



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The San Francisco Premiere of the Broadway Hit Musical *Xanadu*
Book by Douglas Carter Beane, Music and Lyrics by Jeff Lynne and John Farrar**

San Francisco, August 1, 2011 — **New Conservatory Theatre Center** is proud to present *Xanadu* by Douglas Carter Beane, Jeff Lynne, and John Farrar. The show will run from December 2, 2011 through January 15, 2012: Wednesday through Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 2pm. All performances will take place at The New Conservatory Theatre Center (Decker Theatre), located at 25 Van Ness Avenue near Market Street in San Francisco. Tickets are \$26-\$45 each, and are available at the New Conservatory Theatre Center Box Office (415) 861-8972, or online at www.nctcsf.org.

Based on the **1980 cult classic** film, *Xanadu* is the story of a beautiful Greek Muse named Clio who descends from Mt. Olympus to inspire Sonny, a struggling artist. It is in this moment that Sonny discovers his ultimate goal in life: to create a space where art, culture, and athleticism can collide; a space where people can be free amongst music and euphoric art. He is speaking of course of the first roller disco. But when Clio, disguised as an Australian roller girl named Kira, falls into forbidden love with the mortal Sonny, her jealous sisters take advantage of the situation and Clio risks eternal banishment to the underworld. This **musical spoof** of the 1980 film is full of tongue-in-cheek banter, laughable villains, roller-skating divas, and comical spectacles that will have you singing and dancing through **80's nostalgia**.

Douglas Carter Beane (book) Beane's Broadway play *The Little Dog Laughed* received the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Media Award (GLAAD) for Best Play, and was also **nominated for a Tony** for Best New Play. His other works include *As Bees In Honey Drown*, for which he won an **Outer Critics Circle** and a **John Gassner Award**, *Music From A Sparkling Planet* and *The Country Club*. He wrote the screenplay for the film adaptation of his play *Advice From A Caterpillar* which won the Aspen Comedy Festival's Best Feature. His film *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar* was produced by Steven Spielberg, was the number one film in America for a month and is now a television favorite. *The Big Time*, Beane's first musical, received rave reviews last year and his next musical, a stage adaptation of the film *The Bandwagon* is slated to open on Broadway later this season. Fascinated by non-traditional forms of theater, Beane has written the revues *White Lies* and *Mondo Drama* and this season a live theatrical soap opera, *The Cartells*. As artistic director of the New York Theater Company Drama Department,

he produced over forty productions including acclaimed revivals of *As Thousands Cheer*, *June Moon* and *The Torchbearers* and world premiere works by Paul Rudnick, David Sedaris and Wendy Wasserstein. His new play, *Don't Follow Me, I'm Lost, Too* will open next season in New York and he is currently developing a television series for producer Lorne Michaels. He resides in New York City with his partner, composer Lewis Flinn and their son, Cooper. **Jeff Lynn** (*Music and Lyrics*) formed the Electric Light Orchestra, or E.L.O., in the 1970's. The group gradually developed from cult favorites into one of the 70s' leading recording acts, scoring international success with several platinum-selling albums, including *A New World Record* and *Out Of The Blue*. Lynne's dual talents as a composer and producer ensured the group's status but, sensing an artistic sterility, he abandoned his creation in 1986. The artist then assumed an increasingly backroom role, winning praise for his production work with George Harrison (*Cloud Nine*), Randy Newman (*Land Of Dreams*) and Roy Orbison (*Mystery Girl*) and he has also contributed his distinctive production qualities to much of Tom Petty's recent output. Lynne's work with Orbison coincided with his position as 'Otis Wilbury' in the Traveling Wilburys, an informal 'supergroup' completed by Orbison, Harrison, Tom Petty and Bob Dylan. This particularly prolific period was also marked by his work with Brian Wilson on the ex-Beach Boys' first long-awaited solo album. In recent years, Lynne has produced the Beatles lost tapes, notably *Free as a Bird* and *Real Love*. He co-produced Paul McCartney's *Flaming Pie* in 1997. **John Farrar** (*Music and Lyrics*) is a music producer, songwriter, music arranger, singer and guitarist who is best known for his work with Olivia Newton-John with whom he wrote and produced many hit songs.. His discography reflects an artist with a wide range of styles, from "You're the One That I Want" to "Physical." Farrar's biggest successes with Newton-John as writer-producer came with the film version of the musical *Grease* in 1977. During filming, the producers realized that the original score of the musical was too short to bring the film to regular feature length, and that several extra songs were needed, so Farrar wrote and submitted two original songs, "Hopelessly Devoted To You" and "You're The One That I Want." Both were accepted and incorporated into the movie and they proved to be two of the most successful songs on the soundtrack, with both tracks becoming major international hits when released as singles during 1978.

