

DEMAND PR

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MEDIA ALERT FOR THEATRE EDITORS AND REVIEWERS
AND CALENDAR LISTINGS

McCoy Rigby Entertainment, Liza Lerner, Nederlander Presentations Inc.,
La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, Live Nation,
Pittsburgh CLO/Van Kaplan, and Waxman Williams
in association with
Dallas Summer Musicals / Michael A. Jenkins, and The Pelican Group
present

CAMELOT

**Starring Michael York,
Rachel York and James Barbour**

**Music by Frederick Loewe
Book & Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner
Musical Direction by Craig Barna
Choreographed by Dan Mojica
Directed by Glenn Casale**

*Limited Engagement Opens January 12 at
La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts!*

(Press Opening Saturday, January 13)

“Think back on all the tales that you remember...of Camelot...”

December 12, 2006...La Mirada, Calif... McCoy Rigby Entertainment, Liza Lerner, Nederlander Presentations Inc., La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, Live Nation, Pittsburgh CLO/Van Kaplan, and Waxman Williams in association with Dallas Summer Musicals / Michael A. Jenkins, and The Pelican Group present an all new production of Alan J. Lerner & Frederick Loewe's CAMELOT, starring Michael York, Rachel York and James Barbour. This revival is the launch of the national tour for the timeless musical which features music by Frederick Loewe and book & lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner. CAMELOT will be choreographed by Dan Mojica, feature musical direction by Craig Barna and will be directed by Glenn Casale. CAMELOT will begin performances on Friday, January 12; Press Opening is set for Saturday, January 13 and will run through Sunday, January 28 at La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, 14900 La Mirada Boulevard in La Mirada (near the intersection of Rosecrans Avenue).

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Relive the romance of **CAMELOT** from a fresh new perspective. Stage and film legend Michael York (“The Three Musketeers,” “Cabaret,” “Austin Powers” & “Logan's Run”) stars in this magnificent new production of Lerner and Loewe's timeless masterpiece. The splendid, memorable score includes the haunting “If Ever I Would Leave You”; the captivating “How To Handle a Woman” and the majestic “Camelot”! Rediscover the grandeur of one of history's greatest love stories in this all new production which begins its national tour in La Mirada!

ABOUT THE CAST

MICHAEL YORK (King Arthur) Audiences have long admired Michael York's versatility. With an impressive body of work over the past 42 years on screen, stage, television and with audio recording, York went to Oxford University (where fellow performers included future Monty Pythons Terry Jones and Michael Palin) from which he graduated with an MA in English. "Afterwards, I just knew I wouldn't be happy if I didn't give the profession a try," recalls York who, following a traditional stint in 'rep', joined Laurence Olivier's new National Theatre Company in 1965 in a production directed by Franco Zeffirelli. "A year later I got a call to audition for his film of "The Taming of the Shrew" with Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. Luckily, I got the role and with it this other label as a movie actor." York was also Tybalt in Zeffirelli's award-winning "Romeo and Juliet," and played John the Baptist in his landmark "Jesus of Nazareth."

York's more than 60 other screen credits include memorable roles in such films as Bob Fosse's Oscar-winning "Cabaret" opposite Liza Minnelli; "Something for Everyone" with Angela Lansbury, directed by Hal Prince; the all-star "Murder on the Orient Express," "The Last Remake of Beau Geste" with Marty Feldman; as D'Artagnan in "The Three Musketeers," as the title character in the sci-fi classic "Logan's Run;" and opposite Burt Lancaster in "The Island of Dr. Moreau." He even played himself in Billy Wilder's "Fedora." Recent work includes "Borstal Boy", "Icon" and all three "Austin Powers" movies. He also starred in both “Omega Code” films. “Moscow Heat”, filmed in Russia, was released in 2005.

His television work comprises over 80 credits that include "The Forsyte Saga," "Great Expectations," "Space," "The Heat of the Day," "A Knight in Camelot" with Whoopi Goldberg, and "The Lot" for which he was Emmy-nominated. Recently a guest in Larry David's HBO comedy series, "Curb Your Enthusiasm," he played D'Artagnan again in "La Femme Musketeer". He was last seen as a guest on “The Simpsons” and in the 100th episode of “Law and Order: Criminal Intent”.

