

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE TABARD THEATRE COMPANY'S
8TH SEASON:
AT HOME WITH THE "CLASSICS"**

SAN JOSE, Calif. (5 August, 2008) – For the first time in its eight nomadic years, **The Tabard Theatre Company** has a permanent home: Theatre on San Pedro Square (TOSPS), 29 North San Pedro Street, in downtown San Jose. As the company settles in, founder and managing artistic director Cathy Spielberger Cassetta is pleased to announce a 4-production season for 2008–2009. Season subscriptions are \$32–\$80, available at **408-679-2330**, tickets@tabardtheatre.org, or www.tabardtheatre.org.

Tabard's eighth season is full of "Infinite Possibilities," rooted in classics that are always in style:

Ancient Greece meets *The West Wing* in October as the season commences with **ANTIGONE (in the Oval Office)**, a politically charged 21st-century translation by Ian Johnston of the Sophocles classic.

Kicking up its heels in November is **HOT 'N' COLE**, a foot-tapping, tuneful celebration of Cole Porter's music created by David Armstrong, Mark Waldrop, and Bruce W. Coyle.

Soaring into the new year comes an adaptation of Antoine de Saint Exupéry's modern masterpiece **THE LITTLE PRINCE**.

Capping the season in March is **CROWNS**, Regina Taylor's rousing and touching gospel musical.

Here's more about The Tabard Theatre Company's 2008–09 season of "Infinite Possibilities":

**ANTIGONE (IN THE OVAL OFFICE)
A timely translation**

World Premiere!

Modern translation of Sophocles' play by Ian Johnston
Adapted by Ana-Catrina Buchser,
based on concept by Cathy Spielberger Cassetta

October 10 – November 1, 2008

Theatre on San Pedro Square, San Jose

"... the most powerful political play ever written."

- Athol Fugard, playwright; *New York Times*

A provocative spin on a classic tale resonates deeply as Americans count down to Election 2008. In this contemporary ANTIGONE, characters from the original Greek text slip into their modern counterparts in America's political landscape. Thrust into the Oval Office after the sudden and tragic death of President Oedipus, Vice President Creon faces national crises that become personal very quickly as his goddaughter Antigone challenges his wartime martial law. The palace in Thebes becomes the Oval Office and the traditional Greek chorus is replaced by the President's Cabinet, the White House Press Corps, and White House staff. *Warning: This timely translation may lead to heated discussions of parallels and pitfalls.*

**HOT 'N' COLE
A Cole Porter Celebration!**

Words and Music by Cole Porter

Written by David Armstrong, Mark Waldrop and Bruce W. Coyle

November 14 – December 6, 2008

Theatre on San Pedro Square, San Jose

"A stylish, vivacious revue that gives the audience more fun than it bargained for." -

Saratogian.com

This revue sings and dances its way through 48 familiar Cole Porter standards in a supper club setting. Besides his gigantic Broadway hits (*Anything Goes*, *Kiss Me Kate*), Cole Porter is also famous for hot American standards like *You're the Top*, *It's De-Lovely*, *Night and Day*, and *I've Got You Under My Skin*, as well as cool classics like *Another Openin'*, *Another Show*, *Don't Fence Me In*, and *Friendship*. Artists like Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, Tony Bennett, Judy Garland, Nat King Cole, Elvis Costello, and Annie Lenox have made them unforgettable. Now *Hot 'n' Cole* offers fresh arrangements and a contemporary spin on these classic works.

**THE LITTLE PRINCE
A whimsical adaptation for the child in everyone**

Adapted by Rick Cummins and John Scoullar

from the book by Antoine de Saint Exupéry

January 23 – February 14, 2009

Theatre on San Pedro Square, San Jose

"...a multilayered tale that awakens the child tucked inside all of us."- Cape Cod Times

With its magical tale of a Sahara-stranded aviator and the equally misplaced young “extra-terrestrial” he encounters, Antoine de Saint Exupéry’s THE LITTLE PRINCE has been a treasure for both children and adults for more than 65 years. A wonderfully touching and creative story of a man who meets an extraordinary boy and relearns what it means to be a child, THE LITTLE PRINCE is full of profound innocence, poignant insights, and fanciful characters -- a journey that is both physical and philosophical as the Little Prince tells the aviator about his many travels and encounters on his search for meaningful answers. This whimsical tale is rich with timeless poetic wisdom and magical charm.

CROWNS

A rousing musical play with “hattitude”

Written by Regina Taylor Adapted from Michael Cunningham and Craig Marberry’s book
Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats

March 6 – March 28, 2009

Theatre on San Pedro Square, San Jose

**“...the sort of experience that changes you...so joyous and full of life
... it's impossible to resist.”-The Oakland Tribune**

CROWNS is a lively and moving portrait of African-American women and how they define themselves through the hats they wear. Playwright Regina Taylor is an award-winning stage, film, and television actor (Lilly Harper in the critically acclaimed *I’ll Fly Away*, which earned her a Golden Globe Award). CROWNS, her endearing play with music, tells the story of a young girl’s transformation in the wake of a family tragedy. Upon relocating to the South from Brooklyn to live with her grandmother, Yolanda begins a reluctant exploration of her roots in an unconventional way. Her journey weaves through a series of anecdotes delivered by a vibrant cast of characters. Each story is a rousing exploration of fashionable church hats and the African- American women who wear them as spiritual “crowns.” Yolanda’s youthful interaction with each character bridges the gap between new and old, bringing new perspective to a practice steeped in tradition and culture. It’s all threaded together by a combination of new and existing music and lends itself brilliantly to such gospel classics as *His Eye Is On the Sparrow* and *Just a Closer Walk*. Brimming with spirituals, blues, rap and hip hop, CROWNS is an inspiring play with music.

Tabard has established a reputation for making a difference in the community by presenting

works not commonly produced with a uniquely refreshing perspective. Because Tabard productions are staged with an “up close and personal” approach, the theatre experience for audiences of all ages is enriched, giving everyone the opportunity to join the journey by using their imaginations.

Committed to outreach, Tabard is pleased to offer a “hands-on” presentation for blind and visually impaired patrons prior to one matinee of each production. A portion of each production’s concession proceeds is donated to a non-profit organization that is thematically related to each show chosen by the cast and staff. Recipients have included Second Harvest, City Team Ministries, Child Advocates, Bill Wilson Center, USO San Jose, EHC LifeBuilders, and Career Closet, among many others.

Tabard’s productions will be performed at Theatre on San Pedro Square in San Jose. For season subscriptions and single ticket orders, the public can call **408-679-2330**, e-mail tickets@tabardtheatre.org, or visit Tabard online at www.tabardtheatre.org.

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