Director and Choreographer Stephanie Temple is a graduate of the University of Southern California School of Theatre. She has worked with New Conservatory Theatre Center, 42nd Street Moon, Sierra Repertory Theatre, and the Pacific Coast Performing Arts. In 2008 Temple won the **San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award** for her choreography in *Zanna, Don't!*, and made her New York City directorial debut with *Divalicious* at the world famous Metropolitan Room. **Musical Director G. Scott Lacy** has worked with New Conservatory Theatre Center on *Mormon American Princess*, *Zanna, Don't!* for which he received a Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Nomination, *Dames At Sea* for which he received a **Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award**, *Boys Will Be Boys* and *Divalicious*. Mr. Lacy has musical directed over one hundred and forty productions working for such companies as the Tony Award-Winning La Jolla Playhouse, Lamb's Players Theatre, Musical Theatre Guild of Los Angeles, Malashock Dance

Company, San Diego Opera, Diversionary Theatre, Diablo Theatre Company, and Contra Costa Civic Theatre to name a few. A successful vocal coach, Lacy's clients include Tony, Emmy, Grammy and Golden Globe Award-Winning performers.

Xanadu features an **ensemble of nine** accomplished actors. **Nikki Arias** (Melpomene) has been in numerous Bay Area musicals including 14 Lamplighter productions, *Jerry Springer: The Opera* at Ray of Light Theatre and most recently as Ronette in Boxcar Theatre's *Little Shop of Horrors*. In 2003 Arias won the Alameda Civic Light Opera Award for Best Featured Actress for her role as the Beggar Woman in *Sweeny Todd*. **Angel Burgess** (Erato) was recently seen on the Bus Barn Stage Company stage as BLUE Girl in *Shout! Mod the Musical*. Her recent credits include *Hairspray* at the Contra Costa Musical Theatre and *Joyful Noise* at The Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. **Chloe Condon** (Kira) was recently seen in Broadway by the Bays production of *Gypsy, Hairspray* with the Mountain Play Association, Ray of Lights production of *Jerry Springer the Opera, High Fidelity the Musical* at San Francisco State University Theatre, *Chess* directed by Barbara Damashek at San Francisco State University Theatre, *Singin' in the Rain* at Woodminster Summer Musicals, and the series *Disappeared* for the Discovery Channel. **Molly Kruse** (Euterpe) has trained with Carnegie Mellon University, NYU CAP 21, Ann Reinking's Broadway Theatre Project, and American Conservatory Theatre's Young Conservatory. Kruse was recently seen in *The Lily's Revenge* at Magic Theatre, *Lend Me a Tenor* at The Livermore Shakespeare Festival, and was a featured performer for the TheatreWorks Writing Retreat. **Nathan Marken** (Thalia) has most recently performed in the SF Parlor Opera production of *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, as well as the premiere of *Trifles* and *Solidarity* with Goat Hall Productions. Marken was also seen in the final cast of *Insignificant Others* at Pier 39 in San Francisco. **Jesus Martinez Jr** (Sonny) has been seen in *The Gilded* at The Thick House of San Francisco, Golden State Theatres' production of *RENT*, and as Prince Charming and Aladdin on Disney Cruise Lines. **Jaimelee Roberts** (Calliope) was last seen in Wily West's staged reading of *Believers*. Previously Roberts was seen in *Failure To Communicate* at The Garage, P.U.S. Theater's *Rough for Radio II*, and has worked with Willows Theatre Company, Eugene O'Neil's Tao House, and New Conservatory Theatre Center's YouthAware program. Roberts made her film debut in November of 2011 in the short film *Baby Snatchers* by Scary Cow Productions. **Alex Rodriguez** (Terpsicore) just completed a national tour of *Miss Saigon* with Big League Theatricals. Rodriguez recently appeared in *RENT* at Contra Costa Musical Theatre, Center Rep's *Cabaret, Bat Boy* at Alterena Playhouse, *Insignificant Others* at San Francisco's Pier 39, and the films *The Stranger in Us* by Paperback Films and *Love, Concord* with GG Films. **Joe Wicht** (Danny) recently starred as Lee William Burroughs in Erling Wold's chamber opera *Queer*. At New Conservatory Theatre Center Wicht performed in *Dirty Little Showtunes, When Pigs Fly, Whoop-Dee-Doo* and *Pageant*. Wicht has also served as musical director for local cabaret artists Carly Ozard, Connie Champagne, Darlene Popovic and Stephanie Temple. Wicht also co-produces the annual Cabaret Showcase Showdown with Katya Smirnoff-Skyy in San Francisco.

