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Press Contact:

Stephanie Coen, Associate Artistic Director
scoen@trtc.org or 732.345.1400 ext. 1829

Box Office: 732.345.1400 or www.trtc.org

TWO RIVER THEATER PRESENTS THE OLIVIER AWARD-WINNING *HONK!: A MUSICAL TALE OF 'THE UGLY DUCKLING,' A CELEBRATION OF BEING DIFFERENT FOR AUDIENCES OF ALL AGES; CAST INCLUDES AMANDA BUTTERBAUGH, AYMEE GARCIA, MICHAEL GENET, DOUG HARA, KENITA R. MILLER, PAOLO MONTALBAN, JIM NEWMAN, AND OLIVIA OGUMA*

Two River's annual holiday production is the centerpiece of region-wide community events including "One Book, One Community," Día de la Familia, and Scout Day

Performances: December 6, 2011 – January 1, 2012

Opening Night: Saturday, December 10 at 7pm

RED BANK, NJ— Two River Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, announces the full cast and region-wide community events for its annual holiday show, *Honk: A Musical Tale of 'The Ugly Duckling,'* an adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's story with music by **George Stiles** and book and lyrics by **Anthony Drewe**. The production is directed by **Matt Pfeiffer**, with music direction by **Wayne Barker** and choreography by **Jenn Rose**. Performances will begin in Two River's Rechnitz Theater, 21 Bridge Avenue, on **Tuesday, December 6, 2011** and continue through **Sunday, January 1, 2012**. The opening night performance is **Saturday, December 10 at 7pm**.

Tickets for Two River's production are available from 732.345.1400 or www.trtc.org. Tickets are \$25 for patrons under age 18, and ticket prices for adults start at \$50. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. *Honk!* is sponsored by OceanFirst Foundation.

Honk! won London's 2000 Olivier Award for Best Musical, beating *Mamma Mia!* and *The Lion King*. Comic and heart-warming, it is a musical to "quack" about for both children and adults, who will appreciate not only its timeless theme of acceptance, but also its witty lyrics and tuneful score.

Honk! tells the story of an odd-looking baby duck, Ugly (**Paolo Montalban**, the Prince in the ABC/Disney TV movie *Cinderella* opposite Brandy), and his quest to find his mother (**Kenita R. Miller**, Broadway's *The Color Purple*) after he is lured away from his home by a wily Cat (**Doug Hara**, Two River's *Charlie Brown*, *Charlotte's Web*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*). Along the way, he meets new friends, including a comical troupe of geese (**Amanda Butterbaugh**, **Aymee Garcia**, and **Jim Newman**) and an ebullient bullfrog (**Michael Genet**). His adventures lead him to meet his true love, Penny (**Olivia Oguma**)—and to discover the joy of being different!

The company also features four children as Ugly's duckling siblings: **Laura Diorio**, 13, **Owen Doherty**, 12, **Julian Sarin**, 8, and **Gabriella Scerbo**, 11. All four live locally and auditioned for the production as part of an "open call" for younger performers from around Monmouth County.

Says Artistic Director John Dias, “*The Ugly Duckling*—the basis of *Honk!*—is one of my favorite stories. It’s for anyone who has ever felt different, for any reason. This wonderful retelling has charm and heart, plus a witty, terrific score. *Honk!* calls to mind some of the American theater’s greatest musicals, and we have an extraordinary company of great Broadway performers to bring it to life. And, I’m delighted to have Matt Pfeiffer back to direct his third holiday production, an important tradition at this theater.”

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

In a continuing tradition for its annual family show, Two River is making *Honk!* the centerpiece of region-wide community events for families and multigenerational audiences. These programs are designed to promote discussion, reading, and literacy, and to introduce young people to the theater.

Post-play Discussions with the Cast: Every performance of *Honk!* will include a post-show Q&A with the cast led by actor Doug Hara, who plays the Cat.