Broadway and regional theater credits include *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, *Bent*, the musical of *The Little Prince*, *The Crucible*, the world premiere of Tennessee Williams' *Outcry* and the title role in *Cyrano de Bergerac*.

York's distinctive voice is in constant demand, with over 70 audio book credits as varied as "The Book of Psalms," Carl Jung's "Memories, Dreams, Reflections," "The Vampire Lestat," and his own children's book, "The Magic Paw Paw." Grammy-nominated in 1996 for "Treasure Island," he won an Audie Award for "The Fencing Master", and a 2000 Listen Up Award for "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe". He received an Audie Award nomination and an AudioFile Earphones Award for “Creating True Peace”, as well as an Audie nomination for “The Bounty”. Recent recordings include “Goodbye to Berlin” (AudioFile Award and APA Spoken Word Silver Award), “Seasons of the Heart” and “How Do I Love Thee?”

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He lectures internationally -- on Shakespeare and the history and art of acting. His contribution to his profession has been recognized with the award of Britain's OBE, France's Arts et Lettres and a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

www.michaelyork.net.

RACHEL YORK (Guinevere) is a dynamic and versatile talent. She is best known for her critically acclaimed Broadway performances in *City of Angels*, *Victor/Victoria* (for which she won the Drama Desk award), *Les Miserables*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Sly Fox* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Among her many film and television credits, Rachel turned heads with her courageous portrayal of Lucille Ball in the CBS made for television movie, "Lucy". She most recently starred in Los Angeles as Edith Herbert in the Reprise! Broadway's Best production of *My One and Only*.

Rachel was born in Orlando, Florida, the youngest of four children. Her passion for music and acting was ignited at an early age by her mother's beautiful voice and love of the arts. At 17, Rachel enjoyed her professional debut. She was cast in the singing chorus of a dinner theater production of *Kiss Me, Kate*. Later that year, Rachel earned a scholarship to the American Center for Music Theater at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, which prompted a move to Los Angeles. She began studying with acting coach Aaron Speiser. Impressed with Rachel's talent and dedication, Mr Speiser encouraged her to move to New York. He felt it was the best place for her to develop her skills and make her mark.

Rachel got her first big break playing the seductive and playful role of Mallory in the original Tony Award-winning production of *City of Angels*. Rachel has gone on to give inspiring theatrical performances as Fantine in *Les Miserables*, Irene St. Claire in *Crucifer of Blood*, Rachel in *Putting It Together* with Dame Julie Andrews (which earned her a Drama Desk nomination), Norma Cassidy in *Victor/Victoria* (which earned her a Drama Desk Award), Marguerite in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Kate in *Kiss Me, Kate* (which earned her an Ovation nomination), Dorothy in *Summer of '42*, Miss Fancy in *Sly Fox* with Richard Dreyfuss, Ruth Sutton in *Dessa Rose* (which earned her Drama Desk and Drama League nominations), Mother in *Ragtime* and Christine Colgate with Jonathan Pryce in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*.

Rachel's film credits include "One Fine Day," "Billy Bathgate," "Dead Center," "Killer Instinct," "Second Honeymoon," "Terror Tract," "Au Pair II," and the TV Movie "Lucy" in which she played Lucille Ball. Her performance in the London production of "Kiss Me, Kate" was filmed for PBS and is available on Video/DVD.

Rachel has also appeared on several popular TV Series. Among them are "Reba," "Frasier," "Arli\$\$," "Spin City," "The Naked Truth" and "Diagnosis, Murder." She also is the voice of Bitty in "Higglytown Heroes" and Circe on "The Justice League."

In January of 2005, Rachel's first solo album, "Let's Fall in Love," was released under the Barnes and Noble label. Rachel can also be heard on the soundtracks of "Billy Bathgate," "City of Angels," "Putting It Together," "Victor/Victoria," "The Scarlet Pimpernel Encore CD," "Dessa Rose," "Opal," and "Celebration of Live."

