



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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WORLD PREMIERE OF *LEND ME A TENOR: THE MUSICAL* TO OPEN AS PART OF USF'S 2007 SUMMER SEASON



Book & Lyrics by Peter Sham

Music by Brad Carroll

Based on the Play by Ken Ludwig

Cedar City, UT (October 1, 2006)–The Utah Shakespearean Festival presents the world premiere of *Lend Me A Tenor: The Musical*, based on the hit Broadway comedy by Ken Ludwig. Featuring book & lyrics by Peter Sham and music by Brad Carroll, the creators of USF's annual holiday production, *A Christmas Carol: On The Air*. *Lend Me A Tenor: The Musical* will begin its world premiere run on June 27, 2007, as part of the Utah Shakespearean Festival's summer repertory season. Utah Shakespearean Festival was the recipient of the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in 2000, www.bard.org.

One of America's most beloved contemporary comedies, *Lend Me A Tenor* is a raucous farce of mistaken identity. Set in 1934, the plot revolves around the greatest tenor in the world, Tito Merelli, who has come to the Cleveland Grand Opera season to sing "Otello." When he is unable to perform, Max, the opera company's factotum, is ordered by his boss to solve the problem. Adding to the chaos are a stage-struck bellhop, a jealous wife, a scheming soprano, and others. The 1989 Broadway production ran for 476 performances and won two Tony Awards after earning seven nominations, www.kenludwig.com.

Lend Me A Tenor: The Musical was presented in May 2006 in a staged reading production as part of USF's New American Playwright Project, and the feedback received from patrons and industry professionals was invaluable to the creative team. After several months of additional work, the Utah Shakespearean Festival now presents a fully realized musical production of this hilarious story which includes new scenes and new characters, and the high caliber of sets, costumes and lights that USF audiences have grown accustomed to. *Lend Me A Tenor: The Musical* marks the first project developed through the New American Playwright Project to go directly to a full production on the USF mainstage.

In attendance for the staged reading in May was respected regional director/designer, Jack Shouse, (Artistic Director Emeritus of The Pacific Conservatory of The Performing Arts in Santa Maria, CA, and Planning

Consultant/Director/Designer for the Utah Festival Opera in Logan, UT). Said Mr. Shouse, "The musical adaptation of *Lend Me A Tenor* is an exciting and radical departure from Disneyland and biographical musical revues which are currently much of what Broadway offers audiences. This is a musical book show in the tradition of the best musical theater in the golden age of musicals. It is great entertainment with a terrific mix of farcical humor and heart. The music and lyrics are both melodic and feature a wit that is worthy of Noel Coward and Cole Porter. This show has it all. It is the best musical comedy I have heard in so many years; I can't even remember the last time I was this excited about a new piece of work."

"I'm thrilled and flattered that Peter and Brad are working on this musical," comments *Lend Me A Tenor* author, Ken Ludwig, "The music is terrific. The lyrics are fabulous. (Peter and Brad) have done a most incredible job. This is first rate -- A home run."

The Utah Shakespearean Festival has high hopes that lightning will strike twice with the creation of the musical version. "The potential of this creative project to the image and future of USF is tremendous," says Festival Founder, Fred C. Adams, "a big 'Broadway style' musical version of this world renowned comedy will open exciting new vistas for all of us."

Lend Me A Tenor: The Musical will mark Peter Sham and Brad Carroll's second collaboration. Their first, *A Christmas Carol: On The Air*, a "1940's Radio Show" version of the Dickens' classic, has become an annual holiday event for USF since 2004. ***Lend Me A Tenor: The Musical*** boasts a score with a decidedly thirties flair which frequently pays homage to the wonderful world of opera.

FACTS & FIGURES

UTAH SHAKESPEAREAN FESTIVAL 351 W. Center St., Cedar City, UT 84720	ADMIN. 435.586.7880	BOX OFFICE 1.800.PLAYTIX	WEBSITE www.bard.org
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WHAT: The Utah Shakespearean Festival presents the World Premiere of ***Lend Me A Tenor: The Musical***, based on the hit Broadway comedy by Ken Ludwig.

