Cabrillo Stage Premieres Re-Imagined Work
LUNCH, Now thru 1/19

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Cabrillo Stage, the professional musical theatre company in residence at Cabrillo College, concludes their 32nd repertory season with the premiere of a re-imagined work, Lunch, playing today, January 3 through 19 at the Cabrillo Crocker Theater.

Anticipation and excitement have been building rapidly at Cabrillo Stage as they prepare for Emmy-winner Rick Hawkins and music director Steve Dorff and John Bertolo to decide upon the company for the premiere of their original musical, Lunch. The heartwarming musical comedy tells the story of Mackenzie Richards, a recently deceased Wall Street specialist who discovers that he will not be allowed to access the Gates of Eternity until he proves himself worthy by working “The Lunch Shift” as an emissary from heaven. Mackenzie is given one hour to answer three prayers in three separate Manhattan locations (the game is a noisy内裤 rush. Providing non-stop laughs as he tries frantically to carry out his task. Along the way Mackenzie learns the choices we make affect those around us and that the power of friendship, family, and love are timeless.

Multi award-winning legends Steve Dorff, John Bertolo and Rick Hawkins will be at Cabrillo Stage for the rehearsal in December as well as the opening weekend of performances, but only to “shog the show” to New York Hollywood producers for future productions, but also for the Evening With The Authors event on January 4. “This is an incredible time for our company,” says Artistic Director Jon Nordgren “Cabrillo Stage is producing a huge, top-notch production of Lunch, and as such fortunate to be able to work with these amazing writers on the premiere. It’s truly a magical experience.”

The January 4 Evening With The Authors event includes an intimate pre-show reception with wine and hors d’oeuvres at the historic Cabrillo Season House. The $25 per person reception is a fundraiser for Stage’s 2014-15 season, and provides the opportunity to meet and talk with the authors of Lunch. Following the January 4 pre-show reception, there will be a free post-show discussion with the authors, on stage at the Crocker Theater.

Cabrillo Stage welcomes Equity actors and TV star Sherry Ruserky to the company this January (Home Improvement, Bring It On, Nip/Tuck), along with such Stage alumni favorites Nicholas Geczio (Greats in the Night at the Nutcracker, Anything Goes, Change, Change, Shreve Stock, Anything Goes, Next To Normal, Fire Island) and Ashley Little (Hairspray, Swing, Dorothy in Wizard of Oz). Andrew Ceglio directs the production while Jon Nordgren conducts the full orchestra.

EVENING WITH THE AUTHORS – January 4: Dorff will make a special trip to meet and talk with the Granite and Emmy winning authors of Lunch, Steve Dorff, John Bertolo and Rick Hawkins, on Saturday, January 4. Come to a pre-show reception which benefits Cabrillo Stage’s upcoming 2014-15 season, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at the Cabrillo Season House. Reception is limited to 100 Nites. Get your $25 tickets at www.cabrillostage.com. After the evening’s performance expect a lively Q&A at the post-show discussion with authors, actors and directors in the Crocker Theater.

WHERE: Cabrillo Crocker Theater, 6000 Soquel Drive, Aptos, CA

Evening with the Authors Bonus: Saturday, January 4, 1:30 – 7:30 PM. Cabrillo Season House, $25 per person benefit Lunch’s upcoming season. 831-479-6154 or www.cabrillostage.com for tickets.

About The Authors:
Steve Dorff - Composer. There is no way to capture the diversity Steve Dorff regularly displays across major motion pictures, television, theatre, or via an array of hit songs. in addition to winning the NSAI Songwriter of the Year award, Dorff has also been honored with more than 40 BMI, and 11 Billboard #1 awards. Three-time Grammy nominee and a future on the nation’s charts, his discography includes #1 film hits and 15 Top 10 hits, including the Ringers’ classic “Through The Heans”, a #1 in 3 million-performance song, as well as “I Just Feel In Love Again”, the Grammy record that captured Billboard’s #1 Song Of The Year honors. His music has been heard in some of the greatest of our time-barbra streisand, CELINE DION, Whitney Houston, George Strait, Vanessa Williams and countless others.

John Bertolo - Lyricist. John has written songs that have been sung by some of the most loved artists of our time. off-Broadway, John has written for the likes of Barbra Streisand, George Strait, Colleen Dewhurst, Madonna, Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Barbara Mandrell, Dionne Warwick, New Kids on the Block, Jennifer Warren and scores of others have recorded his work. He has been nominated for an Academy Award, a Golden Globe, 3 Grammies and 3 Emmys. John received New Day in 1989 for “One Moment In Time”, theme for that year’s Olympics. He also received an Emmy for “When Hope Is Love” in 2003. His hit film work runs from Twilight Zone: The Movie, Vision Quest and Star Trek V: The Enterprise and The Godfather Part II. His TV Themes include Growing Pains, Murphy Brown and Empty and Full. In addition to the musical Lunch, he received a Los Angeles Drama Circle Best Musical Score award for Fury To the Last Session in 1999. His Sweeney, collaboration with Frank Wildhorn, was the prestigious 6. Alton Jones Distinguished Professor of Drama, the musicalization of the hit film of the same name, also written with Steve Dorff, is currently planned to open at Casa Manila next year. Tony winner Ken Watanabe, is producing Bertie and Dorff’s Josephine, a musical based on the life of Josephine Baker, for Broadway.

Rick Hawkins - Author, Emmy-winner. Rick Hawkins began his career in television writing for The Carol Burnett Show, where his “War With Who” sketch has become one of the most memorable moments in TV history. Hawkins’ television writing credits span variety, half-hour comedy and drama and have earned him seven Emmy Award nominations, five WGA Writing Award nominations and twice he received the Scott Newman Award. Writing and Executive Producing for the definitive comedic TV series, Rick has worked on such classic series as Welcome Back Kotter, The Love Boat, Dear John, Mamie’s Family, Punky Brewster, Sister/Sister, Major Dad, The Wayans Bros., and Soul Food. From 2005 to 2009 Hawkins was home based in Moscow, Russia, where he served as an International Television Consultant for Sony Telepictures, adapting American programming into hit series in Eastern Europe. He oversaw the creation of Russian versions of Married With Children, Who’s The Boss and Everybody Loves Raymond, all of which became major international successes. Lunch is Hawkins’ first effort with songwriters and Bertolli, for whom he has also written the musical, Say Goodnight, A Love Story. Hawkins has received the stage play, An Offering of Soupons and is currently working on a Second Stage play, Cumnery.

About Cabrillo stage: Cabrillo Stage is a non-profit, volunteer professional summer stock musical theatre company dedicated to presenting full-scale Broadway musicals to the greater Monterey Bay Area. Producing a diverse season of musical theatre works, as well as giving its audiences quality family entertainment, Cabrillo Stage is recognized as one of the three major annual performing arts-events in Santa Cruz County. Each summer since 1981, Cabrillo Stage has provided thousands of Santa Cruz County residents and visitors with unforgettable, culturally acclaimed productions, noted for innovative sets, beautiful costumes, an outstanding cast and talented, professional performers. Cabrillo Stage is committed to providing a nurturing, supportive, artistic environment that allows all of its arthists, professional and non-professional, the opportunity to create muscials with high quality productions. Join Nordgren, Producing Artistic Director.