One Book, One Community: Now in its second year, this town-wide program includes partnerships with more than a dozen local libraries and businesses that encourage readings and conversations about Hans Christian Andersen’s “The Ugly Duckling.” Free events include readings, discussions, arts and crafts, movie screenings, and other programs, as well as discounts at area retailers. **One Book, One Community** also brings together dozens of local businesses and nonprofit organizations as Sponsors and Community Partners. **Please see below for a complete list of events, Community Partners, and Sponsors.**

Día de la Familia, Sunday, December 11 at 4pm: Each season, Two River welcomes Red Bank children and their families to the theater—many of them for their first experience of seeing a play—for a performance of the holiday show with live Spanish-language translation (available through audio-description headsets). This community outreach program also includes refreshments and theater games.

Scout Days, Saturday, December 17 at 12pm, and Sunday, December 18 at 12pm: Two River offers two performances for local Boy and Girl Scouts. In addition to the performance, the scouts take part in theater games and workshops, and enjoy a guided tour of the theater and refreshments. Participants receive a Two River Theater Company Scout Day special-interest patch.

FULL CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Amanda Butterbaugh (*Grace, Dot, Lowbutt, and Bewick*)

Aymee Garcia (*Maureen, Snowy, Queenie, and Mother Swan*)

Michael Genet (*Turkey, Barnacles, Bullfrog, and Father Swan*)

Doug Hara (*Cat*)

Kenita R. Miller (*Ida*)

Paolo Montalban (*Ugly*)

Jim Newman (*Drake and Greylag*)

Olivia Oguma (*Henrietta, Pinkfoot, Penny, and Maggie Pie*)

Laura Diorio, Owen Doherty, Julian Sarin, and Gabriella Scerbo (*Ducklings and Froglets*)

Members of the Company also play Fish and Froglets

David Malachowski (*Guitar*)
Joshua Samuels (*Drums/Percussion*)
Frank Vacin (*Reeds*)
Joseph Wallace (*Bass*)

Matt Pfeiffer (*Director*)
Wayne Barker (*Music Direction, Conductor and Keyboards*)
Jenn Rose (*Choreographer*)
David P. Gordon (*Scenic Designer*)
Olivera Gajic (*Costume Designer*)
Jeanette Oi-Suk Yew (*Lighting and Projection Designer*)
Karin Graybash (*Sound Designer*)
Adam Caldwell, CSA in association with Cindy Tolan (*Casting*)
Matthew Melchiorre (*Stage Manager*)

PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 6 at 10am (Student Matinee)
Wednesday, December 7 at 10am (Student Matinee)
Thursday, December 8 at 10am (Student Matinee)
Friday, December 9 at 7pm
Saturday, December 10 at 12pm and 8pm (Opening)
Sunday, December 11 at 12pm and 4pm (Día de la Familia)
Tuesday, December 13 at 10am (Student Matinee)
Wednesday, December 14 at 10am (Student Matinee)
Thursday, December 15 at 10am (Student Matinee)
Friday, December 16 at 7pm
Saturday, December 17 at 12pm (Scout Day) and 7 pm
Sunday, December 18 at 12pm (Scout Day) and 4pm
Tuesday, December 20 at 7pm
Wednesday, December 21 at 3pm and 7pm
Thursday, December 22 at 3pm (American Sign Language Interpreted) and 7pm
Friday, December 23 at 3pm and 7pm
Please note there are no performances on Saturday, December 24 or Sunday, December 25
Tuesday, December 27 at 12pm
Wednesday, December 28 at 12pm
Thursday, December 29 at 12pm and 7pm
Friday, December 30 at 12pm and 7pm
Saturday, December 31 at 12pm
Sunday, January 1 at 3pm

ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, November 18, 11am-12pm, River Road Books, 759 River Road, Fair Haven
Story Time: reading of "The Ugly Duckling"

