

For Immediate Release, Please
March 3, 2003

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MARC ROUTH RICHARD FRANKEL TOM VIERTEL STEVEN BARUCH

present

ALICE RIPLEY HUNTER FOSTER

in the Broadway Premiere of

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Book and Lyrics by
HOWARD ASHMAN

Music By
ALAN MENKEN

Based on a film by Roger Corman, Screenplay by Charles Griffith

Starring

REG ROGERS

DIONI MICHELLE COLLINS MOE DANIELS MOEISHA MCGILL

with

BILLY PORTER

as the Voice of Audrey II

and

LEE WILKOF

as Mushnik

Choreographed by

KATHLEEN MARSHALL

Directed by

CONNIE GRAPPO

OPENS THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2003
AT BROADWAY'S VIRGINIA THEATRE

PREVIEW PERFORMANCES BEGIN TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2003

This summer, **LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS**, the classic musical based on the 1960 **Roger Corman** film, will premiere on Broadway in an all-new production directed by **Connie Grappo**. **LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** will open on Thursday, August 14, 2003 at the Virginia Theatre (245 W. 52nd St.). Preview performances begin Tuesday, July 22.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS features book and lyrics by the late **Howard Ashman** and music by **Alan Menken** (*The Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin*) and includes such well-known musical numbers as "Somewhere That's Green," "Suddenly Seymour" and the title song.

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LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS tells the story of Seymour Krelbourn, a meek florist who makes a Faustian pact with a tiny plant in order to win the heart of Audrey, the girl he loves. While Audrey doesn't notice the romance blooming between them, she does recognize the money-making potential of the exotic little plant. Soon money pours in and Seymour becomes a celebrity, but behind the glamour and fame lies a secret Seymour can't reveal – this strange and unusual plant's favorite food is...*blood*. As the plant grows, its demands for food grow too, and Seymour starts to suspect that the plant might have an agenda larger than light and soil.

The production stars **Alice Ripley** as Audrey, **Hunter Foster** as Seymour, **Reg Rogers** as Orin, **Billy Porter** as the Voice of Audrey II and **Lee Wilkof** as Mushnik, with **Dioni Michelle Collins** as Crystal, **Moe Daniels** as Ronnette and **Moeisha McGill** as Chiffon.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS features a spectacular, planet-panicking plant designed by **Jim Henson's New York Workshop™** and puppeteer **Martin P. Robinson**. Mr. Robinson previously designed the plant used in the original 1982 Off-Broadway production.

With choreography by **Kathleen Marshall** (*Kiss Me, Kate*) and music direction by **Henry Aronson** (*Rent*), **LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** features scenic design by **Scott Pask** (*Urinetown*), costume design by **Laura Bauer** (*Frankie & Johnny...*), lighting by **Donald Holder** (*The Lion King*) and sound design by **T. Richard Fitzgerald** (*Adult Entertainment*).

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS is produced by **Marc Routh, Richard Frankel, Tom Viertel, Steven Baruch**, with **James D. Stern, Douglas L. Meyer, Rick Steiner/James & Bonnie Osher** and **Simone Genatt Haft**, in association with **Frederick H. Mayerson** and **Amy Danis/Mark Johannes**. The associate producers are **HoriPro/TBS; Clear Channel Entertainment; Zemiro, Inc.; Judith Marinoff-Cohn** and **M. Swinsky/M. Fuchs**.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS had its world premiere at the WPA Theatre on May 6, 1982. It subsequently transferred to Off-Broadway's Orpheum Theatre on July 27, 1982, where it ran for an unprecedented 2,209 performances. The production, which starred **Lee Wilkof** in the role of Seymour, received the 1983 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Musical.

Ticket prices and on-sale dates will be announced shortly.

