



## NEWS RELEASE

### CONTACT:

Fred Tracey, Marketing Specialist  
Phone: 760.726.1340 Ext 1146  
Email: ftracey@cityofvista.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 28, 2010

## Moonlight Stage Productions Opens Winter Season with *Barefoot in the Park*

VISTA, CA – Moonlight Stage Productions will open its 21<sup>st</sup> Winter Season with Neil Simon’s classic romantic comedy *Barefoot in the Park* from Thursday, Jan. 20 through Sunday, Feb. 6 at the AVO Playhouse, 303 Main Street, Vista. Tickets, priced \$22-\$30, are on sale now through the VisTix Ticket Office at (760) 724-2110 and online at moonlightstage.com.

*Barefoot in the Park* is the charming story of two newlyweds who couldn’t be more different and who learn that in life as well as love, “variety is the spice of life”!

The quintessential romantic comedy, *Barefoot in the Park* follows the lives of newlyweds Corie and Paul Bratter (Jessica John and Jason Maddy, respectively) as they adjust to life in a tiny Greenwich Village apartment. Paul is a lawyer who’s wound up too tight, while Corie is a free spirit bubbling over with romantic notions. But six exhausting flights of stairs, strange neighbors, and a giant hole in the skylight don’t bode well for a smooth start to their married life. When Corie meets Victor Velasco (Eric Poppick), an aging but charming womanizer, and decides to introduce him to her shy, staid mother Ethel Banks (Dagmar Fields), the stage is set for an evening of love and laughter.

Also appearing in the production are Peter Pavone as the telephone man and making special appearances in the non-speaking role of the delivery man on different weekends of the run are three Moonlight favorites: Howard Bickle (first weekend), Ralph Johnson (second weekend), and Jim Chovick (third weekend).

*Barefoot in the Park*, described in the *New York Times* as “a bubbling rib-tickling comedy,”

premiered on Broadway in 1963 receiving numerous award nominations going on to become Neil Simon's longest-running Broadway show to date. Often recognized as one of the most successful American playwrights in theatre history, Simon's work resonates with audiences who are seduced by his sharp one-liners and ability to stage everyday experiences with honesty and humor. While Simon's conflict between Corie and Paul speak to the social and political landscape of the decade it was written, *Barefoot in the Park* is essentially a winsome comedy with sitcom sensibilities that audiences of today can relate to.

Helming Moonlight's production of *Barefoot in the Park* is Jason Heil who returns to the AVO Playhouse after directing the critically-acclaimed *Ring Round the Moon* earlier this year. Also on the creative team are scenic designer Dixon Fish, lighting designer Paul A. Canaletti, Jr., sound designer Ryan Ford, costume designers Roslyn Lehman and Renetta Lloyd, properties coordinator Bonnie Durben, and stage manager Sarah Ahlquist.

#### **About the Company**

**JESSICA JOHN** (Corie Bratter) was last seen at the AVO Playhouse as Lady India in RING ROUND THE MOON. Other favorite San Diego productions include: PRIVATE LIVES, NOISES OFF (San Diego Critic's Circle Award, Best Ensemble), MAURITIUS, LOVE SONG, DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS, COMMUNICATING DOORS (Patté Award, Best Production), CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF (San Diego Playbill Award, Best Actress), BURN THIS (San Diego Critic's Circle Award, Best Actress), Cygnet Theatre; A SHAYNA MAIDEL, North Coast Repertory Theatre; PULP!, Moxie Theatre; THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD (Patté Award, Best Actress), New Village Arts; AN EXPERIMENT WITH AN AIRPUMP, Backyard Productions, and A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE, (San Diego Critic's Circle Award, Best Actress), Renaissance Theatre. She is a Cygnet Theatre Resident Artist.

**JASON MADDY** (Paul Bratter) was seen last summer at the Moonlight Amphitheatre as Ali Hakim in OKLAHOMA!. His last appearance at the AVO Playhouse was in YOU NEVER CAN TELL. Favorites elsewhere: I LOVE YOU BECAUSE, THE DRESSER, BABY, and most recently VOICE OF THE PRAIRIE at North Coast Repertory Theatre; WHITE CHRISTMAS and FIDDLER ON THE ROOF at the Welk Resort Theatre; and GUYS AND DOLLS with San Diego Musical Theater. Favorites outside of San Diego include: the Utah Shakespearean Festival, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival. Jason Holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