Friday, November 18, 4:30pm-5:30pm, Middletown Arts Center, 36 Church Street, Middletown
A Honky Tonk Disco Duck Party & Concert with Miss Sherri of Honey Child Music

Saturday, November 19, 10am-8pm, Fragile Earth, 9 Monmouth Street, Red Bank
Craft Day

Monday, November 21, 11am-11:30am, Fragile Earth, 9 Monmouth Street, Red Bank
Story Time: reading of "The Ugly Duckling," crafts, and games

Monday, November 28, 3pm-4pm, Fair Haven Library (MCLS), 748 River Road, Fair Haven
Ducks or Swans: movie screening, story time, and crafts

Monday, November 28, 3:30pm-6pm, Middletown Library, 55 New Monmouth Road, Middletown
Story Time: readings of "The Ugly Duckling" and "The Wind in the Willows"

Thursday, December 1, 4pm-5pm, Oceanport Library (MCLS), 22
Story Time: reading of "The Ugly Duckling" and crafts

Saturday, December 3, 1pm-4pm, Monmouth County 4-H Building, 4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold
Puppetry, crafts, games, and storytelling for families of children K-3rd grade

Sunday, December 4, 2:30pm-3:30pm, Eastern Branch-Shrewsbury Library (MCLS), 1001 Hwy 35, Shrewsbury
Ugly Duckling Tales: readings of different versions of "The Ugly Duckling," crafts, and a short movie

Monday, December 5, 4pm-5pm, Howell Library (MCLS), 318 Old Tavern Road, Howell
Family Science Story Time

Monday, December 5, 4pm-4:45pm, Ocean Township Library (MCLS), 701 Deal Road, Ocean
Ugly Duckling Tales for all ages

Tuesday, December 6, 4pm-5pm, Oceanic Library, 109 Avenue of Two Rivers, Rumson
Story Time: reading, arts and crafts

Wednesday, December 7, 3:45pm-4:30pm, Eastern Branch-Shrewsbury Library (MCLS), 1001 Hwy 35, Shrewsbury
So You Think You Know the Story of The Ugly Duckling? Listen to the story, and then write it your own way; for children in grades 1-4

Wednesday, December 7, 4pm-5pm, Eatontown Library (MCLS), 33 Broad Street, Eatontown
Reading, crafts, and games

Wednesday, December 7, 4pm-5pm, West Long Branch Library (MCLS), 95 Poplar Ave, West Long Branch
An "Ugly Duckling"-inspired family event!

Thursday, December 8, 3pm-4pm, Monmouth Beach Library (MCLS), 18 Willow Ave, Monmouth Beach
Duck, Duck, Goose: readings, arts and crafts

Thursday, December 8, 4pm-5pm, Hazlet Library (MCLS), 251 Middle Road, Hazlet
Story Time: readings, arts and crafts

SPONSORS

Production Sponsor for *Honk!*: OceanFirst Foundation

Community Partners, One Book, One Community: Monmouth County 4-H, Distinctive Toys, Fair Haven Public Library, Fragile Earth, Honey Child Music, Middletown Arts Center, Middletown Township Public Library, Monmouth County Library, River Road Books, Soap Market, Ten Thousand Villages

Sponsors, One Book, One Community: Calendar for Kids, Desantis Creative, Hulafrog, *Kidsville News*, Pizza Fusion, Riverside Prints, Sugarush, *Two River Times*, Valley National Bank

Two River Theater Company is supported in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Hickory Foundation, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The Stone Foundation of New Jersey, Molly Pitcher Inn/Oyster Point Hotel, The Shubert Foundation, Flowerful Events, et al fine food & events, and many other foundations, corporations, and sponsors.

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TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY is under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst. Founded in 1994 by Joan and Dr. Robert M. Rechnitz, Two River Theater is a member of the League of Resident Theaters (LORT), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, and ArtPride New Jersey, and has been designated a "Major Arts Institution" by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. For more information, visit www.trtc.org.