BIOGRAPHIES

ALICE RIPLEY (*Audrey*). Ms. Ripley has most recently starred in The Kennedy Center's Sondheim Celebration productions of *Tell Me on a Sunday* (Emma) and *Company* (Amy) both to critical acclaim. Over the last 10 years, Alice has appeared on Broadway in the original casts of *The Rocky Horror Show* revival (Janet Weiss), James Joyce's *The Dead* (Molly Ivors), *Side Show* (Violet Hilton 1998 Tony nomination Best Actress in a Musical), *Sunset Boulevard* (Betty Schaefer) and *The Who's Tommy* (Mrs. Walker, Specialist's Assistant). On Broadway and nationally she appeared as Fantine in *Les Misérables*. Off-Broadway: *The Vagina Monologues*, James Joyce's *The Dead* (Playwright's Horizons), *Cather County*, *Lil Abner* (City Center *Encores!*). Also: *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (L.A. Reprise!), *Babes in Arms* (Billie Chicago's Ovation!). Film: *The Adulterer* (Kim), *Temptation* (Sabrina). Alice is an accomplished songwriter and toured the USA last year performing songs from her debut Rock release *Everything's Fine*.

HUNTER FOSTER (*Seymour*). Originated the role of Bobby Strong in the Broadway and Off-Broadway companies of *Urinetown* (Outer Critic and Lortel nominations). Other Broadway: *Grease* (Roger), *Footloose*, *Les Misérables*, and Alan Menken's *King David*. Toured nationally as the Rum Tum Tugger in *Cats* and understudied and performed the role of Martin Guerre in the Cameron Makintosh production of *Martin Guerre*. He also appeared in the New York premiere of *Children of Eden* (Abel) by Stephen Schwartz at the Paper Mill Playhouse. As a writer, he has penned the books to the musicals *Summer of '42* which premiered Off-Broadway in the winter of 2002, and the upcoming *Bonnie and Clyde* and *Fearless*. Hunter is a graduate of University of Michigan's musical theatre program.

REG ROGERS (*Orin*). New York includes: Richard Greenberg's *The Dazzle* (Lucille Lortel and OBIE awards), John Patrick Shanley's *Cellini*, *Unwrap Your Candy*, *Lobster Alice*, *Look Back in Anger*, *Proposals*, *Hurrah at Last*, and *Holiday* (Tony and Drama Desk nominations). Regional: Five seasons at New York Stage and Film including the premieres of *Cellini* and *The Dazzle*, as well as work at Williamstown, Baltimore Center Stage, Long Wharf, Yale Rep., Kennedy Center, Old Globe and the Guthrie Theatre. Television: "Law and Order", "Friends", "Chicago Hope", "Gia" (HBO), and the Emperor Valentinus III in "Attila" (USA). Film: *Primal Fear*, *I Shot Andy Warhol*, *'Til There Was You*, *The Photographer*, *Runaway Bride*, *I'll Take You There*, *Jump*, *Get Well Soon*, *Igby Goes Down* and *Analyze That*.

BILLY PORTER (*The Voice of Audrey II*). Film and television credits include: *The Broken Hearts Club*, *Intern*, "Shake Rattle & Roll" (CBS mini-series), "Another World" (recurring), "Twisted," "The Tonight Show," and multiple appearances on "The Rosie O'Donnell Show." Broadway credits include: *Miss Saigon*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Grease!* (all original casts), *Smokey Joe's Cafe* and *Dreamgirls* (20th Anniversary Broadway Concert and L.A. Ovation Award). Off-Broadway and regional credits include: *Romance in Hard Times*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *House of Lear* and *Radiant Baby* (NYSF). His concert credits include: Opening Act for Rosie O'Donnell and Aretha Franklin, Carnegie Hall and various AIDS benefits throughout the U.S. His recordings include: Debut solo CD *Untitled* (A&M Records), *A Very Rosie Christmas*, *Hercules*, *Anastasia*. Directing credits include *Company* and *Letter's From 'Nam* at Carnegie Mellon, *The Wiz*, and a new musical revue *Signed, Sealed, Delivered: The Music of Stevie Wonder*.

