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NEWS RELEASE

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Lewis Family Playhouse Announces 2008/2009 Season Line-up of Music, Theatre, and Dance

Power House Rock Duo Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo Kick Off the Season

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2008

Rancho Cucamonga, California – Continuing its mission as the Inland Empire's premiere entertainment destination, the Lewis Family Playhouse is pleased to announce their 2008/2009 season of performances. With a season that ranges from raucous rock-and-roll to delightful theatre productions, the 2008/2009 season offers something for everyone!

Since its opening in 2006, the intimate, 536-seat Lewis Family Playhouse at Rancho Cucamonga's Victoria Gardens Cultural Center has earned rave reviews and attracted thousands of delighted patrons with a slate of top-notch, professional performances designed for audiences of all ages.

The 2008/2009 season certainly continues this tradition. The excitement begins Saturday, September 6, 2008 with legendary rock duo **Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo**. The season continues with an amazing array of performances from the worlds of theater, music and dance, including three Theatre for Young Audiences productions by the Playhouse's resident MainStreet Theatre Company. The excitement continues through June 27, 2009, with the high energy musical extravaganza **Red, Hot & Blue!** closing the season with a bang.

Multi-Grammy Award winner and producer/songwriter **Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo** kick off the season September 6, 2008 performing their signature hits *Hit Me With Your Best Shot*, *We Live For Love* and *Heartbreaker*. Pat and Neil are sure to deliver a performance guaranteed to rock you right out of your seats!

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On September 7, 2008, saddle up for a high-spirited, action-packed western show filled with original songs and slapstick comedy as legendary cowboys **Riders in The Sky** make their Lewis Family Playhouse debut.

Diavolo—fearless, amazing and eccentric! Their innovative approach to dance examines the funny and frightening ways individuals interact with their environment. Join us September 12-13, 2008 as **Diavolo** dazzles your senses and inspires your imagination!

Cirqueworks **Birdhouse Factory**, is a place where circus acrobatics and early 20th century machines come together, debuting at the Lewis Family Playhouse September 19th and 20th.

Relive rock's glory days as the Tony-nominated Broadway smash **Smokey Joe's Café**, brings down the house with chart-toppers by Rock and Roll Hall of Fame songwriting duo Leiber and Stoller. **Smokey Joe's Café** is the first of three Community Theatre productions presented by the City of Rancho Cucamonga's Community Services Department opening September 26, 2008.

Next, join children's musician Zak Morgan on a magical journey into a musical world powered by imagination in **Zakland** on October 1, 2008.

High-octane nitro jive is how one would describe the music of **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy**. The Grammy-nominated swing band will make their Lewis Family Playhouse debut in a special one night only performance on October 4, 2008.

Join us on October 5, 2008 for an afternoon of laughter as the Lewis Family Playhouse welcomes back **Capitol Steps**, the only group in America that attempts to be funnier than Congress.

Roald Dahl's classic tale **James and the Giant Peach**, the first of three original MainStreet Theatre Company productions opens October 18, 2008 on the Lewis Family Playhouse stage. When young James accidentally spills a bag of powerful magic by an old peach tree, the most wonderful thing happens and he and his new friends take an incredible journey to New York City.

Journey beyond the edge of winter with acclaimed ski/snowboard filmmaker Warren Miller, as the Lewis Family Playhouse presents REI's the **Warren Miller 2008 Ski Film** on November 6, 2008. This adrenaline-filled documentary style film filled with stunning photography and witty humor redefines boundaries.

Eighty's pop icon **Tiffany** graces the Lewis Family Playhouse stage in a special one night only performance on November 8, 2008. Be there as she serenades the audience with her chart-topping hits *I Think We're Alone Now*, *I Saw Him Standing There* and songs off her latest album *Just Me*.

Rancho Cucamonga's Community Theatre production **Noises Off**, which runs November 21-30, 2008, is one of the greatest farces of the 20th century combining sardines, slamming doors, super glue, sexy starlets and stage snafus to a riotous effect.

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Jim Gamble's unique style and imaginative marionettes will thrill and delight audiences of all ages in **Jim Gamble Puppets: The Nutcracker** on December 3, 2008. Based on the classical musical tale by Peter Tchaikovsky and the music performed by The Berlin Symphony Orchestra, this wonderful performance will charm children of all ages.

The **Winter Dance Party** is a high-voltage live show capturing the Holly era in an authentic recreation of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper's final tour. Join us December 5, 2008 for an energy-packed evening of classic hits!

The most beloved children's book comes to life with brilliant puppetry and fairytale magic in Enchantment Theatre's **The Velveteen Rabbit** on December 6, 2008. Come see this charming tale of love and devotion, creating an unforgettable theatrical experience for the whole family.

Critically acclaimed Parson's Nose Family Theatre brings us the tale of **Rip Van Winkle**, the sociable but lazy man who falls asleep for twenty years and wakes up to find his entire world transformed! Set during the American Revolution, **Rip Van Winkle** opens December 11, 2008.

Get into the holiday spirit with the undeniable kings of a cappella. Rockapella returns to the Lewis Family Playhouse with their spectacular holiday concert, **A Rockapella Holiday**, on December 21, 2008.

The uplifting, enthusiastic dancers of the **Lula Washington Dance Theatre** present their **Kwanzaa Festival** on December 28, 2008. Inspired by the power and artistic charisma of traditional African dance, the production is an explosive celebration of dance and Kwanzaa!