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JAMES BARBOUR (Lancelot) most recently starred in The NoHo Arts Center world premiere productions of *Lizard* and in the award-winning *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir* (Ovation, Garland, LA Weekly nominations for Best Actor, and an ADA for Best Actor) where he created the role of Captain Gregg (the Ghost). Broadway: Leon Czolgosz in the five-time Tony Award-winning Broadway production of Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins*, *Beauty and the Beast* (The Beast), *Carousel* (Billy Bigelow), *Urinetown* (Officer Lockstock), *Jane Eyre* (Edward Rochester, Drama League Award nomination). TV: "Sex and The City," "Ed," "That's Life," "PBS Great Performances" tribute to Oscar Hammerstein, "Beauty and The Beast in Concert" for CBS, the upcoming PBS miniseries "An American Experience-John and Abigail Adams" in which he co-stars as Thomas Jefferson, the pilots of "The District," "Just Shoot Me," and "Flashpoint." Film: Adam Sandler's *Eight Crazy Nights*, *Waiting For Lefty*, *The Tell-Tale Heart*, *Twinkle Toes* with Sally Kirkland and *Alchemy* (Tribeca Film Festival 2005 starring opposite Tom Cavanaugh and Sarah Calke). Recordings: *The Gift* (Geffen Records), the Frank Wildhorn Concept Recording of *Dracula* in the title role, his self produced stage show *Back From Broadway* (for which he won an "LA Weekly" and a "Garland" Award) and cast recordings of *Assassins* and *Jane Eyre*.

The Cast of **CAMELOT** also features Shannon Stoeke (Mordred), Time Winters (Pellinore), Eric Anderson (Merlyn), Tavis Danz (Young Arthur), Stuart Ambrose, Daniel Guzman, Robert J. Townsend, Alan M-L Wager, Shannon Warne, Sandi DeGeorge, Sandy Hawker, Monica Louwerens, Megan Bayha, Suzanne Carlton, Joanna Louise, Leah Seminario, Grant Rosen, John B. Williford, Vincent Zamora, Venny Carranza, Jill Townsend and Joseph Sark.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

FREDERICK LOEWE (Composer) Frederick Loewe was born on June 10, 1901 in Berlin to Viennese parents, Edmond and Rosa. His father, Edmond Loewe, was a very famous musical star who traveled considerably. By the age of seven or eight, Fritz learned by ear and played on piano, every new song his father rehearsed for a new musical in which he was appearing. He was able to play the entire score and help his father in rehearsals. This impressed his father greatly, and Edmond suggested giving Fritz music lessons. His mother, however, was never moved by Fritz's talent, saying "Oh, they all do that!" Fritz eventually did attend a famous conservatory in Berlin, one year behind the virtuoso Claudio Arrau. Both won the coveted Hollander Medal, awarded by the school, and Fritz gave performances as a concert pianist while still in Germany. In 1925, Edmond received an offer to appear in New York, and Fritz traveled there with him. Deciding to go separate ways, Fritz decided he was going to "crash Broadway".

But this proved to be difficult, and Fritz was on the verge of starvation many times, with memories of sleeping on benches in the snow in Central Park. Finding work in the German section of New York at the time, "Yorkville", he made his way playing German clubs and in the movie theaters, accompanying silent pictures as they appeared on the screen. He would be given a prepared score for each film. Fritz's first action would be to throw the score in the trash, composing his own melodies to suit the action on-screen. He discovered that he had a great facility for this type of improvisation and enjoyed his work. He did encounter one problem at his first theater: Each performance was to begin with a rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner", and Fritz didn't know how it went. So, he improvised a new national anthem on the spot. This didn't go well with the theater owners, who threatened to fire him unless he learned the piece properly.

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Fritz began to visit a famous NY night-spot of the time, "The Lambs Club", frequented by theater people, stars, producers, managers, and directors. One evening, "on the way to the men's room", he encountered Alan Jay Lerner at a nearby table. Fritz went up to him, saying "I understand you write lyrics". Alan replied "Well, I understand you write music".

