



PRESS RELEASE

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“THE WEDDING” **LIT MOON’S MATRIMONIAL MUSICAL FANTASY** **MAY 16-24 AT CENTER STAGE THEATER**

- **Friday & Saturday, May 16 & 17 at 8 p.m.; Friday, May 23 at 8 p.m. & Saturday, May 24 at 4 p.m.**
- **Musical Satirical-Comedy Includes Live Music and Singing**
- **Adapted from Gogol Play, is Directed by John Blondell**
- **US Premiere; Created for Festival in Legnica, Poland**
- **Tickets on Sale Now: \$20 for Adults, \$14 for Students/ Seniors; ONE KID FREE with Every Paid Adult Ticket**

Santa Barbara, CA, April 18, 2008 – Lit Moon company members and Artistic Director John Blondell traveled to Legnica, Poland, last September to present the World Premiere of their newest work, *The Wedding*, at the Teatr Modjeska’s International Festival “The City.” Inspired Nikolai Gogol’s play, *The Wedding* is a musical satirical-comical story about getting married, directed by Blondell. Infused by an infectious pop music sensibility, the show features lyrics written by members of the theatre company, with music by James Connolly and Anna Abbey. The show features 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 helps show a side of Lit Moon never before seen by local audiences. Lit Moon Theatre Company presents the U.S. premiere of *The Wedding* at the Center Stage Theatre on Friday and Saturday, May 16 and 17 at 8 p.m. and the following weekend on Friday, May 23 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, May 24 at 4 p.m.

Tickets to *The Wedding* are priced at \$20 for adults, \$14 for students/seniors. Get one FREE child’s ticket for every adult ticket purchased; additional children’s tickets are \$7. They are now on sale 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 Erin Brehm. James Connelly and Anna Abbey are The Band and have written and will 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,” which was performed at in September. The show was conceived for a derelict discotheque. Originally one of the city’s most beautiful and beloved theatres in the early 20th century, it had fallen into disrepair and disuse.

“I wanted to create a comedy for this festival using the idiom of American Musical Comedy for the show,” says Blondell, “and create an alternative to the heavy, serious shows that I knew were dominating the festival. Inspired by Nikolai Gogol’s play *Marriage*, 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 aesthetic territory for the company.”

The *Wedding* Synopsis

After a song called “Scream,” which casts romantic attachments in the light of iconic paintings including “Nude Descending a Staircase” (Duchamp), “White on White (Malevich), “The Scream” (Munch), and others, The Bride divulges her confusion about getting married. After spotting a desirable man, The Band and Bride sing “Solitary Man,” about a man in a discotheque.

In Scene Two, The Bride talks about the weather. The Bachelor leaves, and The Band and Bride sing a sad song about being left, entitled “Paint a Picture.”

In Scene Three, The Bride drinks while pondering whether to pursue The Bachelor further.

In Scene Four, The Bride and The Bachelor play a bedroom scene while discussing boating, flowers, cathedrals, and carnivals, ending with a pop anthem about love, “Love Election.”

In Scene Five, The Bride’s excitement grows, and the scene ends with an idealistic song about the future called “Wait.”

In Scene Six, The Bride has second thoughts.

Coming in October – 2008 Lit Moon World Shakespeare Festival

Lit Moon presents the second World Shakespeare Festival from October 16 through 26, 2008, at various venues throughout Santa Barbara.

The inaugural 2006 festival featured seven companies from five countries mounting nine plays, including three world premieres; plus related panels, addresses, an art exhibit, music and performance art, and social events, over 11-days.

The festival is designed to show a range of approaches to Shakespeare's plays, but values bold, original interpretations rooted in highly visual approaches to theatre. It offers a forum for understanding, a platform for discussion and debate, and time for revelry and merriment.

Already confirmed for 2008 are productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hamlet*, *Julius Caesar*, *Othello*, *The Tempest*, *Poor, Poor Lear* featuring companies and artists from the Republic of Georgia, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Finland, and Santa Barbara.

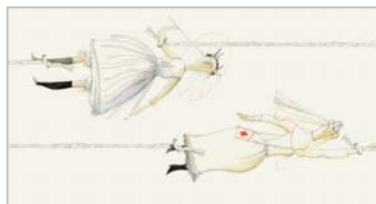
More information will be announced soon.

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 to extensively, most recently returning from engagements in Poland, Macedonia, and Montenegro in October 2007.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Friday, May 16, 8 p.m.

Saturday, May 17, 8 p.m.

Friday, May 23, 8 p.m.

Saturday, May 24, 4 p.m.

Center Stage Theater

LIT MOON THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

THE WEDDING: A Matrimonial Musical Fantasy

Musical satirical-comical story about getting married, includes live music and singing.

Adapted & directed by John Blondell

Tickets: \$20 adults; \$14 students/seniors; \$7 kids

ONE FREE KIDS TICKET with every adult ticket purchased

963-0408, www.litmoon.com or www.centerstagetheatre.org