For further press information and high resolution photographs, please visit

www.nctcsf.org/press_room.htm or contact:

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**2007-08 PRIDE SEASON
CALENDAR & NARRATIVES**

*Performances and schedules are subject to change

THE BIG VOICE: God or Merman?
SF Premiere Special Event

DECKER Theatre
Previews: Aug. 1-3, 2007
Runs: Aug. 4 -19, 2007
Matinees: Aug. 5, 12, 19 2007

A Musical Comedy in Two Lives
Written and Performed by Steve Shalchlin
and Jim Brochu

Wed-Sat @ 8PM
Sunday Matinees @ 2PM

Directed by Anthony Bornao

ORIGINAL CAST

Steve and Jim tell all! *THE BIG VOICE: God or Merman?* is a critically-acclaimed new musical from New York about a Baptist from Arkansas and a Catholic from Brooklyn who find Eternal Salvation in the Temple of Musical Theatre. This side-splitting comedy, featuring the original cast, is a about a "gay marriage" between two men performed by the couple themselves. Or, as the Dallas Morning News put it, "Picture Zero Mostel and Anthony Perkins in love."

Greater Tuna
Comedy

WALKER Theatre
Previews: Aug. 10-17, 2007
Runs: Aug. 18 –Sep. 16, 2007
Matinees: Aug. 12, 26, Sept. 2, 16

Written by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears,
& Ed Howard

Wed-Sat @ 8PM
Sunday Matinees @ 2PM

NO SHOW: Aug. 19, 2006

Good morning, Tuna! *Greater Tuna*, created by Williams, Sears, and Howard, is set in the fictional town of Tuna, Texas—the "third-smallest" town in the state. This two-man show, self-described as having "plenty of 'Tex' appeal," has plenty of character (and characters!) and is, at the same time, an affectionate commentary on and a withering satire of small-town Southern life and attitudes.

Holding The Man
A Love Story
US Premiere from Australia

DECKER Theatre
Previews: Sept. 21-28, 2007
Runs: Sept. 29 –Nov. 4, 2007
Matinees: Sept. 23, Oct. 7, 8, 14, 21, 28, Nov. 4, 2007

Adapted by Tommy Murphy from the
award-winning memoir by Timothy
Conigrave

Wed-Sat @ 8PM
Sunday Matinees @ 2PM

NO SHOW: Sept. 30, 2007

Tommy Murphy's adaptation of Timothy Conigrave's award-winning memoir chronicles Conigrave's fifteen-year relationship with John Caleo that started at an all-boys Catholic school and weathered disapproval, separation, temptation and, ultimately, death. This work tells a breathtakingly honest, achingly funny, and completely heart-wrenching story that speaks across generations, sexual preferences, and cultures.

Based on a Totally True Story

Urban Comedy/Drama

By Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa

WALKER Theatre

Previews: Nov. 2-9, 2007

Runs: Nov. 10 –Dec. 16, 2007

Matinees: Nov. 18, 25, Dec. 2, 9, 23, 30 2007

Wed-Sat @ 8PM

Sunday Matinees @ 2PM

NO SHOWS: Nov. 21 & 22, 2007

Ethan Keene is a young, talented playwright and comic book writer on the verge of making it big. When a veteran Hollywood producer decides she wants to turn one of his plays into a horror movie, the frenzy that follows forces him to deal with the real drama in his life – his relationship with his family and his boyfriend.

In Gabriel's Kitchen

Drama

US Premiere from Canada

Written by Salvatore Antonio

DECKER Theatre

Previews: Jan. 11-18, 2008

Runs: Jan. 19- Feb. 17, 2008

Matinees: Jan. 13, 27, Feb. 10, 17, 2008

Wed-Sat @ 8PM

Sunday Matinees @ 2PM

NO SHOW: Jan. 20, 2008

In Gabriel's Kitchen is Salvatore Antonio's debut play, centering on an Old-World Italian-Canadian family's reaction to their youngest son's homosexuality. The play exposes the irreversible consequences that Gabriel, the "favorite" son, and his tight-knit family face after he falls in love. *In Gabriel's Kitchen* explores the destructive nature of denial and the almost imperceptible hope which springs from epiphany.

I Am My Own Wife

Drama

Written by Doug Wright

WALKER Theatre

Previews: Jan. 25-Feb. 1, 2008

Runs: Feb. 2- Mar. 2, 2008

Matinees: Jan. 27, Feb. 10, 17, 24, Mar. 3, 2008

Wed-Sat @ 8PM

Sunday Matinees @ 2PM

NO SHOW: Feb. 3, 2007

Based on a true story, the Tony Award-winning *I am My Own Wife* tells the fascinating tale of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, a German transvestite who managed to survive both the Nazi onslaught and the repressive East German Communist regime.

