

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 18, 2008

Contact: Steve Sigel, Executive Director  
860-444-4410, [sigel@gardearts.org](mailto:sigel@gardearts.org)



## **GARDE ARTS CENTER 2008-2009 CALENDAR UPDATE** **Music, Broadway, Comedy, Opera, Family and Special Events On Sale**

(NEW LONDON, CT) On Thursday, September 25, the **Garde Arts Center's** 2008/09 Season will begin and will feature 81 performances of 48 different events, including 38 Garde presented performing arts events, and ten events presented by the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra, Connecticut Lyric Opera and The Eastern Connecticut Ballet. Tickets are now will go on sale now to the general public on Monday August 4. The season includes *Citizens Bank Broadway Series, Garde Opera Series The Day Young & Fun Series, Garde Music Series, Bob's Discount Furniture Schooltime Series,* and special events.

"We are thrilled to present a broad diversity of artists and theater experiences for all the communities, interests and backgrounds that make up our regional audience", said Executive Director Steve Sigel. "We expect to be announcing throughout the season additional events, not just on the Garde Stage but in our new Oasis Room." The Oasis Room is a 110-seat intimate performance space across from the Garde mezzanine that will be hosting, often for consecutive nights, jazz, comedy, community and other events.

Tickets and series subscriptions are available by phone at **860-444-7373 ext. 1**, at the Garde Box Office located at **325 State Street** in downtown New London, and on-line at [www.gardearts.org](http://www.gardearts.org).

### **GARDE ARTS CENTER • 2008-09 SEASON CALENDAR LISTING\***

#### **SEPTEMBER**

**GIRLS NIGHT, THE MUSICAL**  
**September 25-28, 2008**

Garde Special Event Series

**Thursday, Friday, Saturday | 8pm & Saturday, Sunday Matinee | 3pm**

Back by popular demand after its smash debut last season, this updated version with a new cast is a touching and hilarious 'tell-it-like-it-is' look at the lives of a group of female friends as they re-live their past, celebrate their present and look to the future on a wild and hilarious karaoke night out. Sponsored by Blu-Prints Unlimited. *Tickets: \$38*

#### **OCTOBER**

**THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE**  
**Wednesday, October 1, 2008 | 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM**  
*Theatreworks USA* Grades 1-7

Bob's Discount Furniture Schooltime Series

This enchanting musical is based on C.S. Lewis' adventure story about four children of war-torn England, who accidentally enter the land of Narnia by climbing through a magic wardrobe. *Tickets: \$8, \$10*

**SINBAD**  
**Friday, October 3, 2008 | 8:00pm**

Garde Special Event Series

Ranked by Comedy Central as one of the top 100 standup comedians of all time, comedian Sinbad has kept audiences laughing in the aisles for the past two decades. *Tickets: \$30 - \$60*

**Bizet's CARMEN**Garde Opera Series**Wednesday, October 22, 2008 | 7:30pm***Teatro Lirico d'Europa*

Set in nineteenth-century Spain, a soldier's amorous passion for a beautiful gypsy leads to jealousy, revenge, and murder in this fully orchestrated production of composer Georges Bizet's greatest work. Presented in French with English supertitles. *Tickets: \$44-\$62*

**NOVEMBER****THE VELVETEEN RABBIT**The Day Young & Fun Series**Saturday, November 1, 2008 | 1 and 4pm***Enchantment Theatre Company*

With a song-filled original score, extraordinary puppets, masks, and magic, *Enchantment Theatre Company* brings to life this charming tale based on the classic book by Margery Williams of a stuffed toy rabbit yearning for the day a child will choose him as his special playmate so that he can become real. An unforgettable theatrical experience for the whole family. *Tickets: \$12, \$16*

**TAJ MAHAL TRIO**Garde Music Series**Wednesday, November 5, 2008 | 7:30 pm**

Singer, instrumentalist, composer, producer, and two-time Grammy-winner Taj Mahal shares his warmth, humor, soulfulness, and his own distinctive blend of music -- variously described as Afro-Caribbean blues, folk-world-blues, hula blues, folk-funk, and more. *Tickets \$30 - \$45.*

