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SOAR INTO THE NEW YEAR WITH “THE LITTLE PRINCE”

A whimsical adaptation for the child in everyone

**January 23 – February 14, 2009
Theatre on San Pedro Square**

“...a multilayered tale that awakens the child tucked inside all of us.” – Cape Cod Times

SAN JOSE, Calif. (5 December, 2008) – The Tabard Theatre Company continues its eighth season of “infinite possibilities” by delivering a classical reverie on human nature. **THE LITTLE PRINCE**, which opens January 23rd and runs through February 14th, marks the company’s third production in its new home at Theatre on San Pedro Square in downtown San Jose and will be directed by one of Tabard’s favorite performers, Andrew Ceglio.

Rick Cummins and John Scoullar’s vibrant adaptation of the beloved book by Antoine de Saint- Exupéry weaves the magical tale of a Sahara-stranded aviator and his encounter with an equally misplaced young visitor from another planet. Through the Little Prince’s tales of his travels and encounters, the aviator is reminded to consider people and experiences with the innocence and simplicity of a child, filling this whimsical tale with rich and timeless poetic wisdom and magical charm for audiences of all ages.

Written by Antoine de Saint Exupéry and first published in 1943, THE LITTLE PRINCE gained global recognition for the author and illustrator as the book was embraced by readers of all ages around the world. A year after the book was published, Saint Exupéry disappeared over the Mediterranean while flying a reconnaissance mission for Allied Forces. It is generally assumed that the Aviator is an autobiographical character based on Saint Exupéry’s experiences piloting planes, adding poignancy and relevance for adult readers and audiences of this “children’s” tale.

Ceglio, who has performed in a handful of Tabard productions and is a sought-after performer and director/choreographer, is thrilled to be stepping into a directorial role with the company. “Tabard has always been a great place to flex one’s creative muscles, and I plan to take full advantage of that. Taking a simple

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TABARD ANNOUNCES THE LITTLE PRINCE

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approach will allow us to tap into the reality of the story as it tackles major life themes all the while enveloping it with fantasy, whimsy and charm.” With that in mind, Ceglio will imaginatively tell the popular tale with a cast of just five actors, all well-known and busy Bay Area performers: 12-year-old Campbell resident Carolyn DiLoreto in the title role and Saratoga resident Hank Lawson as the Aviator, with San Jose residents Ana-Catrina Buchser, Ariel Buck and Doug Baird each playing several characters with Baird portraying the various “Men on the Planets” that the Little Prince visits.

In keeping with its commitment to make a difference in the community through the arts, Tabard’s staff and cast have designated **Silicon Valley Reads** to receive a portion of the show’s concession proceeds for their continued work to promote reading and literacy, broaden the exposure to and appreciation of good literature, and build community.

A host of special events are scheduled in conjunction with the show including an opening night reception, special matinees during the school day for students and teachers, and opportunities to meet the Little Prince and friends after every performance.

THE LITTLE PRINCE opens January 23 and runs through February 14, 2009 at Theatre on San Pedro Square in downtown San Jose. Tickets for THE LITTLE PRINCE are available through Tabard’s box office at **408-679-2330** or online at **www.tabardtheatre.org**.

PHOTO:

Carolyn DiLoreto brings to life the title character in The Tabard Theatre Company’s production of *The Little Prince*

Photo credit: Judy Bingman, Heather Rasay

Other photos available upon request

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