



Media contacts:

Berkeley Rep's Terence Keane: 510.647.2917, tkeane@berkeleyrep.org

Yale Rep's Steven Padla: 203.432.1574, steven.padla@yale.edu

The New Victory Theater's Lauren Daniluk: 646.223.3077, ldaniluk@new42.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TONY KUSHNER & MAURICE SENDAK'S *BRUNDIBAR* OPENS IN NEW YORK

**Co-production of Berkeley Rep and Yale Rep at The New Victory Theater includes
*But the Giraffe, a Curtain Raiser to Hans Krása's Brundibar***

APRIL 19, 2006 – Next week, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Yale Repertory Theatre's co-production of *Brundibar* opens at The New Victory Theater on 42nd Street. This remarkable work is the culmination of a collaboration between legendary illustrator **Maurice Sendak** (*Where the Wild Things Are*) and renowned playwright **Tony Kushner** (*Angels in America*). *Brundibar* begins previews at The New Victory on Friday, April 28 and runs through Sunday, May 21. For the New York run, Tony Kushner's ***But the Giraffe, a Curtain Raiser to Hans Krása's Brundibar***, will be presented in place of *Comedy on the Bridge*.

An allegory of innocence triumphing over evil, ***Brundibar*** is the tale of a brother and sister who must earn enough money to buy milk for their sick mother. To do so, they join forces with three talking animals and a host of brave kids to outwit the town's sinister organ grinder. First composed in the ominous years leading up to World War II, this opera features **Hans Krása's** original score, Tony Kushner's adaptation of **Adolf Hoffmeister's** libretto, and Maurice Sendak's spectacular set design. *Brundibar* became a powerful protest against the Nazis, after being performed 55 times by the children of the Terezin concentration camp, and continues to inspire with its message of good overcoming evil. Tony Kushner's ***But the Giraffe, a Curtain Raiser to Hans Krása's Brundibar***, is a new work of imagination based very loosely on an actual event: the smuggling of the score of *Brundibar* into Terezin by its conductor, Rudolph Freudenfeld. It's about a little girl who has to make a difficult decision.

"I am thrilled to bring this show to New York after our successful runs in California and Connecticut," **remarks Tony Taccone**, artistic director of Berkeley Repertory Theatre and director of this production. "I am proud to be a part of this collaboration and invite audiences to this glorious universe, which combines Kushner's skill with language and Sendak's phenomenal imagination.

"Tony and I have been engaged in an ongoing conversation about the best way to present *Brundibar* to today's audiences," **Taccone continues**. "We felt that *Comedy on the Bridge* was the perfect opener for the adult subscribers at my theatre in Berkeley and at our co-producer's venue in New Haven, but the piece was too mature for The New Vic's audience. So, as we present *Brundibar* in New York, we're pleased to begin with *But the Giraffe*, a curtain raiser written specifically for kids and families."

"Ever since learning about this project, we were committed to bringing *Brundibar* to New York," explains **Cora Cahan**, president of The New 42nd Street. "We are absolutely delighted to present *Brundibar* and now *But the Giraffe*, and we hope that New York City will be as thrilled by this extraordinary production as we are."

Brundibar features a stellar cast of Broadway actors led by **Euan Morton** in the title role and a chorus of young performers from **Rosie's Broadway Kids**, an arts education organization founded by Rosie O'Donnell that enriches the lives of children through the arts. The curtain raiser will draw on the same cast, with the addition of 11-year-old **Danielle Freid**.

The New Victory Theater is located at 209 West 42nd Street, just off Broadway. **Tickets** are only \$10, \$20, or \$30, and may be purchased by calling Telecharge at 212.239.6200, by visiting telecharge.com, or by coming to the New Victory's box office at 209 West 42nd Street.

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BRUNDIBAR

FACT SHEET

WHO: Libretto by Tony Kushner, adapted from Adolf Hoffmeister
Music by Hans Krása
Production design by Maurice Sendak with Kris Stone
Directed by Tony Taccone
Music director and conductor Greg Anthony
Designed by Kris Stone (sets), Robin I. Shane (costumes), Don Holder (lights), Rob Milburn and Michael Bodeen (sound), and Kimi Okada (movement)
Starring Anjali Bhimani, Henry DiGiovanni, Matt Farnsworth, Danielle Freid, Aaron Simon Gross, Geoff Hoyle, Euan Morton, Devynn Pedell, Angelina Reaux, Martin Vidnovic, William Youmans, and Rosie's Broadway Kids

WHAT: The New 42nd Street presents Berkeley Repertory Theatre's and Yale Repertory Theatre's co-production of *Brundibar* and *But the Giraffe, a Curtain Raiser for Hans Krása's Brundibar*

An allegory of innocence triumphing over evil, *Brundibar* is the tale of a brother and sister who must earn enough money to buy milk for their sick mother. To do so, they join forces with three talking animals and a host of brave kids to outwit the town's sinister organ grinder. First composed in the ominous years leading up to World War II, this opera features **Hans Krása's** original score, **Tony Kushner's** adaptation of **Adolf Hoffmeister's** libretto, and **Maurice Sendak's** spectacular set design. *Brundibar* became a powerful protest against the Nazis, after being performed 55 times by the children of the Terezin concentration camp, and continues to inspire with its message of good overcoming evil. Tony Kushner's *But the Giraffe, a Curtain Raiser to Hans Krása's Brundibar*, is a new work of imagination based very loosely on an actual event: the smuggling of the score of *Brundibar* into Terezin by its conductor, Rudolph Freudenfeld. It's about a little girl who has to make a difficult decision.

WHERE: **The New Victory Theater**
209 West 42nd Street (just west of Broadway)
New York, NY 10036

WHEN: **April 28 – May 21, 2006**

Friday 4/28 @ 7:00 pm	Friday 5/12 @ 7:00 pm
Saturday 4/29 @ 7:00 pm	Saturday 5/13 @ 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Sunday 4/30 @ 12:00 pm & 5:00 pm	Sunday 5/14 @ 12:00 pm & 5:00 pm
Thursday 5/4 @ 7:00 pm	Wednesday 5/17 @ 7:00 pm
Friday 5/5 @ 7:00 pm	Thursday 5/18 @ 7:00 pm
Saturday 5/6 @ 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm	Friday 5/19 @ 7:00 pm
Sunday 5/7 @ 12:00 pm & 5:00 pm	Saturday 5/20 @ 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Thursday 5/11 @ 7:00 pm	Sunday 5/21 @ 12:00 pm & 5:00 pm

HOW MUCH: **\$10, \$20 and \$30**

TICKETS: Call Telecharge.com at 212.239.6200
Log on to www.Telecharge.com
Visit The New Victory Box Office at 209 West 42nd Street in New York

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