**SHE SAID/SHE SAYS: The History And Status Of Women In Jazz**Bob's Discount Furniture Schooltime Series**Thursday, November 6, 2008 | 10:00 AM***The Metta Quintet* Grades 7-12. Workshops available on November 5 and 6

This exciting all-new live multimedia educational program from New York's *Jazzreach* jazz-in-education program, features *The Metta Quintet* highlighting some of the important achievements and music by women in jazz from early 20th century through present-day. *Tickets: \$8, \$10*

**OLIVER!**Citizens Bank Broadway Series**November 7-8, 2008****Friday | 8pm & Saturday | 3 and 8pm**

Hailed the world over as one of the best-loved family musicals of all time, *Oliver!* brings to the stage some of Charles Dickens' most unforgettable characters along with one of Broadway's most memorable scores in the heartwarming tale of *Oliver Twist*. Sponsored by A Touch of Grey. *Tickets: \$44-\$65*

**THE PLANT THAT ATE DIRTY SOCKS**Bob's Discount Furniture Schooltime Series**Tuesday, November 18, 2008 | 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM***Theatreworks USA* Grades 3-7

A fun-filled musical, based on the popular book series by Nancy McArthur, celebrating individuality, brothers working together, and the most disgusting plant food ever! *Tickets: \$8, \$10*

**DARK STAR ORCHESTRA**Garde Music Series**Thursday, November 20, 2008 | 7:30pm**

Using entire shows from the Grateful Dead's three decades of extensive touring, Dark Star Orchestra recreates the Dead's original song-for-song performance set lists for an entirely new generation of Deadheads. "The hottest Grateful Dead tribute act." (*The Washington Post*). *Tickets \$32 - \$52*

**THE SPENCERS: THEATRE OF ILLUSION**The Day Young & Fun Series**Saturday, November 22, 2008 | 3 and 7pm**

For more than a decade, Kevin and Cindy Spencer have entertained audiences throughout the United States and around the world with one of the most successful touring illusion shows in the nation. Theatre of Illusion is much more than a magic show: It's a powerful theatrical experience that you will never forget! *Tickets \$15 - \$26.*

***Tchaikovsky's* EVGENI ONIEGIN**Presented by Connecticut Lyric Opera**Sunday, November 23, 2008 | 6pm***Connecticut Lyric Opera and the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra**Adrian Sylveen Mackiewicz, Conductor*

Presented in its original Russian language, with English supertitles, Tchaikovsky's masterwork brings together Pushkin's great story, and the deep Slavic nostalgia featuring Baritone Maxim Ivanov (Russia) as Oniegin, soprano Jurate Svedeite (Lithuania), and Tenor Andrew Drost (New York City Opera). Directed by Jaroslaw Strzemien.

**ANNIE**Citizens Bank Broadway Series**November 29, 2008****Saturday | 3 and 7:30pm**

The timeless tale of Little Orphan Annie is back, giving a whole new generation the chance to experience this classic musical about never giving up hope. With songs like "It's the Hard-Knock Life," "Easy Street," "N.Y.C." and "Tomorrow," *Annie* is a delightful theatrical experience for the entire family. *Tickets: \$44-\$65*

**DECEMBER****IF YOU GIVE A PIG A PANCAKE & Other Story Books**Bob's Discount Furniture Schooltime Series**Thursday, December 4, 2008 | 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM***Theatreworks USA* Grades Pre-K-4

A mini-musical based on popular kids' books, including: *Diary Of A Worm*, *Fluffy The Classroom Guinea Pig*, *Horace And Morris But Mostly Dolores*, *How I Became A Pirate*, *If You Give A Pig A Pancake*, *Lilly's Big Day*, *The Paper Bag Princess*, and *Ruby Mae Has Something To Say*. *Tickets: \$8, \$10*

**THE NUTCRACKER**Presented by Eastern Connecticut Ballet**December 13-14, 2008****Saturday | 1:30 & 7:30 pm; Sunday | 1:30 pm**