The Rancho Cucamonga Community Foundation proudly present legendary **Art Garfunkel** live on stage January 10, 2009. Share an intimate evening with one half of the unrivaled Simon and Garfunkel whose hits include *Mrs. Robinson*, *Scarborough Fair*, and *Bridge Over Troubled Water*.

Mariachi Divas, the astounding, all female, multi-cultural ensemble are making big waves on the music scene for uniting cultural backgrounds through their unique sound. Do not miss **Mariachi Divas** on January 11, 2009.

LA Opera's **Figaro's American Adventure** is a high energy introduction into the world of opera. This light-hearted show is a wildly imaginative and engaging celebration of Rossini's beloved Opera. **Figaro's American Adventure** opens January 15, 2009.

On January 17, 2009 experience Vox Lumiere's **Hunchback of Notre Dame** in a radically unique live performance that combines music, theatre and silent film to create a completely new entertainment experience.

MainStreet Theatre Company's **A Year With Frog and Toad** running January 31–February 14, 2009 follows the cheerful and popular Frog and the rather grumpy Toad through four fun-filled seasons.

Broadway at the Gardens presents Stephen Sondheim's grandest and ingeniously crafted score **Sweeney Todd** opening February 27, 2009. This chilling, heart-pounding musical tells the infamous tale of the 19th century barber

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who seeks revenge.

The Lewis Family Playhouse presents Dallas Children's Theatre's **Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters** on March 12, 2009, an adaptation of the Caldecott Award winning Cinderella tale celebrating goodness, generosity and love.

Why do the poor often seem happier than the rich? Must a society lose its traditions in order to move into the future? Filmmaker and explorer Rick Ray examines some of the fundamental questions of our time posed to his holiness the Dalai Lama in the film **Ten Questions For the Dalai Lama** showing March 17, 2009.

Renowned Children's Theatre Company We Tell Stories brings **Aesop's Fables** to life with imaginative costumes, wacky wit and plenty of audience participation. Join us March 18, 2009 for a morning performance aimed at pre-school age children.

State Street Ballet's **The Jungle Book** opening March 21, 2009 set to the music of renowned composer Milan Svobada of the Symphonic Orchestra tells the tale of a young boy's adventure growing up in the wild.

Altar Boyz, the smash hit musical comedy spoof about a Christian boy band opens April 4, 2009. With their sweet harmonies, sinfully spectacular dancing and an unnerving sense of fashion, the **Altar Boyz** are destined to rock the masses!

Ferdinand the Bull, a MainStreet Theatre Company production, which runs April 18–May 2, 2009, follows the sweet tale of a Spanish bull who would rather take care of his flowers than fight.

Experience the comedy, music and atmosphere that took place during the golden age of Hollywood as Steve Apple, Gary Corsello and Nicholas Brooks transform themselves into the leaders of **The Rat Pack** on May 8, 2009 at the Lewis Family Playhouse.

Mama's Night Out features the Nick at Nite's Search for the Funniest Mom in America finalists Karen Morgan, Sherry Davey and Nancy Witter in an electric blend of stand up comedy with audience participation on May 9, 2009.

The quintessential story of friendship, **Steel Magnolias** serves up a slice of life in Louisiana that is as warm and comforting as sweet potato pie. **Steel Magnolias** runs May 22–31, 2009 and concludes our Rancho Cucamonga Community Theatre 2008/2009 productions.

Future by Design, a documentary film by Academy Award nominated filmmaker William Gazecki, explores the life and far-reaching vision of Jacque Fresco, a modern day Da Vinci, on June 2, 2009 at the Lewis Family Playhouse.

The exquisite, Japanese jazz pianist **Keiko Matsui** presents her rich and captivating presence in a one night only performance on June 6, 2009 at the Lewis Family Playhouse.

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Master Puppeteer Jim Gamble returns with **Jim Gamble Puppets: Hansel & Gretel**, on June 10, 2009. Join us for a morning of adventure as this classic fairytale unfolds.

Celebrating thirty years as the world's disco icons, **The Village People** will take over center stage on June 13, 2009 in an energetic, choreographed performance guaranteed to entertain.

The entertaining and comedic mind of Pat Hazell debuts at the Lewis Family Playhouse on June 20, 2009 in **The Wonder Bread Years**. Baby boomers pack your Howdy Doody lunch boxes, grab your Fizzies and wax lips, and get ready to take a trip down memory lane!

Our season concludes on June 27, 2009 with **Red, Hot & Blue!** This six-performer troupe takes audiences on a nostalgic musical journey through the decades. With fabulous costumes, quick moving choreography and precise vocal harmonies, this high energy show is one the whole family will enjoy!

In addition to the many public performances, the Lewis Family Playhouse offers special school group performances of their Theatre for Young Audiences productions for teachers and students in elementary and middle school. Theatre for Young Audiences productions are supplemented with curriculum material and resource guides that are available online. For more information, please contact the Lewis Family Playhouse Box Office School Booking Department by dialing (909) 477-2752, extension 3704.

The three-acre, 89,000 square-foot Victoria Gardens Cultural Center is home to the Lewis Family Playhouse located at 12505 Cultural Center Drive in Rancho Cucamonga off the I-15 at Foothill Boulevard as a major anchor of Victoria Gardens. The Box Office is open Monday through Thursday from noon to 6:00 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Parking is theatre-adjacent and free. For further information, please call the Lewis Family Playhouse Box Office at (909) 477-2752 or visit us at www.lewisfamilyplayhouse.com.

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