New Conservatory Theatre Center has recruited **four talented designers** for this San Francisco Premiere. **Kuo-Hao Lo** (scenic design) previous designs include *Waiting for Giovanni*, *Regrets Only*, *Treefall*, *A Perfect Ganesh*, *Anita Bryant Died for Your Sins*, *Master Class*, *The Little Dog Laughed*, *Some Men* and *Zanna, Don't!*. Lo also received a San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Outstanding Achievement Award for his design of *Dames at Sea* in 2009 and *Sugar Witch* in 2010. **Jeff Hamby** (costume design) is currently an Master of Fine Arts candidate at San Francisco State University. Hamby's recent projects include *Marry Me a Little* with Theatre Rhinoceros and *Passion Play* with the Actor's Ensemble of Berkeley. In North Carolina Hamby worked with Children's Theatre of Charlotte, the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival and Tony-winning designer William Ivey Long. **Christian Mejia** (lighting design) is a graduate of Tisch School of the Arts. New Conservatory Theatre Center audiences will remember his designs for *Waiting for Giovanni*, *A Perfect Ganesh*, and *Treefall*. Mejia has also designed for PunkkiCo Dance Company in San Francisco and just finished their production of *Pick Cells* at Dance Mission Theatre. **Taylor Peckham** (musical tracks producer) is a working arranger, orchestrator, accompanist and musical director in San Diego. Peckham recently served as assistant musical director this summer on a regional production of *The Music Man* under the supervision of G. Scott Lacy. The stage manager for the production is **Margaux Hodges**, who just completed a run of *Gypsy* at Diablo Theatre Company. Other credits include Shotgun Players in Berkeley and Contra Costa Civic Theatre.

During the run of the show, theatre lovers can enjoy a plethora of **special events**:

- A *Special Performance* of selected songs from *Xanadu* will be performed by the cast at Marines Memorial Theatre during the Richmond Ermet Aids Foundation (REAF) "Help is on the Way" benefit Monday, December 5 at 8pm.
- *Low-cost previews* take place on Friday, December 2; Saturday December 3; Sunday December 4; Wednesday December 7; Thursday December 8; Friday December 9.
- *Opening Night* will take place on Saturday, December 10 at 8pm.
- A Free *Onstage Insight* discussion with the actors and director will take place after the Sunday Matinee performance on December 16.

New Conservatory Theatre Center has been in operation for thirty years in San Francisco. Under founding artistic director Ed Decker, the theatre has grown to become the only theatre in the nation offering a full season centered on theatrical work for youth and the **Queer and Allied community**. The theatres **mission** is to champion innovative, high quality productions and educational theatre experiences for youth, artists, and the queer and allied communities to affect personal and societal growth, enlightenment, and change. New Conservatory Theatre Center is known for its gay-positive productions, its foundational **anti-bullying** work with youth, and its welcoming environment for new and emerging local artists.

Xanadu

FACT SHEET

WHO: Book by Douglas Carter Beane

Music and Lyrics by Jeff Lynne and John Farrar

Directed and Choreographed by Stephanie Temple

Music Direction by G. Scott Lacy

Designed by Kuo-Hao Lo (sets), Jeff Hamby (costumes), Christian Mejia (lights),
Taylor Peckham (music track production)

Starring Nikki Arias (Melpomene), Angel Burgess (Erato), Chloe Condon (Kira),
Molly Kruse (Euterpe), Nathan Marken (Thalia), Jesus Martinez Jr (Sonny),
Jaimelee Roberts (Calliope), Alex Rodriguez (Terpsicore), and Joe Wicht (Danny)

WHAT: *Xanadu*, the San Francisco Premiere of the Broadway Hit Musical

WHERE: New Conservatory Theatre Center (Decker Theatre)
25 Van Ness Avenue @ Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

WHEN: **December 2, 2011 – January 15, 2012**

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8pm

Sundays at 2pm

No Show on Sunday December 11, Saturday December 24, Sunday December 25 and Sunday January 1.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Special Presentation: Monday 12/5 @8pm at Marines Memorial Theatre for the
REAF Benefit "Help is on the Way"
Opening Night: Saturday 12/10 @8pm
OnStage Insight: Following the 2pm matinee performances on Sunday December 18.

COST: \$26-\$45 (subject to change)

Fun Packs available for an additional \$12 include *Xanadu* cocktail, 80's accessories and goodies

Discounts: Groups of 10 or more, contact 415-861-8972 or boxoffice@nctcsf.org

Half-price tickets are available 10 minutes prior to the show for students with I.D

PHOTOS: http://www.nctcsf.org/press_room/xanadu.htm

TICKETS: Box Office (415) 861-8972, or online at www.nctcsf.org.