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For Immediate Release: January 5, 2010
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Press/Opening Night: January 16th at 8:00PM

North Coast Repertory Theatre presents:
The true story of Florence Foster Jenkins — the worst singer in the world

Glorious!

San Diego Premiere

Previews: January 13 – 15, 2010

Show Dates: January 16– February 7, 2010

By Peter Quilter

Directed by Rosina Reynolds

Featuring Susan Denaker*, Annie Hinton* and David McBean*

Glorious! Is a hilarious and heart-warming new comedy that highlights the improbable but true story of a phenomenally talentless eccentric. Florence Foster Jenkins (1868-1944) was an American soprano and socialite who became famous for her complete lack of rhythm, pitch, tone and overall singing ability. Despite her glaring lack of talent, Jenkins was firmly convinced of her greatness. She became tremendously popular and was the toast of New York in the 1940s. Her credo was “People may say that I cannot sing, but no one can say that I didn’t sing.” She sold out Carnegie Hall for her concerts while the audience roared with laughter. Produced around the world and now premiering in San Diego, ***Glorious!*** has brought the same reaction from audiences everywhere.

Susan Denaker* (Florence Foster Jenkins) American Theatre: (Lola) ***Come Back, Little Sheba***, Las Vegas; (Frau Schmidt) ***The Sound of Music***, Sacramento Music Circus; (Beatrice) ***A View From the Bridge***, Cygnet; (Miss Lucy) ***Sweet Bird of Youth*** and (Mrs. Soames) ***Our Town***, La Jolla Playhouse; (Her Ladyship) ***The Dresser***, (Donna Lucia) ***Charley’s Aunt***, (Sheila) ***Relatively Speaking***, multiple roles of Flora, Alexandra, Carmella, Mrs. Sullivan and Sadie, ***No Way To Treat A Lady***, and 2007 and 2008 ***A Christmas Carol***, all at North Coast Rep; (Angie) ***Breaking Legs***, Westport Playhouse. London West End theatre includes: ***Holiday***, London Old Vic; ***Accidental Death of an Anarchist***, Wyndham’s Theatre; ***Country Life***, Lyric Hammersmith Theatre; ***Blockheads***, Mermaid Theatre; ***Budgie***, Cambridge Theatre; ***Being Alive***, Sondheim Charity Gala, Drury Lane Theatre; Other British theatre includes: Ayckbourn’s musical, ***Me, Myself and I***; ***Breaking Legs*** and ***The Village Fête***, both directed by Alan Ayckbourn; ***Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune***, ***A Little Night Music***, ***Side By Side By Sondheim***, ***Company***, National Tour; ***Victoire***, Hotel Paradiso. National Tour; (Corrie Bratter) ***Barefoot in The Park***, International Tour; ***Cole***, National Tour of Scotland. Film/Television includes: ***American Friends***, ***The Women He Loved***, ***As Time Goes By*** (with Dame Judi Dench), ***Accidental Death of an Anarchist***, ***Me and My Girl***, ***Just a Gigolo***, ***Saints and Sinners***, ***Cover Me***, ***Push and Pensacola***.

Annie Hinton* (Dorothy, Maria, Mrs. Verrinder-Gedge) Annie was last seen at NCR as Lady Bracknell in *Importance of Being Earnest*, and Nadya in *Travesties*. REGIONAL: Old Globe Theatre, (Jack O'Brien); Seattle Repertory Theatre, (Dan Sullivan); Virginia in *The Clean House* (San Diego Rep); A Contemporary Theatre; Empty Space Theatre; Seattle Children's Theatre; and New Mexico Rep. LOCAL: Cygnet Theatre, *Book of Liz* (Liz), *Christmas Carol*, (Mrs. Dilbur, Mrs. Fezziwig). FILM: *Bring It On; Outta Time; 29th & Gay*. TV: *Jenni Project* (Disney), *Veronica Mars* and many others. Annie also channels her creative energy into her private students, dialect coaching and has been a "Freeway-Flyer" Theatre Professor for many years.