LEE WILKOF (*Mushnik*). Broadway: *The Boys from Syracuse*, *Kiss Me Kate* (Tony, Drama Desk noms.), *She Loves Me*, *The Front Page*, *Sweet Charity* (dir. Bob Fosse). Off-Broadway: *The Underpants* (CSC), *Chaucer in Rome* (LCT), *June Moon*, *Mizlansky/Zilinsky or Schmucks* (MTC), *Assassins* (Drama Desk nom.), *Golden Boy*, *Waiting for Lefty*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Present Tense* (Obie Award, Drama Desk nom.), *Do-Re-Mi* (City Center Encores!). Regional theatre: *Slavs!* (Center Stage & Yale Rep), *June Moon* (McCarter), *Red Memories* (New York Stage and Film), *Dead End*, *Marat Sade*, *...Forum*, *Johnny on a Spot*, *Chaucer in Rome* (Williamstown). Television: "Queens Supreme," "The West Wing," "Law & Order," "100 Centre Street," "Ally McBeal," "Remember WENN," "Max Headroom," "Civil Wars," "Hart to Hart," "Prisoner Without a Name," "Cell Without a Number," "An Early Frost" and many more. Film: *The Grey Zone*, *School of Rock*, *Private Parts*, *This Boy's Life*, *Chatahoochie*, *Kill Me Again*, *The Associate*, *Addicted to Love*, *Ray's Male Heterosexual Dance Hall*, *The Entity*, *Xanadu*.

DIONI MICHELLE COLLINS (*Crystal*). Dioni Michelle Collins is a singer/songwriter and hails from San Francisco, California. Credits include: *Ragtime* (original Broadway cast), pre-Broadway revival of *Finian's Rainbow* (dir. Lonny Price). National tours include: Mabel in the first national tour of *Fame the Musical*, *Bird Girl in Seussical the Musical* (dir. Christopher Ashley). Her other regional credits include: *The Colored Museum* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, *Soul Girl* in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at Westchester Broadway Theatre, B.J. in *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, and *Aretha in Beehive*.

MOE DANIELS (*Ronette*) has performed in Los Angeles in *The Lion King* and the National Tour of *Rent*. She has appeared on the television shows *The Agency*, *The District*, and *Beverly Hills 90210*. Moe can be seen in the films *Scam* and *The Party Crashers*. She trained with Howard Fine, Margie Haber and Seth Riggs.

MOEISHA MCGILL (*Chiffon*) joins the cast of *Little Shop* directly from the Broadway company of *Mamma Mia!* NY Theatre: *Zanna Don't* (Kate), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Soul Sister), *The Last American* (Vera Rhodes). Other: *Once on this Island* (Timoune), *Mack and Mabel* (Lottie), *Two Trains Running* (Risa).

HOWARD ASHMAN (*Book and Lyrics*). A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Howard Ashman moved to New York City in 1974 and began writing plays while working as an editor in a publishing house. His work attracted attention and he became WPA Theatre's artist director in 1977. In 1982, Ashman collaborated with composer Alan Menken on the musical *Little Shop of Horrors*, one of Off-Broadway's highest grossing musicals. The team of Ashman and Menken shifted their focus to

movies creating some of the songs for *The Little Mermaid* (1989). One of the songs, "Under the Sea," won an Oscar in 1989 for best song. Ashman then wrote the lyrics for the songs in the Disney animated musical hit *Beauty and the Beast* (1991), and he and Menken won another Oscar for the title song. However, two days after he won an Oscar for "Under the Sea," Ashman confided in Menken that he had AIDS. Despite his terminal illness, Ashman never stopped composing songs. He turned out more songs for a third Disney animated musical, *Aladdin* (1992), before his death from AIDS on March 14, 1991 at the age of 40.

