

Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CITY THEATRE AND THE ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING
ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
PRESENT
CAMP KAPPAWANNA**

A WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL!

**With music & lyrics by Grammy® Award-nominated singer/songwriter Lisa Loeb
Written by rising star Miami playwright Marco Ramirez
and conceived by City Theatre Producing Artistic Director Stephanie Norman**

THIS SUMMER'S MUST-SEE MUSICAL!

June 17 - 27, 2010

Carnival Studio Theater in the Ziff Ballet Opera House

July 1 - 3, 2010

Epstein Center for the Arts at Nova Southeastern University

MIAMI, FL April 19, 2010 – City Theatre and The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County join forces to present City Theatre's first full-length musical – **CAMP KAPPAWANNA** -- a world premiere musical that celebrates timeless summer camp experiences with hip, cool music and lyrics by Grammy® Award-nominated singer/songwriter **Lisa Loeb** and a script by rising national playwright and South Florida native **Marco Ramirez**. With this season's must-see musical, **CAMP KAPPAWANNA**, City Theatre set out to create a new classic for all ages: a fresh, original take on leaving home for the first time that, from start to finish, makes everyone in the audience feel as if they, too, are joining in the fun of summer camp! Tickets for the June 17 – 27 performances at the Adrienne Arsht Center are \$25, and may be purchased through the Adrienne Arsht Center box office at (305) 949-6722 or online at www.arshtcenter.org.

Group rates are available for groups of 10 or more, and may be arranged by calling the Adrienne Arsht Center at (786) 468-2326.

Tickets for performances on July 1-3 at the Epstein Center for the Arts at Nova Southeastern University are available through the Epstein Center's box office at (305) 365-5400 or online at www.citytheatre.com.

"CAMP KAPPAWANNA is the first of three Miami premieres slated for the 2010 summer season at the Adrienne Arsht Center. **CAMP KAPPAWANNA** brings to the community a warm and witty theatrical work that combines top-tier creative talent with a family-friendly story that will appeal to all generations," said M. John Richard, President and CEO of the Adrienne Arsht Center. **"CAMP KAPPAWANNA** is an exciting new musical created and inspired by a creative team deeply rooted here in South Florida and led by our artistic partners at City Theatre. This production has all the right artistic ingredients to thrill and delight South Florida families and the potential to touch audiences beyond Miami. The Center is thrilled to have participated in the nurturing and development of this new musical."

CAMP KAPPAWANNA tells the story of Jennifer Jenkins, awkward and adorable and 12, a kid who hasn't really found herself just yet. She's going away for the summer – her very first time leaving home. From the start, **CAMP KAPPAWANNA** makes audiences of all generations feel as if they, too, are joining in the fun of summer camp. **CAMP KAPPAWANNA** marks Grammy® Award-nominated multi-platinum selling singer/songwriter **Lisa Loeb's** first musical production. **Loeb** created **CAMP KAPPAWANNA's** music and lyrics along with collaborators Dan Petty and Michelle Lewis in celebration of her days at camp, where she first learned to play the guitar.

"Summer camp is one of those life-changing experiences that every child should have. It teaches you to try new things, explore and make new friends. It won't always be easy, but you can forge true friendships and make lifelong memories that will stay with you forever," said **Loeb**.

The **CAMP KAPPAWANNA** musical was conceived by City Theatre co-founder and producing artistic director **Stephanie Norman**, who tapped multi-Heideman Award winning playwright **Marco Ramirez** to write the book. Says **Norman**, "We've produced seven of Marco's plays on our stages -- starting with his first professional production -- leading to many accolades recognizing him as one of the nation's rising talents. His writing is smart, funny and strikes the right chord with kids – and adults."

Ramirez's Carbonell-nominated play *BroadSword* will premiere at the Adrienne Arsht Center later this month. **Ramirez** is currently a writer on FX's "Sons of Anarchy" and trained at the prestigious Tisch School of the Arts and The Juilliard School.