David McBean* (Cosme McMoon) David was last seen on the North Coast stage in *Shipwrecked!*, and as Lord Fancourt Baberly in *Charley's Aunt*. Other NCR credits: Miss Deep South in *Pageant* (Patté Award) and Pianist in *Holiday Memories*. Local credits include: Sam in *Fully Committed* (SD Critics Circle Award, Patté Award, SD Playbill Award), Larry in *Burn This*, Brother Brightbee in *The Book of Liz* at Cygnet Theater. Bunbury in *Bunbury*, Chicklet in *Psycho Beach Party*, Frank 'n Furter in *The Rocky Horror Show*, and Harry in *The Boys in the Band* at Diversionary Theater.

Rosina Reynolds (Co-Director) *Don't Dress for Dinner, Relatively Speaking, Importance of Being Earnest, Travesties, An American Daughter, The Sum of Us, Blithe Spirit, Corpse, Rough Crossing, Chekov in Yalta* (North Coast Repertory Theatre), *Bad Dates* (San Diego Repertory Theatre), *Atwater, Fixin' to Die* (Cygnet Theatre), *Caretaker* (Renaissance Theatre), *Happy Endings are Extra, Twilight of the Golds, Beautiful Thing, Wrinkles, Another American, Asking and Telling, Gross Indecency, The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde, Breaking The Code, Lot's Daughters* (Diversionary Theatre), *Three Days of Rain* (Compass Theatre), *Vigil* (Fritz Theatre), *Marvin's Room* (Hahn Cosmopolitan Theatre).

Christopher M. Williams (Co-Director) Christopher has worked with NCRT on several shows where he played Danny in *The Chosen*, Axel in *The Nerd*, Duvid in *A Shayna Maidel*, Seward in *Dracula* and most recently, Robert in *Don't Dress for Dinner*. He also stage managed *The Smell of the Kill* and *Tuesdays with Morrie*. Directing credits include: *Romeo and Juliet* for Southwest Shakespeare Company, *Julius Caesar* for New Village Arts, *MacBeth* for Scottsdale Conservatory Theatre, *Picnic* for Scottsdale College, *A Thurber Carnival* and *Love's Fire* for Glendale College.

Peter Quilter (Playwright) Peter's plays have been translated into 18 languages and produced in 27 countries around the world. He has had two plays in London's West End and hit shows in major cities, including Cape Town, Prague, Amsterdam, Helsinki, Toronto, Warsaw, Rio de Janeiro and Chicago. His writing career took off in the summer of 2005 with the award-winning premiere of his play about Judy Garland, *End of the Rainbow* at Sydney Opera House in Australia. Then just two months later, came the premiere of *Glorious!* at London's Duchess Theatre. These shows have since enjoyed dozens of international productions, including tours of Canada, the Netherlands, Brazil, Poland, Germany and Italy. *Glorious!* was nominated for the Laurence Olivier Award as Best New Comedy and recently celebrated 2,000 performances worldwide and one million ticket sales. A new UK production of *End of the Rainbow* will open in February and is scheduled for a London run in April. There will also be new productions in

Europe and South America. Peter's other work includes an all-female comedy, *Curtain Up!* (recently published by Samuel French); a musical adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *The Canterville Ghost*; a show about the pop industry, *BoyBand* (which ran at the Gielgud Theatre in London prior to touring Europe); a contemporary play, *Celebrity*, which was recently made into a film for Polish television; and a two-actor romantic comedy, *Duets*, which recently premiered with a sell-out eight-week run in Sydney. Peter was born in England, but now lives in the Canary Islands. He recently completed a one woman show, *Just the Ticket*, which will premiere in 2010. **Note to Press:** Peter Quilter is available for email interviews. Please contact Sandra Schwarzmann, (858) 481-2155 X20, or Sandra@northcoastrep.org for information.