**DAGMAR KRAUSE FIELDS** (Mrs. Banks) was last seen in CRAZY FOR YOU as Lottie Child at the Moonlight Amphitheatre. AVO Playhouse credits: THE FOREIGNER (Betty Meeks), THE MAGIC FIRE (Paula), HAYFEVER (Judith Bliss), and RADIO GALS (Hazel Hunt.). Other credits: THE DINING ROOM, Scripps Ranch Theatre; MORNINGS AT SEVEN, AMY'S VIEW, MAN OF LA MANCHA, THE LAST NIGHT OF BALLYHOO, AUNTIE MAME, SUMMER AND SMOKE, and THE HEIRESS, North Coast Repertory Theatre; INTO THE WOODS, Lamb's Players Theatre; THE

AMERICAN DREAM, 6th at Penn; The Fritz, Octad One, Starlight Musical Theatre, and The Old Globe, as well as theaters in New Orleans, Norway, and even Saudi Arabia! Dagmar teaches English at Southwestern College.

**ERIC POPPICK** (Victor Velasco) AVO Playhouse debut. San Diego Theatre credits: DEATHTRAP, NOT NOW, DARLING, Scripps Ranch Theatre; GOLDEN BOY, FOUR DOGS AND A BONE, New Village Arts; THE HISTORY BOYS, (Patté Award), Cygnet Theatre; MORNING'S AT SEVEN, North Coast Repertory Theatre; ONE FOR THE ROAD, Lyceum Theatre. Elsewhere: AWAKE AND SING!, SCAPINO, RHINOCEROS, Odyssey Theatre; DON'T DRINK THE WATER, Glendale Center Theatre; MURDER IN THE FIRST, L.A. Theatre Works. Film and TV: BASIC INSTINCT, MOUSE HUNT, SINGLE WHITE FEMALE, HERO (with Dustin Hoffman), SEINFELD, COLUMBO, CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM, NYPD BLUE, L.A. LAW, GENERAL HOSPITAL, THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS. Eric has a BFA in Acting from Boston University and an MA in Directing from The State University of New York.

**PETER PAVONE** (Telephone Man) BAREFOOT IN THE PARK marks Peter's AVO Playhouse debut. His local theater credits include Max in Starlight Musical Theatre's production of THE PAJAMA GAME. He has been seen in major roles in dinner theater productions of JOEY & MARIA'S ITALIAN WEDDING, FRANKIE & NINA'S BIG ITALIAN WEDDING and the PCRS production of CLOSER THAN EVER. Peter is an accomplished jazz singer and standup comedian. His latest CD release Cool, Hot & Swingin' has received critical acclaim. Peter is proud to be a member of San Diego Actors Alliance.

**JIM CHOVICK** (Delivery Man - Third Weekend) AVO Playhouse credits: RING ROUND THE MOON, YOU NEVER CAN TELL. Jim is a Resident Artist at Cygnet Theatre, an Associate Artist at Lamb's Players Theatre and has worked at The Old Globe Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego Repertory Theatre, New Village Arts, North Coast Repertory Theatre, Sledgehammer Theatre, Eveoke Dance Theatre, Starlight Musical Theatre, 6TH@Penn, The Ark, CCT, Mystery Café Dinner Theatre , Vantage Theatre, and The Fritz. Awards: San Diego Theatre Critics Circle, Backstage West Drama-Logue, Patté, Billie, and Robby.

**RALPH JOHNSON** (Delivery Man - Second Weekend) is very pleased to be a part of this production of BAREFOOT IN THE PARK. Favorite Moonlight Amphitheatre productions over fourteen seasons include OKLAHOMA!, CRAZY FOR YOU, RAGTIME, WEST SIDE STORY, LES MISÉRABLES, SWEENEY TODD, 1776; RING ROUND THE MOON, AVO Playhouse. In the past year he has also appeared in AN AMERICAN CHRISTMAS , Lamb's Players Theatre (Associate Artist); THE CRUCIBLE, MoxieTheatre and Intrepid Shakespeare Company; ALL MY SONS, Grossmont College.

**HOWARD BICKLE** (Delivery Man – First Weekend) AVO Playhouse credits: RING ROUND THE MOON, THE FOREIGNER, DRIVING MISS DAISY, MOON OVER BUFFALO, SYLVIA, TO GILLIAN ON HER 37TH BIRTHDAY, SEE HOW THEY RUN, LOST IN YONKERS, and THE FANTASTICKS. Moonlight Amphitheatre credits: RAGTIME, DAMN YANKEES, CRAZY FOR YOU, GREASE, SOUTH PACIFIC, and GYPSY. Locally Howard has performed, directed, or taught for The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, Lamb's Players, North Coast Rep., San Diego Rep., and The Theatre in Old Town.