THRILL ME: The Leopold and Loeb Story

Musical Drama

Book, Music and Lyrics by Stephen Dolginoff

WALKER Theatre

Previews: Mar. 28-Apr. 4, 2008

Runs: Apr. 5-May 4, 2008

Matinees: Mar. 30, Apr. 13, 20, 27, May 4, 2008

Wed-Sat @ 8PM

Sunday Matinees @ 2PM

NO SHOW: Apr. 6, 2008

Nathan Leopold was passionate about Richard Loeb, who was passionate about crime and excitement. *THRILL ME* reveals the series of events in 1924 Chicago that led impending law students Leopold and Loeb toward notoriety as “the thrill killers.”

It's Murder Mary

World Premiere Comedy

Written by Andrew Black and Patricia Milton

DECKER Theatre

Previews: May 9-16, 2008

Runs: May 17-Jun. 28, 2008

Matinees: May 11, 25, June 1, 8, 22 2008

Wed-Sat @ 8PM

Sunday Matinees @ 2PM

NO SHOWS: May 18, Jun. 8, 29, 2008

Whodunnit? The hunky porn star, the aging actress, or possibly the dashing college student? This NCTC commissioned production, set at an exclusive Russian River resort, is a campy yet tension-filled murder mystery that will keep you guessing until the last body falls.

Men In Uniform

World Premiere

Short Plays by Bay Area Writers

Featuring the work of: Kenyon Brown, Jamie Daniel, Garret Jon Groenveld, Bob Hayden, Tom W. Kelly, Brian Tognotti, Christopher Wiley, and BK Wells

WALKER Theatre

Previews: May 30-Jun. 6, 2008

Runs: Jun. 7-Jul. 6, 2008

Matinees: Jun. 1, 15, 22, Jul. 6, 2008

Wed-Sat @ 8PM

Sunday Matinees @ 2PM

NO SHOW: Jun. 8, 29, 2008

Conceived and compiled by Tom W. Kelly

A vibrant and sexy collection of new work by Bay Area writers from NCTC's Gay Playwriting Workshop, *Men in Uniform* is a testosterone-suffused, sexy compilation of short plays that involves men in (and out of) uniform including Marines, security guards, sportscasters, exterminators, auto mechanics, and preachers. Issues of masculinity, sexuality, identity, community, and eternal salvation are tantalizingly tempered by humor, fantasy, and humanity.

**2007-08 DIVAS IN DECEMBER
NARRATIVES & CALENDAR**

Carole Cook in Dress Up

One-woman show
SF Premiere

DECKER Theatre
Previews: Nov. 28, 29, 30 @ 8PM
Runs: Dec. 1-9, 2007
Matinees: Dec. 2, 9, 2007

10 Performances

Wed-Sat @ 8PM
Sunday Matinees @ 2PM

This holiday season, NCTC hosts brassy & bold actress/entertainer Cook in her one woman show that recalls her extraordinary life growing up in Texas, her career on stage (*42nd Street*), screen (*Sixteen Candles*), and television (*The Merv Griffin Show*, *Dynasty*.) The evening promises raucous mirth with plenty of holiday cheer.

***Sharon McNight: Songs to Offend Almost
Everyone for the Holidays***

Cabaret

DECKER Theatre
Previews: Dec. 12, 13, 14 @ 8PM
Runs: Dec. 15-30, 2007
Matinees: Dec. 16, 23, 30, 2007

15 Performances

Wed-Sat @ 8PM
Sunday Matinees @ 2PM

Chock full of holiday irreverence, political incorrectness, and first amendment rabble-rousing, this provocative cabaret evening is designed to offend minorities and majorities of every persuasion.

Opening Night Festivities

After each Opening Night during the pride season, The New Conservatory Theatre Center hosts a champagne reception at which the audience may meet with the cast and crew.

Press Nights in the NCTC Walker Theatre

For Pride Season 2007-08, The New Conservatory Theatre Center introduces a Press Night on the Friday performance prior to Opening Nights in the Walker Theatre. Created specifically for the media, Press Nights will reserve the seats with the best sightlines in the 60-seat theatre for media correspondents and offer them an opportunity to view the performance before Opening Night.

About NCTC's Pride Season

The mission of the New Conservatory Theatre Center is to champion innovative, high quality theatre experiences for youth, adults and artists to effect personal and societal growth, enlightenment and change. NCTC's Pride Season is an eleven-month subscriber-based LGBT theatre performance program recognized for its top quality creative productions. The Pride Season produces the work of local, national and international playwrights.

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These press materials and downloadable 2007-08 Season images are available at www.nctcsf.org/press_room.htm. For further press information, please contact: Melanie Lieu (415)861-4914 x 116 / melanie@nctcsf.org