WHERE: Randall L. Jones Theatre @ Utah Shakespearean Festival
Hosted by Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT 84720
R. SCOTT PHILLIPS, Festival Director / **FRED C. ADAMS**, Founder

WHO: Book & Lyrics by **PETER SHAM** ~ Music by **BRAD CARROLL**
Based on the Play by **KEN LUDWIG** ~ Directed by **ROGER BEAN**
Music Direction by **JEREMY MANN** ~ Orchestration by **BRAD CARROLL**
Scenic Design by **MICHAEL CARNAHAN** ~ Costume Design by **BILL BLACK**
Lighting Design by **CYNTHIA STILLINGS** ~ Sound Design by **JEFF MOCKUS**

DATES: **Previews Begin:** Wednesday, June 27, 2007 / **Press Opening:** Saturday, June 30 @ 8pm / **Closes:** Saturday, September 1 @ 8pm

After opening week, performances are as follows:
Tuesdays & Fridays @ 2pm / Wednesdays & Saturdays @ 8pm.

PRICES: Range from **\$22 - \$48** (see charts next page)

Randall L. Jones Theatre (Evenings)

	M-W	Th-S
Orchestra	\$38	\$42
Side Orchestra	\$32	\$36
Gallery/Boxes	\$26	\$30
Balcony	\$22	\$26



Randall L. Jones Theatre (Matinees)

	M-W	Th-S
Orchestra	\$44	\$48
Side Orchestra	\$38	\$42
Gallery/Boxes	\$34	\$38
Balcony	\$26	\$32



An \$8 per order handling fee will be added to all orders other than those placed in person at the Ticket Office. Ticket prices include \$1 to the Festival Forever Endowment Fund. American Express, Mastercard, Visa, and Discover are accepted.

DISCOUNTS:

Discounts and packages listed below are not retroactive and may not be combined with any other discounts. Discounts are not available for Orchestra seats. Discounts and packages are not available at our online Ticket Office. To take advantage of them, please call the Ticket Office at 800-PLAYTIX.

School Groups

All school groups of twelve or more receive a 50% discount on all available seats for select shows, please visit www.bard.org for details.

Seniors and AAA Members

On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, seniors (62 and older) and AAA members receive \$2 discounts on all available seats (exceptions apply, please visit us at www.bard.org for details. To be eligible, you must ask for this discount when you place your order.

Summer Six Pack

Buy five summer productions and get one free! Beginning July 5, see *Candida* and *The Matchmaker* on Monday or Thursday, ***Lend Me a Tenor: The Musical*** and *Coriolanus* on Tuesday or Friday, and *Twelfth Night* and *King Lear* on Wednesday or Saturday. No substitutions or changes. The Summer Six Pack also includes a 2007 Souvenir Program.

Two-for-One Performances are also available for select shows, please visit www.bard.org for details.

HOW:

By phone at 1.800.PLAYTIX / **Online** at www.bard.org

In person at the box office, located at 351 W. Center St., Cedar City, UT 84720

ARTISTIC PROFILES

PETER SHAM (Book & Lyrics) is the author of the musicals, *Toyland & It's A Dog's Life: Man's Best Musical*; the screenplays, *After The Wizard, Hag & The Playhouse*; and the plays, *Moby Dick*, a classical adaptation of Melville's novel, and *A Christmas Carol: On The Air*, a "1940's Radio Show" version of the Charles Dickens' classic, written with Brad Carroll. He recently finished a collaboration with William Peter Blatty (*The Exorcist*), adapting Mr. Blatty's Golden Globe Award winning screenplay, *The Ninth Configuration*, for the stage under the title of the original novel, *Twinkle, Twinkle, "Killer" Kane*. Mr. Sham is Assistant Professor of Theatre at Southern Utah University, and has been a resident principal member of the Tony Award Winning Utah Shakespearean Festival for ten seasons. He has served as Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre at University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Adjunct Professor of Acting/Guest Director at Elon University in NC; and as Artistic Director for the Eichelberger Performing Arts Center in Hanover, PA and for Bristol Valley Playhouse in Naples, NY. Mr. Sham holds an MFA from the University of Delaware's Professional Theatre Training Program.