ALAN MENKEN (*Music*). Stage credits include: *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *A Christmas Carol*, *King David*, *God Bless You Mr. Rosewater*, *Real Life Funnies*, *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, *Weird Romance* and a stage musical adaptation of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* produced in Berlin. Stage awards include: Best Score - Tony Nomination, Outer Critics Circle Award; Best Musical – N.Y. Drama Critics Award, Drama Desk Award, London Evening Standard Award, Olivier Award, Dora Award, Outer Critics Circle Award and the L.A. Drama Critics Award. Film credits include: *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, *Newsies*, *Pocahontas*, *Life with Mikey*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Hercules*. Film awards include: four Academy Awards and three Golden Globe Awards for Best Score, four Academy Awards and four Golden Globe Awards for Best Song ("Under the Sea," "Beauty and the Beast," "A Whole New World," "Colors of the Wind"), Other notable achievements: ten Grammy Awards, including Best Song of the Year ("A Whole New World"), a Billboard #1 Album ("Pocahontas") and #1 Single ("A Whole New World") and BMI's Richard Kirk Award. Other credits include: The score for "Lincoln" (ABC Mini-Series), the songs "My Christmas Tree" from *Home Alone 2* and "The Measure of a Man" from *Rocky V*. Upcoming: a new animated musical, *Home on the Range*, a stage adaptation of *The Little Mermaid*, and a new musical based on the Damon Runyon short story "Little Pinks" entitled *The Ballad of Little Pinks*.

CONNIE GRAPPO (*Director*). Recent New York theatre: *Tabletop* (Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Acting Ensemble), *Belmont Avenue Social Club*, *Spread Eagle*, *On House* and *Century City*. Regional theatre: *The Voice of the Turtle* at Westport Playhouse, Arthur Kopit's *Chad Curtiss: Lost Again* at ATL Humana Festival, *The Chemistry of Change* at Trinity Rep., *Waiting for Godot* at Yale Rep, *The Foreigner* at the Public Theatre in Maine, *Hair* at CRT, *Miss Fairchild Sings* at the Victory Theatre, *Andrea's Got Two Boyfriends* (Drama-Logue Award, L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award, and Governor of California's Media Access Award) in L.A. and at San Diego Rep. Film: screenwriter and director of *Little Feet*, a 30-minute short exhibited at Sundance Film Festival and aired on Showtime Network. Connie is a member of the Acting faculty at the Yale School of Drama.

KATHLEEN MARSHALL (*Choreographer*) choreographed the Broadway productions of *Follies* (Outer Critics Circle Award nomination); *Seussical*; *Kiss Me, Kate* (Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Astaire Award nominations); *Ring 'Round the Moon* (Lincoln Center Theater); *1776* (Roundabout) and *Swinging on a Star* (Drama Desk nomination). In the West End, she choreographed *Kiss Me, Kate* (Olivier Award nomination). She directed and choreographed *Carnival*, *Hair*, *Wonderful Town* and *Babes in Arms* for City Center Encores!, where she was the Artistic Director for four seasons. Off-Broadway, she directed and choreographed *Saturday Night* (Second Stage Theatre), the New York premiere of Stephen Sondheim's first musical, and choreographed *Violet* (Playwright's Horizons) and *As Thousands Cheer* (Drama Dept). Ms. Marshall choreographed the national tours of *Kiss Me, Kate* and *Sunset Boulevard* and directed a reunion concert of the original cast of *Merrily We Roll Along* for Musical Theatre Works. She recently choreographed "Meredith Willson's The Music Man" starring Matthew Broderick for ABC/Disney.

THE JIM HENSON COMPANY (*Puppet Design*) an established leader in family entertainment for more than 45 years, is a multimedia production company; one of the top character licensors in the industry; a leading publisher of children's books and home to Jim Henson Television, Jim Henson Pictures, Jim Henson Interactive, Jim Henson Home Entertainment and Jim Henson's Creature Shop™. The Company is headquartered in Los Angeles with offices and production facilities in New York and London. The Jim Henson Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of EM.TV & Merchandising AG based in Munich, Germany. www.henson.com.

