

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NORTH COAST REP PRESENTS

A SHAYNA MAIDEL by Barbara Lebow

DIRECTED BY NORTH COAST REPERTORY'S

PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

David Ellenstein

(Solana Beach, CA) – “A Shayna Maidel”, a searing story of resiliency and hope. “A Shayna Maidel” tells the story of two sisters separated since childhood and reunited 20 years later in the aftermath of the Holocaust. Written by Barbara Lebow and directed by David Ellenstein, this tender and emotionally charged drama opens **February 23, 2007**.

Yiddish Translation of:

A Shayna Maidel

A Shayna Maidel literally translates as "a pretty girl."

It describes inner beauty and is an expression of love and of yearning hope.

A Shayna Maidel

A Shayna Maidel is a beautiful yet haunting story profoundly simple in its approach. In this deeply moving account of a family's post-holocaust healing resides a story of transcending grief in order to rekindle hope. Two sisters are reunited in New York after World War II. Rose, the younger sister has grown up in America. Lusia, her sister, is a survivor of the Holocaust.

Yet Barbara Lebow specifically requires that, “There should be no visual or auditory images suggesting a concentration camp. The characters should be perceived by actor and director as members of a family who cannot communicate.

They do not even know the Holocaust is behind them.”

Furthermore, although the drama focuses on the survivor, there is also great emphasis on the other who struggles to understand. This poignancy lends to the universal appeal of A Shayna Maidel beyond the Jewish Community.

This play appeals to people of all ages and religions.

A deeply moving account of a family's post-holocaust healing.

Director's Notes....

When I directed A SHAYNA MAIDEL seventeen years ago at the Gaslamp Quarter Theatre Company, it was a seminal experience for me as a director. Not only was the production profoundly affecting for both audience and artists, but I became aware of my larger calling in the theatre. My need to serve through the art as a proponent of the health of the human spirit.

The entire action of the play takes place in the New York City apartment of younger sister Rose in 1946. Through a series of flashbacks, memories, and fantasies, the audience is informed of the underlying griefs, joys, and tensions that shape the lives of the characters. Directing such a well constructed play is a treat. We have assembled a great cast; Jessica John, Christy Hall, Ralph Elias, Christopher Williams, D. Candis Paul, and Maya Baldwin to bring this tale of hope, love, and family to life.

A SHANYA MAIDEL is a moving and beautiful play.

I am delighted to be returning to one of my touchstone experiences.

An Historical Event.

As we enter 2008, we must forever cherish the living history that surrounds us. We must take precious care of the Holocaust survivors that are among us today and realize how fortunate we are to still be able to have access to their voices. Following our 2 PM matinee performance of A Shayna Maidel on Saturday March 1, 2008, please join us for a catered reception in honor of our special guest *Dr. Edith Eger*.

Tickets are on sale now. *A Shayna Maidel* opens February 23, 2008 and runs through March 23, 2008. Opening night curtain is at 8 PM and will be followed by a reception in North Coast Rep's adjoining café. Preview dates, February 20-22 and have a curtain time of 8 PM. Performances run Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 PM, Sunday at 2:00 PM and 7PM select Wednesday evenings and Saturday matinees. Ticket prices range from \$26 - \$40.

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
JOHN CHRISTOPHER GUTH

North Coast Repertory Theatre is located in the Lomas Santa Fe Plaza at 987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Suite D, in Solana Beach, just east of Interstate I-5. The box office is open daily from noon to 4 p.m. and from noon to 7 p.m. on performance days. Tickets may be purchased by calling 858-481-1055, or online at www.northcoastrep.org.

About the North Coast Repertory Theatre

From its beginning as a community theatre in a shopping center in 1982, the North Coast Repertory Theatre has evolved into one of the area's leading performing arts organizations, recognized for the quality of its work and its commitment to excellence. Located in Solana Beach, in the heart of San Diego's Coastal North County, the theatre boasts an award-winning main stage season, with performances year-round to over 40,000 people in its intimate 194-seat setting. In addition, the theatre involves thousands of young people each year in the Theatre School @ North Coast Rep, and in North Coast Rep's education and outreach program.