BRAD CARROLL (Music) is a recognized regional director, music director and composer. He is the composer/arranger of the new opera-theatre piece, *Cio Cio San*, (June 2005 premiere) as well as the author/composer of *The Emperor's New Clothes*, commissioned by Risa Brainin of Shakespeare Santa Cruz in 2003. Other produced musicals include *Across the River* (based on *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*), *Togetherness*, *Christmas Is...: A Musical Memory*, and a new musical treatment of *Robin Hood*. Mr. Carroll has created musical scores for dramatic productions including *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *King Lear*, *As You Like It*, *Death of a Salesman* & *To Kill a Mockingbird*, as well as adapting *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* & *The Nightingale* for Educational Outreach programs. As a Writer, Director and Musical Arranger for Walt Disney Entertainment, he was involved in the creation of three new shows for the multi-billion dollar *TokyoDisneySea* theme park that opened in Japan in September of 2001. Mr. Carroll's musical arrangements/orchestrations have been performed by such prestigious organizations as the San Francisco Symphony and the Boston Pops.

KEN LUDWIG (Original Play) Mr. Ludwig is an internationally acclaimed playwright, who has had a number of hits on Broadway, in the West End of London, and throughout the world, including, *Crazy For You*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Twentieth Century*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Leading Ladies*, *Be My Baby* & *Shakespeare in Hollywood*, which was commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company. *Crazy For You* won the Tony Award for Best Musical. He has also received the coveted Laurence Olivier Award from the London Society of West End Theatres, as well as two Helen Hayes Awards and two Tony Award nominations. Recently, Mr. Ludwig was honored to be asked by the Estate of Thornton Wilder to complete Mr. Wilder's adaptation of *The Beaux' Stratagem*, a new version of the Restoration comedy by George Farquhar. Mr. Ludwig has also recently completed an adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, which opens on May 18, 2006 at the Alley Theatre in Houston, TX. Currently, Mr. Ludwig has been commissioned by The Bristol Old Vic in London to write an adaptation of *The Three Musketeers* for an 8-week run during the theatre's 2006 Christmas season. Other plays include *Sullivan & Gilbert*; a new adaptation of *Where's Charley?* for the Kennedy Center; the Off-Broadway hit *Divine Fire*; and a mystery, *Postmortem*. For television, he co-wrote the 1990 Kennedy Center Honors for CBS (Emmy Award nomination), and a television pilot for Carol Channing. For film he wrote *All Shook Up* for Touchstone Pictures and director Frank Oz. He is a graduate of Haverford College (B.A.), Harvard Law School (J.D.) and Cambridge University (LL.B.). Mr. Ludwig is an Associate Artist of the Alley Theatre. For more information, please visit www.kenludwig.com.

ROGER BEAN (Director) Mr. Bean's work as a director and choreographer has been seen throughout the country on the stages of Milwaukee Repertory Theater (ten World Premiere musicals, including *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, *The Andrews Brothers*, *Why Do Fools Fall In Love?* & *Don't Touch That Dial!*), Utah Shakespearean Festival (*The Mikado*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*), Florida Studio Theatre, Delaware Theatre Company, Civic Light Opera Of South Bay Cities, Oregon Cabaret Theatre (West Coast Premiere of the original musical *Route 66*), Madison Repertory Theatre (the World Premiere of the musical *Love Is The Weirdest Of All*), Skylight Opera Theatre and numerous stages in between. *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, of which he is the author and director, is currently enjoying its Los Angeles premiere. Mr. Bean is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers and The Dramatists Guild.

JEREMY MANN (Music Director) Mr. Mann is Director of Singing for the Ray Bolger Musical Theater Program at UCLA. In this capacity, he developed the singing curriculum for the undergraduate Musical Theater majors. His directing credits at UCLA include *Into the Woods*, *Hot Mikado*, and vocal direction for *Urinetown*. Mr. Mann served for twelve years as Resident Musical Director and Actor at the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts (PCPA Theaterfest) in Santa Maria. In addition to co-creating and teaching the Singing Techniques for the Actor curriculum at PCPA, he was Music Director for over 20 productions there, including *Honk!*, *My Fair Lady*, *Songs For A New World*, *How to Succeed... & A Chorus Line*. Directing credits at PCPA included *Peter Pan*, *42nd Street* & *Anything Goes*. He has also served as Musical Director for the Utah Shakespearean Festival (*Man of La Mancha*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *HMS Pinafore*). A lyricist and singer-songwriter, Mr. Mann is also co-creator of the original musicals *Robin Hood* & *Christmas Is...A Musical Memory*, with Brad Carroll.