The **CAMP KAPPAWANNA** ensemble features all local talents Melanie Leibner, Troy Davidson, Jameson Hammond, Tom Anello, Renata Eastlick, Mary Sansone and

Gerardo Pelati. City Theatre's first full-length musical will be directed by Sean Paul Bryan, on faculty in the Drama Department at Ransom Everglades School.

Lisa Loeb is a Grammy-nominated, platinum-selling singer/songwriter and actress. She launched her career in 1994 with the No. 1 hit song, "Stay (I Missed You)." To this day, she is still the only artist to have a number one single while not signed to a recording contract. **Loeb** carried the momentum of her early success into a multi-dimensional career encompassing music, film, television, voice-over work and children's recordings. Her five acclaimed studio CDs include her major label debut, the gold-selling *Tails* and its follow-up, the Grammy-nominated, gold-selling *Firecracker*. **Loeb** has starred in two television series, "Dweezil and Lisa," a weekly culinary adventure for the Food Network and "No. 1 Single," a dating show on the E! Network in 2006. She tours worldwide, and in recent years has captivated a younger audience as she released the award-winning *Catch the Moon* in 2003, and 5 years later *Camp Lisa* in 2008. *Catch the Moon* included a companion board book that earned the prestigious Parent's Choice Award and led to a series of popular videos for Noggin Network.

Marco Ramirez trained at both NYU Tisch and the prestigious The Juilliard School, and is currently a staff writer on FX's "Sons of Anarchy." He has had seven plays produced at City Theatre, including his Heideman Award-winning "I Am Not Batman," which also premiered at the Humana Festival of New American Plays. **Ramirez** began his association with City Theatre while still a high school student at Coral Reef Senior High School, participating in the company's *KidShorts* program to mentor talented young artists. He has gone on to have his plays produced by The Kennedy Center, Mad Cat Theatre Company, The Naked Stage, Yellow Tree, Red Barn, The Juilliard School, and Actors Theatre of Louisville's Humana Festival of New American Plays (where he's twice received the Heideman Award). Other honors include a Helen Hayes Nomination, The Bryan Award for Drama from The Fellowship of Southern Writers, and the Le Comte Du Nouy prize from Lincoln Center.

Stephanie Norman, City Theatre Producing Artistic Director, conceived **CAMP KAPPAWANNA** as a family musical and rockin' gift for many generations to celebrate summer. **Norman** has collaborated with the nation's finest talents as an actor, writer, director, and producer for over twenty years. She is the co-founder and co-creator of the completely unique *Summer Shorts Festival* and in the past 15 years has produced over 300 plays by the nation's finest talents, brought together the state's largest collaborative ensemble annually, and led the company's artistic and institutional growth. **Norman** began her career working with Broadway producer Manny Azenberg on the NYC productions of *Dreamgirls*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Broadway Bound*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, and *Jerome Robbins' Broadway* and working in film production as an assistant to Mike Nichols on "*The Birdcage*." She has spent the past year collaborating with **Lisa Loeb**, **Marco Ramirez**, and a talented team of artists to create a completely fresh, original new musical.

As a special addition to this exciting premiere performance, City Theatre launches its 2nd Annual Art Contest, **THE CAMP ME! ART CONTEST**. Children in grades K-8 may

visit www.citytheatre.com to download a template and registration form to enter. The contest runs April 1 – May 15 and winning entries will be enlarged and displayed at the Adrienne Arsht Center and Epstein Center as an exhibit of Florida's finest young artists.

CALENDAR LISTING

City Theatre and The Adrienne Arsht Center present

CAMP KAPPAWANNA

There's something completely new for families this summer! Take a trip to Camp Kappawanna -- **a world premiere musical** that will instantly transport you to summer camp with hip, cool music by **Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter Lisa Loeb** and a script by rising national playwright and South Florida native Marco Ramirez.

