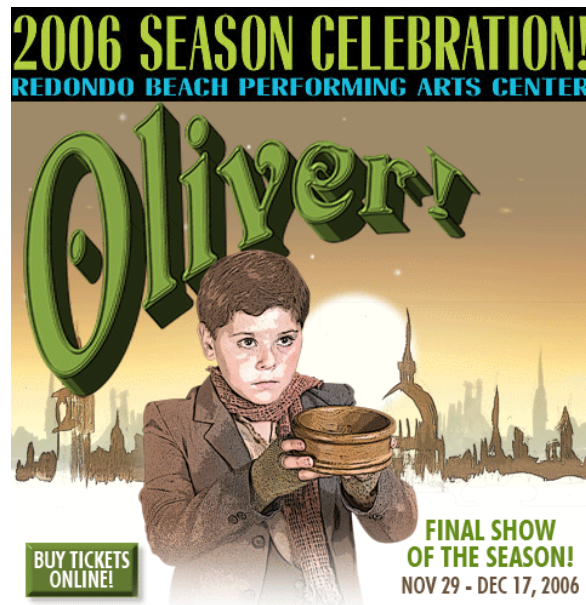


For Immediate Release

Forrest & Associates 818-508-0281

**CLOSBC PRESENTS *OLIVER!*, THE MUSICAL NOVEMBER 29-
DECEMBER 17TH AT
THE REDONDO BEACH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

As its holiday 2006 offering, the Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities, James Blackman, Executive Director, is presenting *Oliver!, the Musical*, by Lionel Bart based on Charles Dickens's novel "Oliver Twist." This is the final show of the 2006 Season. Opening for previews November 29, 30 and Dec. 1, with the Gala Press Opening on Saturday, December 2, *Oliver!* closes on December 17th at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, 1935 Manhattan Beach Blvd. at Aviation, Redondo Beach. Tickets are available at 310-372-4477.



Although Dickens' story of an orphan who is sold to an undertaker and then falls in with a gang of pickpockets might not seem easily adapted to the musical theater, "Oliver" ran for 12 years in London after its 1960 premiere, and it holds the record as the longest-running British musical presented in New York.

Lionel Bart's wonderful musical adaptation of the Charles Dickens classic was the first London stage musical to be transplanted to Broadway with the same kind of sensation it received in Britain.

Oliver's music is sentimental and memorable, from the haunting ballad "Where Is Love?" to the clamorous "Food, Glorious Food," to the masochistic "As Long As He Needs Me," to the cheery "You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two." It's the type of music with which familiarity breeds contentment, especially at this time of year, *Oliver's* reminder of the existence of hunger, ignorance and want, albeit more via Walt Disney than Charles Dickens, is worth hearing.

Winsome **Quintan Craig** is the CLOSBC's Oliver, with a smile that could melt the ice off the coldest heart. All 28 of the children cast in the show are from Redondo Beach and the South Bay. As these orphans and urchins who are abused by friend and foe alike, they dream only of enough food to stop the hunger pains and of an occasional kind and loving word.

Ovation Award-winner **Stephen Breithaupt** plays the orphans' mentor, the morally twisted Fagin, who offers orphaned children shelter and camaraderie in exchange for their pickpocketing profits. Breithaupt is one of the Broadway's and National tours best supporting actors who received rave reviews for his role of Pontius Pilate in the National tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Ovation Award winner **Misty Cotton** creates a poignant portrait as Nancy, the good-natured street tart who befriends Oliver. It is her masochistic love and devotion to the evil Bill Sikes, played by **Robert Clink** with a chilling aura of brutality that ultimately leads to her doom and Oliver's salvation.

Monica Smith is a bundle of shrieks and giggles as the Widow Corney, who helps the harsh Mr. Bumble (adroitly played by **Steven Reynolds**) run the workhouse. **Caden Michael Gray** is an energetic and eager Artful Dodger.

The show is directed and choreographed by Jon Engstrom with musical direction by Steven Smith. "Oliver" is in one respect the theater's inaugural production (after 15 exciting years of history in the South Bay) as it returns to its legacy of producing and presently musicals completely mounted and rehearsed in the South Bay and presented on the glorious stage of the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, which gives the company and audiences alike an extra reason to celebrate this holiday season. First-rate musical entertainment for the entire family, ***Oliver!*** runs November 29 through December 17th. Please visit www.civiclighthouse.com or call 310-372-4477 for tickets and information.

Press Contact:

Forrest & Associates

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818.508.0281

CALENDAR

WHAT: *OLIVER!, THE MUSICAL*

Original story by	Charles Dickens
Music and Lyrics	Lionel Bart
James Blackman	Executive Producer
Stephanie Coltrin	Associate Producer
Christopher Beyries	Associate Producer
Jon Engstrom	Director and Choreographer
Steven Smith	Musical Director
Darrell Clark	Lighting Designer
Ambra Wakefield	Costume Designer
John Feinstein	Sound Designer

WHERE: Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center
1935 Manhattan Beach Blvd. at Aviation
Redondo Beach, CA
Map: <http://www.redondo.org/depts/recreation/facilities/rbpac/map.asp>

WHEN: Previews Wednesday, Nov. 29, 30, Dec. 1
Gala Press Opening Night Saturday, Dec. 2 at 8 pm
Continuing:
Sunday Dec. 3 at 2 pm
Tuesday, Dec. 5 thru Sat, Dec. 9 at 8 pm
Tuesday, Dec. 12 through Sat. Dec. 16 at 8 pm
Sat. Dec. 9th and Dec. 16 at 2 pm
Sunday, Dec. 10 and Dec. 17th at 7 pm (Closing performance)
Sunday, Dec. 17th at 2 pm

TICKETS: Previews: \$32.50 -\$42.50
Sat. at 8 pm and Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 2 pm \$42.50 -\$52.50
All other performances \$37.50 -\$47.50
Tickets can be purchased on line at www.civilightopera.com
Or by phone at 310-372-4477.