A beloved holiday tradition in its 7th spectacular season, Eastern Connecticut Ballet's *The Nutcracker* showcases New London's 19th century maritime history, with a cast of 100 talented dancers, guest artists from Pennsylvania Ballet and other prestigious companies, lush scenery, elegant costumes and the beautiful sounds of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra. *Tickets on sale September 15th*

**TANYA TUCKER FAMILY CHRISTMAS**Garde Music Series**Wednesday, December 17, 2008 | 7:30pm**

This holiday season, country music songstress Tanya Tucker will unite with Elvis Presley's legendary backup vocal group, *The Imperials*, in a festive holiday concert featuring the singer's talented daughters and niece. *Joe Guercio*, Presley's former orchestra leader, will conduct Tucker's band. *Tickets \$39 - \$60*

**CYRUS CHESTNUT in the Oasis Room**Garde Music Series**December 18-20, 2008****Thursday-Saturday | 8pm**

Share an intimate musical holiday in the Garde's 110-seat *Oasis Room* with one of the definitive jazz pianists of his generation. Playing hits from his new *Cyrus Plays Elvis* and his classic *Charlie Brown Christmas* albums, Cyrus will embrace you with his swinging, soulful sounds, warm demeanor and irresistible sweetness. *Tickets: \$50*

**JANUARY****FOOTLOOSE**Citizens Bank Broadway Series**January 10-11, 2009****Saturday | 8pm and Sunday | 2 and 6pm**

One of Hollywood's greatest movie musicals takes the stage. When a free-spirited city kid moves to a small town where dancing and rock music are banned, he turns his high school upside down and teaches them that it's no sin to have fun and dance! *Tickets: \$44-\$65*

**Verdi's AIDA**Garde Opera Series**Wednesday, January 14, 2009 | 7:30pm***Teatro Lirico d'Europa*

The epic power of a tragic, timeless love story set in ancient Egypt is suffused with some of Giuseppe Verdi's most alluring and imposing melodies in this traditional staging, with chorus and ballet, of an undisputed masterpiece of classical music. Presented in Italian with English supertitles. *Tickets: \$44-\$62*

**JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH**Bob's Discount Furniture Schooltime Series**Thursday, January 15, 2009 | 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM***Two Beans Productions* Grades K-5

When James crawls inside a gigantic peach growing in his aunts' garden, he embarks on an amazing in this magical production based on Roald Dahl's beloved book. *Tickets: \$8, \$10*

**JAMES HUNTER AND RYAN SHAW**Garde Music Series**Saturday, January 17, 2009 | 8pm**

R&B and sweet soul music never sounded as good, with the buttery voice and rocking Les Paul guitar of British sensation *James Hunter*, and vocalist *Ryan Shaw*, the 26 year-old phenomenon from Georgia, redefining the passion and soul of the Golden Age of Rhythm & Blues for a new generation. *Tickets \$34 - \$48.*

**THE COLOR OF JUSTICE**Bob's Discount Furniture Schooltime Series**Tuesday, January 20, 2009 | 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM***Theatreworks USA* Grades 3-9

A brilliant fighter for human rights and a courageous little girl take on the doctrine of "separate but equal" all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court in this gripping drama about Thurgood Marshall's struggle against school segregation, *Brown v. Board of Education*. *Tickets: \$8, \$10*

**JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR**Citizens Bank Broadway Series**January 27-29, 2009****Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday | 7:30 pm**

With a score of amazing songs, this masterpiece from Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, featuring the original star Ted Neeley and Corey Glover, is as relevant and timeless as ever. Sponsored by Blu Prints Unlimited. *Tickets: \$44-\$65*

**GUITAR BLUES: Jorma Kaukonen, Robben Ford, Ruthie Foster** Garde Music Series**Saturday, January 31, 2009 | 8pm**

Rock and Roll Hall of Famer *Jorma Kaukonen*, the legendary *Robben Ford*, and the phenomenal rising star *Ruthie Foster* [– returning to the Garde after her acclaimed appearance with Madeleine Peyroux – ] will present several shades of the blues in this very special evening of music featuring the wonderful six-stringed instrument that is the heart and soul of the genre.

