

PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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**LOCAL FAVORITE MIKE RYAN FEATURED IN JEWEL THEATRE'S
"DOUBT: A PARABLE"
March 11 – 20, 2010**

SANTA CRUZ (February 4, 2010) – **Jewel Theatre Company**, now in its fifth year, brings its 2009/2010 season to a close with John Patrick Shanley's powerful Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning play **DOUBT: A PARABLE**. Directed by **Erik Gandolfi**, **DOUBT** features Shakespeare Santa Cruz favorite **Mike Ryan**, along with **Jessica Powell**, **April Green**, and **Nadia Antovia Liggins**. **DOUBT** plays **March 11 – 20 (press opening: March 12)** at the **Broadway Playhouse** in Santa Cruz. For tickets (\$20-25) and information, the public may visit www.jeweltheatre.net or call **(831) 454-1143**.

This gripping drama explores the consequences of suspicion and moral certainty when Sister Aloysius, an old-school nun and principle, challenges a progressive priest she thinks is "interfering" with one of her students. Dubbed "#1 show of the year... astonishing" by the *Associated Press* and "inspired" by *The New York Times*, **DOUBT** opened off-Broadway at the Manhattan Theatre Club in 2004 and transferred to Broadway in 2005; when it closed in 2006 after playing 525 performances, **DOUBT** was the fifth longest-running play on Broadway in 10 years.

John Patrick Shanley's plays include *Defiance*; *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*; *Savage in Limbo*; *the dreamer examines his pillow*; *Beggars in the House of Plenty*; *Welcome to the Moon*; *Four Dogs and a Bone*; *Italian American Reconciliation*; *The Big Funk*; *Where's My Money*; *Dirty Story*; *Sailor's Song*; and *Romantic Poetry* (a musical). His play **DOUBT** was awarded the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the 2005 Tony Award for Best Play. In addition to his works for the stage, Shanley adapted the films *Alive* and *Congo*; his original screenplays include *Five Corners*, *The January Man*, *Joe Versus the Volcano*, and *Moonstruck*, for which he received an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay. The film adaptation of **DOUBT**, which he directed, was released in 2008 starring Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman, and Amy Adams, and was nominated for five Academy Awards.

Making his Jewel Theatre debut, is local favorite **Mike Ryan** as Father Flynn in **DOUBT**. Santa Cruz audiences will know him from his work with Shakespeare Santa Cruz where he has performed in more than twenty five productions over the past twelve years. Most recently, In

Shipwrecked! The Amazing Adventures of Louis deRougemont as Told by Himself, Ryan played seventeen different roles, including a dog and Queen Victoria. Beyond Santa Cruz County, he has worked for the La Jolla Playhouse, the Geva Theatre Center in New York, and Shakespeare Festivals in Oklahoma, Texas, Idaho and Oregon. He received his BFA from Southern Methodist University and his MFA from the University of California at San Diego. From 2003 through 2009, he was a lecturer in the Theatre Arts Department at UCSC.

Jessica Powell also makes her debut with Jewel Theatre in the role of Sister Aloysius. Powell's recent work includes performances with San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, The Mountain Play, and 6th Street Playhouse. Powell has also performed with New York's CSC Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory, San Jose Repertory, Aurora Theatre, PCPA TheaterFest, and Pennsylvania's Hedgerow Theatre.

Local actress **April Green** plays Sister James. Green holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Bethany College where she was awarded Dramatist of the Year. She held an acting internship with the Lexington Childrens' Theatre in Kentucky and has performed and taught with various theater and improvisational groups in Santa Cruz over the last nine years.

San Francisco actress **Nadia Antovia Liggins** is featured as Mrs. Muller. Liggins, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, holds a Bachelor of Fine Art in Motion Pictures & Television from the Academy of Art University and has performed with New Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco Free Civic Theater, San Francisco Young Playwrights Festival and Daddylion Pictures, LLC.

Director **Erik Gandolfi** studied theatre at Pacific Conservatory for the Performing Arts and Santa Clara University. Gandolfi has worked as an actor at various regional theatres including Shakespeare Santa Cruz, PCPA TheatreFest, Sierra Repertory Theatre and Pacific Repertory Theatre. He was an instructor with the William James Association at Mule Creek State Prison, directing a variety of plays within the inmate population. A member of the Screen Actors Guild, Gandolfi also worked in a variety of industrial films and a national ad campaign. Gandolfi has also produces, films and edits feature length documentaries regional ad campaigns, corporate & industrial films, including a promotional video for the Defense Language Institute in Monterey.

Jewel Theatre Company is dedicated to presenting quality productions for the Santa Cruz Community that entertain, enlighten and explore the art of theatre. For tickets and information, visit the JTC website at www.jeweltheatre.net or call **831-454-1143**.

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FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: **Jewel Theatre Company** presents John Patrick Shanley's gripping Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play **DOUBT, A Parable**. Featuring local favorite actor **Mike Ryan**, this gripping drama explores the consequences of suspicion and moral certainty when Sister Aloysius, an old-school nun and principle, challenges a progressive priest she thinks is "interfering" with one of her students. **DOUBT** was dubbed "#1 show of the year... astonishing" by the *Associated Press* and "inspired" by *The New York Times*.

WHEN: Preview: March 11
Press Opening: **Friday, March 12**
Closes: Saturday, March 20

SHOWS: Preview: **8pm**
Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays: **8pm**
Sunday 3/14: **2pm**
Saturday 3/20: **2pm**
"Talk-Back Thursday" post-show discussion with cast and artistic staff March 18

WHERE: **Broadway Playhouse at the Art League**
526 Broadway (near Ocean St.) in Santa Cruz

TICKETS: \$20-\$25; savings available on preview night and for students and seniors. For tickets and information the public may call **(831) 454-1143** or visit **www.jeweltheatre.net**.

PHOTOS: High-resolution digital photos available. Contact Julie James at **juliejames7@earthlink.net**