MARTIN P. ROBINSON (*Puppet Design*) has been a professional puppeteer since discovering that it was the perfect link between acting and sculpture. A 1974 graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, he has won Emmys for his performances as Snuffleupagus, Telly Monster, Slimey

the worm and the “Yip-Yip” Martians on Sesame Street. Martin designed, built and performed the plant in the original Off-Broadway production of *Little Shop* for which he received a Drama Desk Award and a LA Drama Critics Award.

SCOTT PASK (*Set Design*). Credits include *Urinetown*, *Tales from Hollywood* (Donmar Warehouse, London), Neil LaBute’s *Bash* in N.Y., L.A. and the Almeida Theatre in London, national tours of *Spirit*, *Godspell* (2000-2001 production), *The Dumbwaiter/Zoo Story* (Williamstown Theatre Festival). Off-Broadway: *The Mineola Twins* (Roundabout Theatre Co., Co-Design, 1999 Lucille Lortel Award, American Theatre Wing Henry Hewes Award), *The Beginning of August* (Atlantic Theatre Co.), *Refuge* (Playwrights Horizon), *Slanguage*, *The Gimmick*, *Love’s Fowl* (NYTW), *The Bomb-itty of Errors*, *The Donkey Show* (also Edinburgh, London) and *Boys Don’t Wear Lipstick*. Also *The Way of the World*, *Richard III* (Yale Rep.), Alliance Theatre Co., Portland Center Stage, Chicago Opera Theatre, Walker Arts Center, Lincoln Center New Visions, the Joyce Theater, BAM.

LAURA BAUER (*Costume Design*). Recent theatre design credits include *Frankie & Johnny* (dir. Joe Mantello) and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, both on Broadway. For Steppenwolf Theatre, she has designed for *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *A Clockwork Orange*. As a company member of the Atlantic, she has designed several shows including *Mojo* and *Dangerous Corner*. Her recent film credits include the costume design for Woody Allen’s *Sweet and Lowdown* and Stephen Frear’s *High Fidelity*, for which she was nominated for a Costume Designers Guild Award.

DONALD HOLDER (*Lighting Design*). Broadway credits include *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom* (revival), *Movin’ Out*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Lion King* (1998 Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle Awards), *King Hedley II*, *Juan Darien* (Tony and Drama Desk nominations), *The Green Bird*, *Hughie*, *Bells Are Ringing*, *Holiday*, *Voices in the Dark*, *Eastern Standard* and *The Boy From Oz* (upcoming). Off-Broadway: *A Man of No Importance*, *Everett Beekin*, *Jitney*, *Sight Unseen*, *Three Days of Rain*, *Strike Up the Band*, *Communicating Doors*, *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Spunk*, *Avenue X*, *Jeffrey*, Sondheim’s *Saturday Night* and many others.

T. RICHARD FITZGERALD (*Sound Design*). 1993/94 Drama Desk Award nomination: Outstanding Sound Design for *Beauty and the Beast*. 1996 Theatre L.A. Ovation Awards nomination: Best Sound Design (Larger Theatre) for *An Inspector Calls*. 2000 Lucille Lortel Award nomination: Best Sound Design Off-Broadway for *4 Guys Named Jose*. Broadway sound design credits: *Annie*, *42nd Street*, *Zorba*, *The King and I*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Translations*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Peter Pan*, *Singin’ in the Rain*, *Show Boat*, *Brigadoon*, *The Dresser*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *Freak*, *Electra*, *Rocky Horror Show*, *Sexaholix*, *Broadway on Broadway*.