**FEBRUARY****SING-ALONG MARY POPPINS**The Day Young & Fun Series**Saturday, February 7, 2009 | 3 and 7pm**

Step in time with Mary, Bert and the gang! Sing along to a restored 35mm print of the classic 1964 film customized with on-screen lyrics, and play along with a complimentary bag of interactive 'props' to complete the interactive experience. This classic musical is a family favorite, brought to life on the giant screen in the historic Garde movie palace. *Tickets: \$10, \$12*

**NATE THE GREAT**Bob's Discount Furniture Schooltime Series**Tuesday, February 10, 2009 | 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM***Theatreworks USA* Grades K-4

Nate the Great solves the baffling case of the missing painting in this new musical based on the book by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat. *Tickets: \$8, \$10*

**SWEENEY TODD**Citizens Bank Broadway Series**February 20-21, 2009****Friday | 8pm & Saturday | 3 and 8pm**

Stephen Sondheim's legendary demon barber of Fleet Street takes up a vengeful plot to slice through England's upper crust. Justice is served—along with lush melody, audacious humor and hair-raising excitement. Innovative, intimate and ingenious, this revolutionary new production of Sweeney Todd "is an event theatergoers will be talking about for years." (*The Wall Street Journal*) Sponsored by Kostin, Ruffkess, and Co. LLC. *Tickets: \$44-\$65*

*Mozart's* **THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO** (*Le Nozze di Figaro*)Garde Opera Series**Thursday, February 26, 2009 | 7:30pm***Mozart Festival Opera*

This delightful opera follows on the heels of 2007's *The Barber of Seville*. Several years have gone by and Count Almaviva has grown bored in his marriage. Meanwhile, Figaro is to wed Susanna, for whom the Count has wandering eyes... Presented in Italian with English supertitles. Sponsored by Olde Mistick Village. *Tickets: \$44-\$62*

**MARCH****DRUMLINE LIVE**Garde Special Event Series**Sunday, March 1, 2009 | 7pm**

The stirring sound of trumpets, explosive choreography, and incredible feats of athleticism of the black marching band tradition, made famous by the 2002 film *Drumline*, is live on the theatrical stage for the very first time, featuring a large cast of colorful and flamboyant performers from America's top historically black colleges and universities. *Tickets: \$40 - \$60*

**MARIZA**Garde Music Series**Sunday, March 15, 2009 | 7pm**

Often called the Portuguese blues, fado music has found its most charismatic new talent in the voice of Mariza who brings a modern sensibility to the folkloric style, seducing audiences worldwide with her charismatic stage presence, and powerful blend of traditional and contemporary songs. Sponsored by Olde Mistick Village. *Tickets \$35 - \$60.*

**NATIONAL ACROBATS OF CHINA**Garde Special Event Series**Thursday, March 19, 2009 | 7:30pm**

Direct from China, this dazzling company of 35 performers will mesmerize and mystify with stunning displays of the best in Chinese martial arts, illusion, and acrobats, all set to traditional music. From plate-spinning to cycling stunts to bench-juggling with their feet, The National Acrobats of China never cease to amaze audiences around the globe. *Tickets \$26 - \$38*

**THE PAJAMA GAME**Citizens Bank Broadway Series**Sunday, March 22, 2009 | 3 and 7pm**

Bright and riotously funny, this fast-paced and frisky production of the Tony award-winning, Broadway smash hit *The Pajama Game* is brimming with hits like "Steam Heat" and the hilarious "Hernando's Hideaway" that will keep you humming all the way home. *Tickets: \$44-\$65*

**CELTIC CROSSROADS**Garde Music Series**Friday, March 27, 2009 | 8pm**

Celtic Crossroads has been critically acclaimed as one of the best live music concerts to come from Ireland in over 20 years. A unique Irish music experience, this magical display of music incorporates seven world-class musicians, playing an array of instruments, and includes fusions with other genres such as Gypsy, Bluegrass, and Jazz. Cosponsored by Dime Bank and Blu-Prints Unlimited *Tickets \$30 - \$50.*

