



## **Banyan Theater Company Announces 2009 Season**

**SARASOTA, FL** – The Banyan Theater Company is pleased to announce the play selections for its eighth summer season.

The three-play season will be performed in the Jane B. Cook Theatre at the FSU Center for the Performing Arts, 5555 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, from June 25 through August 23, 2009. A three-show subscription costs \$70, a two-show package is \$52 and single tickets are \$28.50. To purchase tickets, visit [www.banyantheatercompany.com](http://www.banyantheatercompany.com) or call (941) 358-5330.

### ***The Beauty Queen of Leenane* by Martin McDonagh, June 25-July 12**

Maureen Folan, a 40-year-old spinster, is the sole caregiver to her 70-year-old selfish, manipulative mother Mag. While her sisters have escaped into marriage and family life, Maureen, who has a history of mental illness, is trapped in a tiny cottage and a co-dependent, dysfunctional relationship with her mother. Maureen's hopes are raised when the glimmer of a last-chance romance with a construction worker sparks up. Full of secrets, betrayals and surprises, this exciting blend of uproarious comedy, grand melodrama and bleak tragedy is a dramatic tour-de-force that will take audiences on an emotional rollercoaster. Gil Lazier will direct *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, which features actresses Jessica K. Peterson and Lisa Morgan.

### ***Old Wicked Songs* by Jon Marans, July 16-August 2**

Viennese Music Professor Josef Mashkan takes on a new student, the brash young American Stephen Hoffman. A piano prodigy whose concert career is suffering from severe burnout, Stephen thinks he will be addressing his performance problems with Professor Schiller and is dismayed to learn he must first study singing with Mashkan. His course of study is to be Schumann's magnificent *Dichterliebe*, 16 songs based on Heinrich Heine's poems about love and loss. Mashkan's denigration of Jewish culture further increases the tensions between the two men and they struggle to find common ground. As each man is forced to reveal his deepest secrets, a tale of loss and redemption unfolds, and the two generations begin to understand where life and fate have led them. Playwright Jon Marans will direct; cast includes Peter Thomasson.

### ***Fat Pig* by Neil LaBute, August 6-August 23**

Life is good for Tom. He's successful at work, has some great friends, and a fantastic new girlfriend who is big and beautiful. He loves her, and that's what counts. Isn't it? When Tom's office buddies and ex-girlfriend find out that he is seeing a "plus size" woman it's not long before the whispers and mockery turn to relationship sabotage, leading Tom to question if size does matter after all. Neil LaBute's hit comedy (don't let the title fool you) is a biting story of love and friendship, and a profound examination of the cultural influences that define "attractive" in our society. *Fat Pig* will be directed by Greg Leaming; Broadway actress Margot Moreland will play the "plus size" love interest.

For more information about the Banyan Theater Company, call (941) 358-5330, e-mail [info@banyantheatercompany.com](mailto:info@banyantheatercompany.com), or visit [www.banyantheatercompany.com](http://www.banyantheatercompany.com).

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