The cast of *Glorious!* includes:

Susan Denaker* as Florence Foster Jenkins
Annie Hinton* as Dorothy, Maria, Mrs. Verrinder-Gedge
David McBean* as Cosme McMoon

The Design Team includes:

Rosina Reynolds: Co-Director
Christopher M. Williams: Co-Director
Marty Burnett: Scenic Designer
Jason Bieber: Lighting Design
Jemima Dutra: Costume Design
Chris Luessmann: Sound Design
Annie Bornhurst-Props and Set Dressing
John Finkbinner- Scenic Artist

The Crew Includes:

Aaron Rumley *: Stage manager
Kshusha Vanyan: (Costume Shop Supervisor)
Christopher Williams: (Assistant Director)

*Member of Actors' Equity Association

FACT SHEET:

WHAT: North Coast Repertory Theatre presents:

Glorious!

San Diego Premiere

By Peter Quilter

Co-Directed by Rosina Reynolds and Christopher M. Williams

Featuring Susan Denaker, Annie Hinton and David McBean

WHEN:

Previews: January 13 – 15, 2010

Show Dates: January 16– February 7, 2010

WHERE:

North Coast Repertory Theatre

987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach, CA 92075

TICKETS: \$30 - \$47

Tickets for *Glorious!* are available only at North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach at 987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Suite D, 92075. For ticket information or reservations call (858)-481-1055 or visit www.northcoastrep.org. Box Office hours are Noon to 4pm daily and Noon to Curtain day of shows.

Preview tickets are \$32.00, Opening Night tickets are \$47, Saturday evening and Sunday Matinee tickets are \$41.00 and Wednesday – Friday evening and Saturday Matinees are \$37.00. Student/Seniors and Military save \$3.00 and Subscriber single tickets are \$5.00 off.

SHOWTIMES: Show times are select Wednesdays at 7:00pm and select Saturday matinees at 2:00pm. Regular show times are Thursday - Saturday at 8:00pm and Sundays at 2:00pm and 7:00pm.

LISTING: A hilarious and heart-warming new comedy that highlights the improbable but true story of a phenomenally talentless eccentric. Florence Foster Jenkins (1868-1944) was an American soprano and socialite who became famous for her complete lack of rhythm, pitch, tone and overall singing ability. Despite her glaring lack of talent, Jenkins was firmly convinced of her greatness. She became tremendously popular and was the toast of New York in the 1940s. Her credo was “People may say that I cannot sing, but no one can say that I didn’t sing.” She sold out Carnegie Hall for her concerts while the audience roared with laughter. Produced around the world and now premiering in San Diego, *Glorious!* has brought the same reaction from audiences everywhere.

Images/Photographs for *Glorious!* will be made available on-line Monday, January 11, 2010, at www.northcoastrep.org/press. If you need photos earlier arrangements can be made to have them sent directly to you if available. Photo credits go to Aaron Rumley. If you would like a script or program to be sent to you electronically please contact Sandra@northcoastrep.org or directly at 858-481-2155 X 20. Script is only available to press and not for general distribution.

About the North Coast Repertory Theatre

About North Coast Repertory Theatre:

North Coast Repertory Theatre is a professional equity theatre founded in 1982. For over 28 years, North Coast Rep has received critical acclaim from media and audiences alike. With the fifth largest operating budget of non profit theatres and employing the third most Actors’ Equity Association members (the union of professional actors and stage managers) in San Diego, North Coast Rep continues to produce high quality, award winning theatre and has evolved into one of the area's leading performing arts organizations. Located in Solana Beach, California, NCR not only draws its audience from the North County region but 50% of its audience base resides in metro San Diego and throughout Southern California. Recognized for the quality of its work and its commitment to quality, this season will be performed on the Blakistone Stage, newly dedicated to North Coast Rep founders Olive Blakistone and her recently departed husband Tom, who passed away in March of 2009.