



LIT MOON THEATRE COMPANY



PRESS RELEASE

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RETURN OF *THE WEDDING* **LIT MOON'S ACCLAIMED PRODUCTION IS BACK** **WITH THREE "ANNIVERSARY" SHOWS**

- **Friday, June 5 at 8 p.m., Saturday, June 6 at 4 p.m. and Sunday, June 7 at 2 p.m. at Center Stage Theater**
- **"Jubilant passion... a Santa Barbara version of *Spring Awakening...*" -- *Independent***
- **Tickets for 6/5 & 6/6: \$20 for Adults, \$12 for Students/Seniors; Benefit Performance 6/7: \$35, Includes Champagne Reception**

Santa Barbara, CA, May 19, 2009 – Infused with an infectious pop music sensibility, Lit Moon's original production *The Wedding* was a critical and popular hit when it made its U.S. debut in Santa Barbara in May 2008. Featuring an eclectic array of musical styles – from pop anthems to bossa nova, from country-tinged ballads to driving rock – *The Wedding's* irresistible music and lyrics helped show a new side of Lit Moon. "A breakthrough show," raved the *Independent*. "A new kind of musical wholeheartedly embracing popular song, like a Santa Barbara version of the Off-Broadway hit *Spring Awakening*." "Lit Moon continues to innovate," wrote the *News Press*, "(and) keeps true to Gogol's touch of absurdity." "The songs...are universally fun," noted the *Daily Sound*, "... and stand up on their own."

Inspired by a Nikolai Gogol's play, *The Wedding* is a satirical musical comical story about getting married, directed by John Blondell and featuring lyrics written by members of the company with music by James Connolly and Anna Abbey. Lit Moon Theatre Company presents three "anniversary" performances of *The Wedding* at the Center Stage Theatre on Friday, June 5 at 8 p.m., a benefit show on Saturday, June 6 at 4 p.m., and a matinee on Sunday, June 7 at 2 p.m.

Tickets to *The Wedding* for Friday, June 5 and Sunday, June 7 are priced at \$20 for adults, \$12 for students/seniors. The Saturday, June 6 show is a benefit for Lit Moon Theatre Company with tickets at \$35. Tickets are available at the Center Stage Theatre Box Office, (805) 963-0408 or www.centerstagetheater.org.

About The Wedding



The cast consists of Stanley Hoffman as The Groom and three actresses, all playing The Bride: Victoria Finlayson, Kate Louise Paulsen, and newcomer Sarah Halford, who replaces original cast member Erin Brehm (who has moved out of the area). James Connelly and Anna Abbey are The Band and have written and perform the songs in *The Wedding*. The songs reflect the inner thoughts and desires of the other characters, who often join in the singing.

Lit Moon was commissioned by Teatr Modjeska of Legnica, Poland, to create a world premiere, site-specific performance for their International Festival "The City," in September 2007. The U.S. Premiere was in Santa Barbara in May 2008.

"Inspired by Nikolai Gogol's play *Marriage*," says Blondell, "we fashioned a very simple story about the perils, pitfalls, and promise of getting married, and fused it with Jim and Anna's great original music. What resulted was a slightly absurd musical satire that explores radically new territory for the company."

Coming in December - *Humbug!*

"The audience was thoroughly engaged by both humor and pathos," raved the *Santa Barbara Independent* about Lit Moon's *Humbug*. "The marvelous actors and their great enthusiasm that brought the story to life... *A Christmas Carol* retains its message of redemption when shown through a modern lens." Lit Moon Theatre Company's imaginative take on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* was adapted by and directed by Lit Moon's acclaimed Artistic Director John Blondell. The piece is performed in the visual, image-oriented Lit Moon fashion with just four actors bringing more than 20 characters to life. The action is integrated with puppetry and original live music. Lit Moon Theatre Company's annual holiday production of *Humbug! A (Lit Moon) Christmas Carol* is scheduled for five performances from December 11 through 19 at the Center Stage Theater. For information, contact the Center Stage Theatre Box Office, (805) 963-0408 or www.centerstagetheater.org

About Lit Moon

Lit Moon Theatre Company is a collective of theatre artists founded in Santa Barbara 1991. Long regarded as Santa Barbara's most innovative theatre company, the company is recognized both here and abroad for its visual, image-oriented brand of theatre-making. This independent, laboratory theatre company integrates aesthetic experimentation with cross-cultural interaction and understanding.

Since 1998, Lit Moon has created numerous residencies with artists from Russia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, and the Czech Republic; presented seven Lit Moon World Theater Festivals; and toured extensively.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Friday, June 5, 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 6, 4 p.m. * *Benefit performance*

Sunday, June 7, 2 p.m.

Center Stage Theater

Lit Moon Theatre Company Presents

THE WEDDING

Satirical musical comedy about getting married. Adapted & directed by John Blondell

6/5 & 6/7: \$20 adults; \$12 students/seniors

6/6: Benefit for Lit Moon Theatre Company, \$35

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