Alan was working on an idea for a show, "Great Lady", and they decided to collaborate. It was not a major hit, but the score received favorable notices. It was the first time Fritz ever had his music reviewed. Their next effort, "The Day Before Spring", did a little better, and the team was beginning to receive very positive recognition. Their first real hit was "Brigadoon", with its Scottish theme, and the combination Lerner and Loewe was finally recognized in theaters around the world. Fritz was 47 before his fame was established. In 1952 the musical "Paint Your Wagon" hit Broadway, followed by the classic "My Fair Lady" in 1956 - the longest running musical of all time until the record was broken by "Cats".

The next production, "Camelot", received terrible reviews when it opened. The director and producer of the play got the brilliant idea of having the stars, Richard Burton, Julie Andrews, and Robert Goulet, appear on the Ed Sullivan Show and sing a few numbers from the musical, along with an appearance by Alan and Fritz. The next morning the ticket office was swamped with requests, and "Camelot" became a huge hit.

Fritz then decided on retirement, not writing anything until he was approached by Alan Lerner with the book "The Little Prince", by Antoine de Saint Exupery. Fritz fell in love with the story and began work on the new production at age 71. Fritz and Alan created a simple script and score that truly captured the magical feeling of the book. The new musical fell victim to an overblown and overproduced Hollywood treatment that ruined the feeling of the play as written. Fritz, in the meantime, refused to visit London and supervise the arrangement and recording of the score. The resulting production was their only real flop. Fritz remained in Palm Springs, California, in retirement until his death in 1988.

ALAN JAY LERNER (Writer & Lyricist) Playwright/lyricist Alan Jay Lerner was born into a wealthy New York City retailing family. His professional association with Frederick Loewe started in 1942 when they teamed up to write "Life of the Party". Their first Broadway success was the 1947 musical fantasy "Brigadoon" which was translated to film in 1954. Lerner adapted work for the screen, and earned two Oscars as the screenplay writer for "An American In Paris" (1951) and "Gigi" (1958), and a Grammy for "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever". Lerner and Loewe parted company in 1962 following the success of "Camelot". Lerner's last musical, "Dance a Little Closer", was written with Charles Strouse in 1983. It closed after one performance.

GLENN CASALE (Director) Broadway: *Peter Pan* starring Cathy Rigby (Tony Award nomination Best Revival) which was filmed by A&E and garnered two Emmy Awards. Off-Broadway: *The Property Known as Garland* starring Adrienne Barbeau, and *Dragapella* at Studio 54 (Drama Desk nomination and Lucille Lortel Award nomination for Best Production). For Joop van den Ende's Stage Entertainment and Stage Holdings, Glenn directed the critically acclaimed *The Wiz* (Netherlands) and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Netherlands, Germany, Belgium) which was named the Netherlands' 2006 Musical of the Year and is listed in the *Guinness Book of Records* as that country's highest-grossing musical.

Tours and regional credits are numerous and varied, including several world premieres: Leslie Bricusse's *Dr. Dolittle*; Tyne Daly and Charles Durning in *Ballroom*, music and lyrics by Alan and Marilyn Bergman; Lanie Robertson's *Stringbean* starring Leslie Uggams; *Wrestlers* starring Mark Harmon and George Clooney; *Bingo!* the musical by Michael Heitzman, Ilene Reid and David Holcenberg; and Ken and Mitzi Welch's *From the Top* starring Carol Burnett. Glenn was thrilled to again work with Ms. Burnett when she starred as Joanne in *Company* for producer Barry Brown. For California Musical Theatre Glenn has directed *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Triumph of Love*, *1776*, *Into the Woods*, *Gypsy*, *A Little Night Music* and many others. For Reprise! Broadway's Best he directed Tony Danza in *Fiorello!*, Patrick Cassidy in *The Threepenny Opera*, and the Los Angeles Ovation Award-winning Best Musical *Anything Goes* starring Rachel York, Brent Barrett, Sally Struthers and Fred Willard. His television directing credits include "The Faculty" starring Meredith Baxter and "The Wayans Brothers." Glenn is the head of the graduate directing program at the University of Nevada Las Vegas and serves on the Board of Directors for Nevada Conservatory Theatre.