**APRIL****BLUES JOURNEY**Bob's Discount Furniture Schooltime Series**Wednesday, April 8, 2009 | 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM***The Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences on Tour* Grades 5-12Jerome Hairston—who also adapted Scholastic Media's *Color Me Dark: A Story of the Great Migration North*—brings to life the rich lyrics from W.D. Myers' book using drama, narration, and live music. *Tickets: \$8, \$10***MOMIX: *Lunar Sea***Garde Special Event Series**Friday, April 17, 2009 | 8pm**Connecticut's own MOMIX is internationally known for presenting works of exceptional inventiveness and physical beauty. Staged to reflect life on the moon, *Lunar Sea* defies weight and gravity as dancers glow in the dark and swim in the air, presented with exceptional inventiveness and physical beauty by the MOMIX Company of dancers. Sponsored by Robinson & Cole, LLC. *Tickets \$32 - \$44.***MOSCOW CATS THEATRE**The Day Young & Fun Series**Saturday, April 25, 2009 | 3 and 7pm**35 cats! 1 dog! 5 clowns! Death defying balancing acts! Dancing! Acrobatics! The only entertainment of its kind in the world, this colorful and fun-filled family show features non-stop action by a group of talented felines performing original and astounding acrobatic feats. Sponsored by Bowerbird. *Tickets \$15 - \$26***Verdi's LA TRAVIATA**Presented by Connecticut Lyric Opera**Sunday, April 26, 2009 | 6pm***Connecticut Lyric Opera and the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra**Adrian Sylveen Mackiewicz, Conductor*

Verdi adopts the novel by Alexander Dumas for one of his most popular works inspired by the life and death of Marie Duplessis, a courtesan and a mistress of Dumas. Directed by Olga Kapanina, and featuring Jurate Svedeite and Jeffrey Hartman.

**THE MIDNIGHT RIDE OF PAUL REVERE**Bob's Discount Furniture Schooltime Series**Monday, April 27, 2009 | 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM***Theatreworks USA* Grades 3-9A humorous and inspirational musical about this true history of the Revolutionary War. *Tickets: \$8, \$10***MAY****THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE**Citizens Bank Broadway Series**May 8-9, 2009****Friday | 8pm & Saturday | 3 and 8pm**In this clever and sophisticated new musical, six young people in the throes of puberty, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves, learn that winning isn't everything and that losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser. "Gold stars all around!" raves the *New York Times*. *Tickets: \$44-\$65***NATALIE MACMASTER**Garde Music Series**Friday, May 15, 2009 | 8pm**Cape Breton fiddler Natalie MacMaster is one of the most versatile and exciting young musicians on both the Folk and Celtic music scenes. Natalie's fiddling fireworks are a testament to her incandescent musicianship, delivering foot-tapping rave-ups, heart-rendering ballads, and world-class step dancing with ferocious energy felt by the musicians and audience alike. *Tickets: \$35 - \$52***JUNIE B. JONES**Bob's Discount Furniture Schooltime Series**Thursday, May 21, 2009 | 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM***Theatreworks USA* Grades 1-5Junie B. Jones is finally graduating from kindergarten and is ready for first grade, at last. A new musical based on the books by Barbara Park. *Tickets: \$8, \$10*

\* **NOTE:** Calendar does not include concerts by Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra or private events.

\* \* \*

**MEDIA INFO**

For photos and interviews, please contact Steve Sigel at the Garde Arts Center, sigel@gardearts.org.

\* \* \*

The **Garde Arts Center** is Southeastern Connecticut's non-profit center for the performing arts. The Garde owns and operates the historic Garde Theatre where it presents musicals, opera, orchestras, contemporary music, dance, and family events. The Garde produces the annual New London Film Festival, and provides after-school programs and matinee performances to more than 10,000 young people. Under the leadership of Steve Sigel, Executive Director, since 1988, the Garde has become a major catalyst for the cultural and economic revitalization of New London.

##