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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE PLEASE:

MUSICAL THEATRE GUILD'S 14TH SEASON CELEBRATES THE '60'S PLUS A RING FESTIVAL LA EVENT

LOS ANGELES, CA: Musical Theatre Guild, the winner of the Los Angeles Drama Critic's Circle Margaret Harford Award for sustained excellence in the theatre, has announced that a quartet of shows from the early sixties plus a special event in conjunction with the Ring Festival LA will make up its fourteenth season of Broadway in Concert musicals.

The company of professional performers, who present concert-staged readings of seldom seen musicals, will stage five productions in two locations beginning in September 2009. Their 2009-2010 season will include: **STOP THE WORLD – I WANT TO GET OFF** (1962), **FADE OUT - FADE IN** (1964), **HIGH SPIRITS** (1964), **IRMA LA DOUCE** (1960) and the Ring Cycle retelling **DAS BARBECÜ**.

THE MUSICAL THEATRE GUILD 2009-2010 SEASON:

STOP THE WORLD - I WANT TO GET OFF

Book, music and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley

September 14, 2009 – 7:30 PM – Alex Theatre, Glendale

September 20, 2009 – 3:00 PM – Scherr Forum, Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza

Set in the non-stop circus of life, **STOP THE WORLD – I WANT TO GET OFF** focuses on the iconic Littlechap, whose first major step towards improving his lot is to marry his boss' daughter, Evie. After romancing Anya, Ilse and Ginnie (funny how they all look like Evie), Littlechap comes to ultimately realize that what he always had was what he wanted all along. The richly and melodiously packed score includes "Once In a Lifetime", "Gonna Build A Mountain" and "What Kind of Fool Am I?"

FADE OUT – FADE IN

Book and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. Music by Jule Styne.

Comden and Green, who tackled the problems Hollywood players faced in the 1920's with the classic "Singin' In The Rain", moved up a decade to the 1930's with the hysterically funny 1964 Broadway musical **FADE OUT - FADE IN**. Originally starring Carol Burnett as Hope Springfield, a chorus girl full of hope but not much talent, the show spoofs some of the great film stars of the era, such as Shirley Temple and Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. The score is pure Jule Styne brass.

November 9, 2009 – 7:30 PM – Alex Theatre, Glendale

November 15, 2009 – 3:00 PM – Scherr Forum, Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza

HIGH SPIRITS

Book, lyrics, and music by Hugh Martin and Timothy Gray

Based on the play BLITHE SPIRIT by Noel Coward

Noel Coward's witty comedy BLITHE SPIRIT (currently being revived on Broadway) is reinvented as a sassy, sly and successful 60's musical. In this sparkling tuneful version, the mischievous spirit of Elvira, the first Mrs. Condomine, bedevils writer Charles Condomine and his wife. Eccentric medium Madame Arcati conjures up the naughty ghost and endeavors to send her back to the other world.

February 22, 2010 – 7:30 PM – Alex Theatre, Glendale

IRMA LA DOUCE

Music by Margureite Monnot. Lyrics and book by Alexandre Breffort. English lyrics and book by Julian More, David Heneker and Monty Norman.

Set in Paris, this French and West End import revolves around Irma, a carefree Montmartre streetwalker whose life is turned upside down when she falls in love with Nestor le Friqué, a poor law student, who in order to keep her for himself, assumes the disguise of a rich older man. Although the film version unbelievably eliminated the songs, the original is much more fun, especially with the joyous, atmospheric score by Marguerite Monnot.

April 19, 2010– 7:30 PM – Alex Theatre, Glendale

April 25, 2010 – 3:00 PM – Scherr Forum, Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza

DAS BARBECÜ

Book and lyrics by Jim Luigs Music by Scott Warrender

An official participant in the Ring Festival LA, this off-Broadway hit is set in various locations throughout present day Texas. It is very loosely based on Richard Wagner's massive four-part 20-hour Ring Cycle, but manages to neatly (and hysterically) compress the story into a rollicking two-hour musical comedy with a country and western score. Opera-lovers and opera-haters alike should be ready to kick back, laugh and have a good 'ol toe-tapping time.

June 14, 2010 – 7:30 PM – Alex Theatre, Glendale

Season tickets to the complete season at the Alex Theatre in Glendale are on sale now directly through the Alex Theatre Box Office or by calling 818-243-ALEX. A three show mini-season to the shows at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza will be available in April.

The historic Alex Theatre is located at 216 North Brand Blvd in Glendale. The intimate Scherr Forum at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza is located at 2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd., in Thousand Oaks.

For single tickets to the Alex Theatre, call the Alex Theatre Box Office at 818-243-ALEX. Single tickets to the Scherr Forum are available by calling Ticketmaster at 805-538-8700 or at the Civic Arts Plaza box office. Visit www.musicaltheatreguild.com or call 818-848-6844 or for complete schedule and venue information.