**JASON HEIL** (Director) returns to the AVO Playhouse where he directed YOU NEVER CAN TELL and RING ROUND THE MOON, and starred in THE GOODBYE GIRL. Directing credits include TWELFTH NIGHT, Actors Repertory Theatre, Middletown, OH; BRILLIANT TRACES, Finishing the Hat Productions, Los Angeles; BABY: IN CONCERT, Shropshire Wolverine Productions, and THE VISIT, JACQUES AND HIS MASTER, MANNY & JAKE, RECENSIO, AND CLOSETLAND, UC Irvine. As an actor, Jason has appeared locally at the Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego & North Coast Repertory Theatres, and Lamb's Players Theatre. Regionally at A Noise Within, Arkansas & Tennessee Repertory Theatres, Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum, Downey CLO and the Utah, Lake Tahoe, Texas, & Marin Shakespeare Festivals. MFA: UC Irvine.

In addition to Neil Simon's *Barefoot in the Park*, Moonlight Stage Productions' 2011 Winter Season at the AVO Playhouse also includes:

*I Love a Piano* (February 17-March 13) - The great Jerome Kern once said: "Irving Berlin has no place in American music. He IS American music." This charming revue features Berlin's most well-known songs and is tied together with vignettes from historical events of America from 1910 to the 1950s. Featuring such Berlin numbers as *White Christmas*, *An Old Fashioned Wedding*, *Puttin' on the Ritz*, *God Bless America*, and *Anything You Can Do*, the composer's musical spectrum from the Tin Pan Alley period all the way to his Broadway sensation *Annie Get Your Gun* is celebrated. Carlos Mendoza, who has created acclaimed choreography for Moonlight's *Miss Saigon*, *Cats* and *West Side Story* makes his AVO debut as director and choreographer.

*Foxfire* (March 24-April 10) - Annie Nations has spent her whole life in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Hers is a hard mountain life, and she is a proud woman caught between traditions of the past and the pressures of modern life. When her country singer son returns home to pressure her to leave behind the life she knows, Annie will decide for herself whether to hold on to what she's always known or follow her heart to the other side of the mountain. With a backdrop of country and bluegrass music, *Foxfire* is a touching and compelling drama of the autumn of one's life. Kathy Brombacher will direct.

### **SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Moonlight offers a three-show subscription package for \$72. Subscriptions are available through the VisTix ticket office at (760) 724-2110.

### **SINGLE TICKETS**

\$30 for adults

\$28 for seniors/students/military  
\$22 for students 12 and younger

### **STUDENT RUSH TICKETS**

Beginning 30-minutes prior to each performance, students with a valid student ID may purchase a \$15 student rush ticket, subject to availability.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets can be purchased in advance at the VisTix ticket office, located at the Vista Civic Center, 200 Civic Center Drive, weekdays from Noon to 5:00 pm. Tickets can be purchased by phone during the same hours by calling (760) 724-2110. Tickets are also on sale online at [www.moonlightstage.com](http://www.moonlightstage.com). The box office at performances opens one hour prior to curtain.

### **AVO PLAYHOUSE**

The AVO Playhouse is located in the heart of the Vista Village and is located downtown at 303 Main Street. Parking is free. The Vista Village offers numerous dining options, all within walking distance of the AVO Playhouse. For weekend performances, consider taking the Sprinter to the Vista Transit Center which is a short walk from the AVO. For more information on amenities, visit [www.moonlightstage.com](http://www.moonlightstage.com).

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

“Talk-Back Forums” are offered after each Friday evening performance. These are informal discussions with the cast enabling the audience to engage in a dialogue with and ask questions of the company.

### **ABOUT MOONLIGHT STAGE PRODUCTIONS**

Moonlight Stage Productions is the cultural arts program of the City of Vista and is partially funded by its non-profit fund-raising arm the Moonlight Cultural Foundation. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Kathy Brombacher and Managing Director Daniel Kays, Moonlight is an award-winning theatre company receiving accolades from the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle and the Patté Awards for Theater Excellence among others. In addition to its popular Summer Season outdoors at the 2000-person capacity Moonlight Amphitheatre, the company moves indoor each winter to present a three-show season of intimate plays and musicals at the 300-seat AVO Playhouse located in the Vista Village.

### **CALENDAR INFORMATION**

Barefoot in the Park  
by Neil Simon  
Presented by Moonlight Stage Productions  
January 20-February 6  
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays at 7:30 pm  
Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 pm  
AVO Playhouse  
303 Main Street, Vista  
Tickets: \$22-\$30  
Tickets/information: (760) 724-2110

Website: [www.moonlightstage.com](http://www.moonlightstage.com)

# # #

Moonlight Stage Productions is the Cultural Arts Program of the

