

News Release

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NEW MUSICAL MAKES NATIONAL DEBUT IN NEW ORLEANS

Broadway-bound White Noise to open at Le Petit Theatre July 9

New Orleans, La., June 16, 2009 – *White Noise*, a new musical bound for Broadway in October of this year, will make its national debut in New Orleans at Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carré, beginning on July 9, 2009. The production is the first to take advantage of the state’s Live Performance Tax Credit designed to generate economic growth in Louisiana.

This new “cautionary musical” follows a pair of sisters who lead a pop band that mixes irresistible harmonies with coded rhetoric promoting messages of white power to produce chart-blazing hits. With a radio rock/hip-hop score and high-octane choreography, *White Noise* fuses today’s blog and headline stories into a narrative that challenges our conventional wisdom about freedom of speech, entertainment, and the dramatic effects of pop culture on the greater public. The musical portrays the inadvertent dangers of extremism and its mainstream penetration into our youthful society. Talk back sessions are planned following some of the performances to encourage audience discussion.

“Like many of the great musicals of our time, this production tackles some of society’s most controversial issues. *White Noise* takes on freedom of speech, tolerance, race, hate, and commercial propaganda, and is inspired by a true story,” said Co-director Mitchell Maxwell. His Broadway and Off-Broadway productions have been honored with nominations for 10 Tony Awards and 9 Drama Desk Awards and include Tony-award nominees *Damn Yankees*, *Stomp*, and the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Dinner with Friends*. “It’s a thrill to me to debut in New Orleans because of the city’s extraordinary history of simultaneous racial tension and tolerance. The tax credit makes it possible for theater in Louisiana to take the same growth route as the film industry. We’re very pleased to lead the way on both fronts.” *White Noise* precedes the fall lineup at Le Petit, which, under its new pro bono management by Solomon Group, will offer classic and contemporary musicals. “This production is indicative of the caliber and energy of our new season,” said Gary Solomon, Jr., president of Solomon Group. “It’s a tremendous complement to our resurrection of this 93-year-old iconic theater.”

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Heading a New York cast of veteran Broadway, off-Broadway and television professionals, MacKenzie Mauzy and Patti Murin play sisters Eva and Kady Siller who convey the potential deceptions that can be perpetrated by effective packaging. Mauzy's previous performances have included recurring television roles on *Law & Order*, *The Bold & the Beautiful* (contract lead, *Pheobe Forrester*), *CSI:NY*, and *Guiding Light*. She has performed numerous stage roles in regional theaters across the country; originated the role of the Seamstress in Broadway's *A Tale of Two Cities*; and has been featured as a soloist in multiple revues and tribute shows. Murin's credits include performing in the original cast of *Xanadu* on Broadway (Euterpe/ u/s Kira), a feature character on *All My Children*, and leading roles in multiple New York and regional theater productions, including the recent *The Unauthorized Biography of Samantha Brown* (Samantha Brown) and Annie Oakley in *Annie Get Your Gun*, for which she was nominated for the Carbonell award for Best Actress in a Musical.

In addition to the New York cast, *White Noise* will provide approximately 40 jobs for locals working behind the scenes on the production. "This is what the Live Performance Tax Credit is intended to do," said Solomon. "Bring Broadway-caliber productions here to stimulate economic activity in the local theater industry. And that is absolutely what it has done."

The producers of *White Noise* feel certain that the production's controversial nature will not go unnoticed. "The history of theater has been as a vehicle to explore certain important social issues or political concerns of society," said White Noise Co-director and Choreographer Donald Byrd. "I want this to stick to the ribs of people who see it, so that they are thinking about it and talking about it the next day and the next. And then I want them to ask themselves, 'what can I do, what ought I do?' to ensure that these issues don't exist a generation from now."

White Noise will perform eight shows each week through July 26, 2009. Tickets are available for purchase through www.WhiteNoiseBroadway.com, www.lepetittheatre.com, or by phone at 504-522-2081. Tickets range from \$40 – 60. Student and educator discount tickets start at \$20. Groups of ten or more receive a 15 percent discount. Patrons are advised that the production contains explicit language and hate speech that may not be suitable for children younger than high school age.

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