HENRY ARONSON (*Music Director*) has been the Music Director of *Rent*, *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Starmites* on Broadway, and *3 Guys Naked from the Waist Down*. Off-Broadway; Associate Conductor of *Saturday Night Fever* and *Parade* (B’way). Other New York M.D. credits include Playwrights Horizons, Naked Angels and La Mama ETC, regional M.D. credits include *A Fine and Private Place* at Goodspeed, *Animal Fair* at the Denver Center, *Heart’s Desire* at the Cleveland Playhouse, *Falsettos* at Hartford Stage, *Fanny Hackabout-Jones* at Long Wharf, *Mail* at the Pasadena Playhouse, and *A...My Name Is Still Alice* at the Old Globe. He has composed and arranged for the Family Channel and Nickelodeon, written orchestrations for *Baryshnikov & Co.*, and orchestrated the full-length *Pirates!* ballet for the Queensland (Australia) Ballet.

THE ROUTH • FRANKEL • VIERTEL • BARUCH GROUP (*Producer*). Marc Routh, Richard Frankel, Tom Viertel and Steven Baruch have produced and general managed a wide range of plays and musicals on and off Broadway, in London and on tour for the past 17 years. Currently: *Hairspray*, *The Producers* and *Stomp*. Previous productions include *My Old Lady*, *Swing!*, *The Sound of Music*, *Smokey Joe’s Cafe*, *The Weir*, *A Funny Thing Happened...*, *Angels in America*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Penn & Teller*, *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, *Oleanna*, *Mnemonic*, *The Cocktail Hour*, *Love Letters*, *Marvin’s Room*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, *Forever Tango*, *Damn Yankees*, *Jeffrey*, *Song of Singapore*, *Later Life* and others. Their shows have been awarded 23 Tonys, 17 Drama Desk Awards, 15 Outer Critics Awards, three Grammys and two Pulitzers. They are the operators of the Arts Theatre in London’s West End.

JAMES D. STERN (*Producer*) has had a varied career in film and theater. On Broadway: *Hairspray*, Mel Brooks' *The Producers*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* starring Whoopi Goldberg, *The Sound of Music*, *Swing*, *The Diary of Anne Frank* starring Natalie Portman Anna Devereaux Smith's *Twilight: Los Angeles 1992*, Lanford Wilson's *Redwood Curtain*, *The Weir*. Off-B'way: the international sensation *Stomp*, Alan Ayckbourn's *Communicating Doors*, *Bunny Bunny*, *Wild Men!* On the film side, Stern directed and produced the darkly comic *It's the Rage* starring Joan Allen, Gary Sinise, Jeff Daniels, Anna Paquin and David Schwimmer, and the IMAX film, *Michael Jordan to the Max*. He recently produced the IMAX film *Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey*. Currently, Stern has started Endgame Entertainment, a new company which will be producing and financing a broad range of entertainment projects. He is married to the novelist Kathryn Stern.

DOUGLAS L. MEYER (*Producer*) is a Senior Vice President of Investments and a Certified Financial Planner with Prudential Financial in Deerfield, Illinois. Mr. Meyer's producing credits include: *The Producers*; (Tony Award winner); *Hairspray*; *Swing!*; *Wild Men!*; *Bunny*, *Bunny*; His most successful production is his son, David. Doug is happily married to Stacey and loves her almost as much as the Cubs.

RICK STEINER (*Producer*) co-produced the Tony Award-winning Best Musicals *Big River* and *The Producers*, along with *Into the Woods*, *The Secret Garden*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe* and *Hairspray*. He was a co-producer of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Topdog/Underdog*. Credits: Six poker championships including the 1992 World Series of Poker 7-Stud Hi-Lo (Las Vegas) and the 1995 Legends of Poker 7-Stud event (L.A.). Rick has always been planted in Cincinnati, Ohio and has sprouted two sons Ace and Duke.

JAMES AND BONNIE OSHER (*Producer*) are Producers of *Hairspray* and backers of *The Producers*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe* and *Big River*. They are active supporters of the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach. Their greatest productions are Jay, Jill, Zachary, Jordan and Jesse. John and Bonnie have also created and produced Stretch Armstrong, The Crest SpinBrush, The Giant Bubble Gun and The Infant Gym. John is the Entrepreneur in Residence at The Case Western's Weatherhead School of Management and UCLA's Anderson School of Business.