DAN MOJICA (Choreographer) As part of the original Broadway creative team, Mr. Mojica was associated with Disney's Broadway musical, *Beauty and the Beast* (Associate Director / Associate Choreographer) for over eight years. In that time, he mounted, staged, and supervised 16 companies of the show worldwide, with productions premiering in London, Tokyo, Madrid, Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Stuttgart, Sydney, and three U.S. National Tours.

As Director and/or Choreographer: *Victor/Victoria* (1st National), *Singin' in the Rain* (premiere in Seoul), *Hello, Dolly!* (Pittsburgh CLO), *Enter the Guardsman* (The Old Globe), *My Fair Lady* (McCoy Rigby Ent.), *Damn Yankees* (Sacramento Music Circus), and *The Great American Songbook* (Mark Taper Forum). For Reprise!, Broadway's Best: *My One and Only* w/Rachel York, Michael Gruber, and Betty Garrett, *Anything Goes* (2003 Ovation Award / Best Musical), *Pippin* w/ Sam Harris, *Zorba* w/ Mark Kudisch and Judy Kaye, and *On The Town* (2006 Ovation nominee / Best Musical). Television credits include The Disney Channel premiere of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *CSI* (w/ Faye Dunaway), and the CBS *Grove Hollywood-Holiday Celebration*. He continues to lend his support to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, The Actor's Fund, the Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation, and the Motion Picture and Television Fund. He is a member of SSDC, The Society of Director's and Choreographers.

CAMELOT has assembled an award-winning design team. The Set Design is by John Iacovelli. The Lighting Design is by Tom Ruzika. The Sound Design is by Julie Ferrin. The Costume Design is by Marcy Froehlich.

SCHEDULE AND PRICING

CAMELOT will begin performances on Friday, January 12 (Press Opening is Saturday, January 13) and run through Sunday, January 28, 2007. Performances are Tues. – Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Fri., 8 p.m.; Sat., 2:00 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sun., 2:00 and 7 p.m. (no matinee performance on Saturday, January 13 or evening performance on Sun., January 28). Tickets are \$45 and \$37.50. Senior, student, children and group discounts are available. Tickets can be purchased at La Mirada Theatre's Web site, lamiradatheatre.com. For more information, call the La Mirada Theatre Box Office at (562) 944-9801 or (714) 994-6310.

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LA MIRADA THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS is located at 14900 La Mirada Boulevard in La Mirada, near the intersection of Rosecrans Avenue where the 91 and 5 freeways meet. Parking is free.

To schedule press interviews, photos, press comps or for additional information, please contact David Elzer/DEMAND PR at 818/508-1754 or by e-mail at ELZERD@aol.com or visit www.demandpr.com. Photos and press information also available at lamiradatheatre.com.

LA MIRADA THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, now in its 29th year, has been hailed by the Los Angeles Times as "one of the best Broadway-style houses in Southern California." This beautiful state-of-the-art theatre has been producing quality productions for its Southern California audiences since 1977. The theatre has produced several National Tours and is the recipient of many accolades including Ovation and Emmy Awards and Tony Award nominations. The theatre is located at 14900 La Mirada Boulevard in La Mirada, near the intersection of Rosecrans Avenue where the 91 and 5 freeways meet. Parking is theatre-adjacent and free. For further information; 562-944-9801 or visit www.lamiradatheatre.com.

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McCOY RIGBY ENTERTAINMENT combines the talents of musical theatre star Cathy Rigby with Tom McCoy's extensive production and theatrical experience and has become one of the nation's premier theatrical production companies. Credits include Tony-nominated Broadway shows, long-running national tours, multiple-award-winning Los Angeles stage productions, and hit TV specials.

The number of major theatrical awards garnered by McCoy Rigby Entertainment includes 3 Ovation Awards, 25 Drama-Logues, 3 Backstage Garland Awards and 3 Tony nominations, 20 Ovation nominations and 8 NAACP award nominations for the touring production of "Jesus Christ Superstar." In addition, the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences awarded McCoy Rigby Entertainment an Emmy for Best Scene Design as part of four nominations for the A&E network production of "Peter Pan." www.mccoyrigby.com

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