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**'Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)' Opens 07-08 Season of Theatre for Teens Oct. 25 at La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, Produced by Phantom Projects Educational Theatre Group**

LA MIRADA, CA – In classrooms throughout the US, teens struggle to comprehend and fully understand the brilliance of the English languages greatest writer. In an effort to make the works of “The Bard” more accessible to teens, Phantom Projects will present all 37 of William Shakespeare’s plays in 97 minutes on October 25, 2007 in a play that was London’s longest running comedy.

Performances are at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. both days, with \$6 middle school student tickets, \$12 high school student tickets and \$15 for the general public now available by calling the La Mirada Theatre Box Office at (562) 944 9801 or (714) 994 6310, or by going online to PhantomProjects.com.

**Janet Miller**, recent Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle award winner for her choreography for the Ovation Award nominated production of *The Marvelous Wonderettes* directs this production. The cast features **Joe Hogan**, **Ed La Bay**, and **Timothy Miller**. **Heather Lenarth** is the Stage Manager.

### **The Play**

A parody of all the plays written by the great master, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)* is a high-speed roller-coaster ride, involving only three actors and a heavy dose of improv. Heroes, villains, kings, servants, and damsels in distress, sometimes all at the same time, are portrayed by the very overworked actors. This spin on one of the English languages finest is wildly funny and deceptively intelligent. Who would have thought that sitting through one of William Shakespeare’s tragedies could be funnier than *Comedy of Errors* or *Much Ado About Nothing*?

### **The Producer**

*Complete Works...* is the opening production in Phantom Projects’ 2007-2008 season. The season of 3 plays, a Christmas event, and a Young Artist Project, is annually directed at teenagers and their families. By providing a combination of classic texts from High School curricula and original message-based plays about issues of immediate relevance to young people, Phantom Projects uses the theatre experience to inspire the community’s teens.

## PHANTOM PROJECTS / 'COMPLETE WORKS...SHAKESPEARE' / add one

“We want to be a positive force,” said Cisneros, who founded the company as a teenager 11 years ago, “and give teens ways to connect with their world through art. During our shows they discover this incredible relevance in the same literature they might have dismissed in the classroom. It helps open their eyes to a whole world of urgency, intelligence and beauty they may have completely tuned out. And in the issue-oriented shows, which feature teen casts, they see peers who are working hard to make a difference. That’s another powerful form of inspiration for them. They always have lots of questions for cast members.”

The Season continues on December 15, 2007 with an original Christmas Event, *Antiguas y Nuevas*, a unique folklorico concert combining Mexican and American Christmas traditions. *The Diary of Anne Frank* will be presented on February 28, 2008. *Anne Frank* is the impassioned drama about the eight people hiding in a concealed storage attic during World War II. *Out, Out, Brief Candle*, a dramatic true story about teens and the tragic consequences of drug/alcohol use will feature an all-teen cast on April 3, 2008. Closing out the season on August 2, 2008 is the second annual Young Artist Project, *Above the Influence*. This unique event is an exciting blend of drama, hip-hop, poetry, film and dance created by the young participants who will met just two weeks prior to their performance.

For more information on Phantom Projects Educational Theatre Group visit [phantomprojects.com](http://phantomprojects.com) or call 714-690-2900.

“*The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* will be performed at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts on October 25, 2007 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.. Tickets are \$6 for middle school students, \$12 for high school students, and \$15 for the general public. They are available by calling the La Mirada Box Office at (562) 944 9801 or (714) 994 6310, or by going online to [lamiradatheatre.com](http://lamiradatheatre.com).

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### Artist Bios

**Joe Hogan** graduated from USC with a BA in Theatre in May of 2000 and is currently co-owner of Fleabitten Productions, a Southern California based theatrical production company. Some of his favorite roles include Albert in *Bye, Bye, Birdie*, Hero in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Eugene in *Biloxi Blues* and Brian in *Jerry Finnegan's Sister*. Joe has directed *Snoopy!!! The Musical*, *All in the Timing*, and *Alice in Wonderland* as well as multiple improv shows and musical reviews throughout the Los Angeles/Orange County area. Currently, he is a member of the improvisational comedy troupe, the Fleabitten Varmints, director of Fleabitten's youth improv group, the Fleabitten Strays, and teaches 10th Grade English at I-Poly High School in Pomona.

**Ed La Bay** is excited to be doing *Complete Works...* for the second time. Originally performing the show at the James Armstrong Theatre in Torrance, he is glad to be working on such a fun show with his close friend, Janet Miller. Ed has done over 20 shows with Ms. Miller. Some of Ed's favorite past shows include *Charlie You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Snow White*. Although Ed loves working on the stage, he tries to limit his time to projects that educate children, or introduce kids to the magic of live performances.

**Timothy Miller** has a love for Shakespeare, and theatre for that matter, that began when he had the opportunity to play the lead in a production of *Taming of the Shrew*. Since then he has become a "Theatre Rat" at Los Angeles Valley College, studying acting and performing in numerous shows including *The Laramie Project*, *The Actors Nightmare/Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All To You*, and *Comedy of Errors* by William Shakespeare. This is his first romp on stage outside of LAVC and is very pleased to be working with Phantom Projects on this show.

**Janet Miller (Director)** has directed and/or choreographed more than 100 musicals ranging from *Anyone Can Whistle* to *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. She has numerous teaching credits on both coasts, most notably the prestigious Choate Rosemary Hall in Connecticut. Janet is a sought-after tap instructor, and enjoys the fact that so many of LA's finest musical theatre performers have passed through her classes. She is known for her astute coaching of actors for musical theatre roles, and her keen 'show doctoring' ability. She is the recipient of the 2003 Excellence in Art Award for Drama from the city of Torrance, and was awarded a 2004 Choreography Garland for *The Marvelous Wonderettes* in LA. Janet holds a degree in musical theatre from CSUN and is a proud member of SSDC.