SIMONE GENATT HAFT (*Producer*), President of Broadway Asia, has presented shows in over 20 countries in the last five years. Productions include: *Swing!* and *I Got Merman* in Japan; Japanese and Korean presentations of *Smokey Joe's Cafe*; Broadway revival of *The Sound of Music* starring Richard Chamberlain; *Stomp* and *Mayumana* in Korea; worldwide tours of *Cookin'*; North American Tour of *Vietnamese Water Puppets*; *New York Express*, Taiwan and Hong Kong; Edinburgh Fringe Festival productions and consulting with various foreign governments and multinational corporations. While working for Broadway producer Roger Berlind: *Death and the Maiden*, starring Glenn Close, Richard Dreyfuss and Gene Hackman; *City of Angels* and *Lettice and Lovage* starring Maggie Smith. Select forthcoming Asian productions: the Tony Award-winning musical *The Producers*, *Sing-A-Long Sound of Music* and *Hairspray*. Ms. Genatt, graduate of Stanford University, is the Vice-Chairperson of Working Playground, a leading not-for-profit organization providing arts education to inner-city public schools.

FREDERICK H. MAYERSON (*Producer*) grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, jitterbugging to the tunes of Leiber and Stoller. He is the managing partner of Walnut Venture Fund I, a private capital fund specializing in emerging growth companies. He also teams and co-produced *Hairspray*, *The Producers*, *Into the Woods* and *The Secret Garden* and was an associate producer of *Big River*. He continues to dance the night away with his wife Dawna.

AMY DANIS/MARK JOHANNES (*Producer*) formed MARS Theatricals, Inc. in 1999 in order to produce and invest in new work in theater and dance. Since that time, they have produced *Swing!* on Broadway, as well as the *Swing!* National Tour. Off-Broadway, they have been represented by the New York premieres of *My Old Lady*, *Tabletop* and *World of Mirth*. They produced a pre-Broadway production of *Paper Doll* with Marlo Thomas and F. Murray Abraham at Theater Previews at Duke University. Ms. Danis began her career as a dancer/actress. She continues to choreograph for ballet, opera and stage, and is a trustee of the board of Musical Theatre Works. Mr. Johannes is also an actor and a member of the Board of Governors of The Playwright Project, a not-for-profit venture in Healing Springs, N.C. dedicated to developing new works for film, theater and television.

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Jim Henson's Creature Shop™ provides performed digital visual effects, animatronic creatures, animation and soft puppets to the international film, television and advertising industries. Based in Los Angeles and New York with satellite shop capabilities internationally, the Shop is known for designing and building some of the world's best-known characters including Elmo from "Sesame Street," Miss Piggy from "The Muppet Show," the Baby from "Dinosaurs," Rygel from "Farscape," and the Skeksis from "The Dark Crystal." Other credits include "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," "Are We There Yet?," "Five Children and It," the critically acclaimed television series "Farscape," "The English Patient," "101 Dalmatians," and "Cats and Dogs."

A recipient of more than 9 Emmy Awards for its outstanding work building puppets for "Sesame Street," the Shop also received an Academy Award for its visual effects work on the film "Babe." Other awards include a Scientific and Engineering Academy Award for the Henson Performance Control System, a powerful custom-based interface for puppeteers as well as the Computer Graphics World Innovation Award and the prestigious Computerworld Honors 21st Century Achievement Award, which recognizes innovative applications of technology that benefit society. Both computer awards were given to the Shop for its work in developing the Henson Digital Puppetry Studio, a patented control system technology that enables puppeteers to physically perform computer generated (CG) characters in real time.

Jim Henson's Creature Shop is currently in production on "Sid the Science Kid," a 40 episode animated preschool series to air on PBS in the fall of 2008 featuring Henson Digital Puppetry Studio technology and Season 38 of "Sesame Street" for Sesame Workshop.