Join young Jennifer Jenkins, the show's awkward and adorable 12-year-old heroine, as she faces the fear and enjoys the fun of going away from home for the very first time.

Camp Kappawanna is the summer's must-see musical!

Appropriate for ages 7 and up.

June 17-27, 2010

Carnival Studio Theater

In the Ziff Ballet Opera House

Adrienne Arsht Center

1300 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL, 33132

Tickets: \$25

For tickets, visit www.arshtcenter.org or call the Box Office at (305) 949-6722.

Visit www.arshtcenter.org for up-to-date information for details and schedules.

July 1-3, 2010

Epstein Center for the Arts at Nova Southeastern University

3375 S.W. 75th Avenue, Davie, FL, 33314

Tickets: \$20

For tickets, visit www.citytheatre.com or call the Box office at (305) 365-5400.

Editor's Note:

Related high-resolution photos are available at www.arshtcenter.org/press and www.mediafire.com/arshtcenterphotos.

Prices, artists, dates, times and program are subject to change without notice. All sales are final. There are no refunds or exchanges.

Camp Kappawanna is supported by: season title sponsor Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A., the Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Mayor and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Affairs Council, The Children's Trust, America's Capital Partners, Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, the Shepard Broad Foundation, Citizens Interested in the Arts, Carnival Cruise Lines, Dramatists Guild Fund, Dunspaugh-Dalton Foundation, Lynn Wille Fichman Family Foundation, Funding Arts Broward, Gibraltar Private Bank & Trust, IBM, Islander News, Manny and Ruthy Cohen Foundation, Miami Salon Group, Northern Trust, The University School Art Institute at the Epstein Center for the Arts, Wachovia, WLRN.

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About the Adrienne Arsht Center for Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County:

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is one of the world's leading performing arts organizations and venues. Made possible by Miami-Dade County's largest ever public/private-sector partnership, the Center plays host to three resident companies (Florida Grand Opera, Miami City Ballet and New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy) in addition to numerous South Florida arts organizations that perform in its theaters regularly. Since opening in 2006, the Center has emerged as a leader in offering and presenting world-class programming that mirrors South Florida's diversity, as a catalyst for development in Miami, and as a host of impactful community and educational programs.

Designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli of Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, the venue is comprised of the 2,400-seat Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House, the 2,200-seat John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall, the black box Carnival Studio Theater, a restored Carnival Art Deco Tower, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Studio, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Education Center, and the outdoor Parker and Vann Thomson Plaza for the Arts. Events impresario and restaurateur Barton G. Weiss brought his signature style to the Center in 2009 with PRELUDE BY BARTON G, a full-service upscale restaurant open five days a week.

Visit www.arshtcenter.org for more information.

About City Theatre

City Theatre is a professional theatre company founded in February 1996 and dedicated to the solicitation, development and production of a genre completely unique to our cultural community -- short (one-act) plays by established and emerging playwrights from South Florida and throughout the nation. Since its inception in 1996, the company has received over 6,000 national script submissions, produced over 300 original short plays by established and emerging playwrights, and brought together the largest ensemble annually of over 100 artists, actors, directors, designers, and production staff for the annual SUMMER SHORTS - America's Short Play Festival. The company's innovative and distinctive educational programming includes the SHORTS 4 KIDS school tour, the unique STUDENT SHORTS PROJECT to mentor talented student playwrights, and the popular FESTIVAL SERIES of free play readings and discussion culled from the company's regional and national submissions. Nationally, City Theatre has an artistic alliance with the Actor's Theatre of Louisville's Humana Festival of New American Plays, one of the largest and most prestigious new play festivals. City Theatre joins ATL as co-sponsors of the National Ten-Minute Play Contest, a national contest designed to discover exciting new plays by established or emerging playwrights.

City Theatre's goal is to be among the nation's premier forums for the development of new work, and to create fresh and imaginative cultural experiences that will enlighten, inspire and entertain.