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BARN PRESS RELEASE

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**NEW LONDON BARN PLAYHOUSE announces
2009 77th Summer Season
June 6, 2009**

Kick-off: 52nd Annual Straw Hat Revue

Mainstage Season:

**Ken Ludwig's *Leading Ladies*, *She Loves Me*, *Suds*, *South Pacific*, *Art*, *The Producers*,
Anything Goes, *The Fantasticks***

**NLBP Jr. Intern Company to present *Really Rosie*, *Pocahontas*, *Captain Bree and her Lady
Pirates* and *High School Musical***

(New London, NH) June 6, 2009 – The New London Barn Playhouse, under the leadership of Artistic Director Carol Dunne, announces the theater's 77th season. Opening the season is the 52nd annual Straw Hat Revue, the theater's beloved introduction to the Acting Intern Company, from June 11-June 14th. The mainstage season begins with Ken Ludwig's comic farce directed by veteran director Malcolm Morrison from June 16-21.

The Barn presents the musical jewel *She Loves Me*, the story told again in Tom Hanks' *You've Got Mail*, from June 23-July 5th. Rodgers and Hammerstein's enchanted *South Pacific* runs from July 7-July 19. Emmy award-winning and Tony-nominated actor Gordon Clapp stars in the Tony-winning comedy *Art* from July 21-26. Mel Brooks' hilarious *The Producers* runs from July 28-August 9. The season concludes with classic favorites *Anything Goes* from August 11-August 23 and *The Fantasticks* from August 25-September 6.

The Monday Night Series offers *Suds: The rocking 60's musical Soap Opera!*

The New London Barn Jr. Intern Company will present *Really Rosie* on July 2, *Pocahontas* on July 16, *Captain Bree and Her Lady Pirates* on August 6 and *Disney High School Musical* on August 20 & 22nd.

“The New London Barn Playhouse is entering its fourth season as a not-for-profit theater company with tremendous momentum. We are building on the Barn’s incredible history by improving the infrastructure of the theater, expanding our fundraising base, creating an exciting subscription series and reaching out to a greater geographic audience base,” said Artistic Director Carol Dunne.

THE SEASON

The Playhouse opens its doors with the traditional Straw Hat Revue (June 11-14), a musical offering crafted each year to introduce the Acting Intern Company, 16 immensely talented young people chosen from over 1,200. This year’s revue is titled “*Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue*” and is directed by Charles H. Massey, longtime Barn Playhouse artist, and Artistic Director of the Newport Opera House.

Leading Ladies, Ken Ludwig’s latest comedy, opens the Mainstage season on June 16th and runs until June 21. Malcolm Morrison, former Dean of the North Carolina School of the Arts and recently retired Dean of the Hartt School of Music, directs this outrageous comedy by the author of *Moon over Buffalo* and *Lend Me a Tenor*. Morrison just directed the critically acclaimed production of *Noises Off* at the Hartford Stage. Barn favorite Gordon Gray, seen in last year’s *I Hate Hamlet* stars along with Northern Stage favorite Thom Miller.

She Loves Me is considered by many to be the most perfect musical ever written. Originally produced on Broadway in 1963 directed by Harold Prince and starring Barbara Cook, it is the story of Georg and Amalia, two bickering shop clerks in a European parfumerie in the 1930s who turn out to be lonely-hearts pen pals. This romantic classic has been told many times; as the Jimmy Stewart movie *The Shop Around the Corner* and recently the Tom Hanks/Meg Ryan movie *You’ve Got Mail*. The Barn Company will perform in this production directed by Peter Hackett, Chair of the Dept. of Theater at Dartmouth College and former Artistic Director of the Cleveland Play House. Richard Bell, an Acting Intern from the Barn in the 1960s, returns to play the role of Mr. Maraczek, the grumpy but lovable shop owner. *She Loves Me* runs from June 23-July 5.

The much-loved Rodgers and Hammerstein classic *South Pacific* follows in celebration of the recently lauded Broadway revival. It is the story of the “Cockeyed Optimist” Nellie Forbush and features some of the most beautiful music ever written for the theater. Favorites include *Some Enchanted Evening*, *Wonderful Guy* and *Younger than Springtime*. Based on the novel *Tales of the South Pacific* by James A. Michener, the play broke many taboos by addressing issues of racial prejudice during the mid 20th century. The Barn Playhouse production will star Fred Rose, who most recently appeared along with Raul Esparza in the Tony-winning Broadway production of *Company*. *South Pacific* runs from July 7 until July 19.

The hit Tony Award-winning comedy *Art* will be presented for one week only from July 21-26. This uproarious comedy stars Gordon Clapp, Emmy Award-winning actor from *NYPD Blue*, Jamie Horton, the 20 year leading actor of the Tony Award-winning Denver Theater Center in his Barn Playhouse debut, and local favorite David Shaw. When an art lover buys what is in essence a plain white painting for an exorbitant sum, his best friend is appalled. Questions about the meaning of art and friendship abound. The London Times wrote: “... a classic comedy. Period.”

Mel Brooks’ *The Producers* runs from July 28 until August 2. “*The Producers* is our touch of the outrageous this summer,” says Dunne, who will direct. Mel Brooks’ hysterical valentine to the theater world is being produced for the first time in this region. “I believe one show each season should get people talking. This will get people talking...and laughing... and crying from laughing so hard...” The musical is based on the 1968 film of the same title and opened on Broadway in 2001 winning a record-breaking 12 Tony awards. The plot concerns two theatrical producers who try to

get rich by overselling interests in a Broadway flop. Their plans are stymied when the show ends up a success.

The Cole Porter classic *Anything Goes* follows from August 11-23. Directed by Hans Friedrichs, NLBP Resident Director and director of last season's *Evita*, *Anything Goes* concerns the fate of a group of mad-cap travelers aboard a ship bound for England. The musical introduced such songs as "Anything Goes," "You're the Top," and "I Get a Kick Out of You." Courtney Davis, a Barn favorite from last season, stars as the nightclub singer Reno Sweeney.

The final show of the 2009 Mainstage season is *The Fantasticks*, the world's longest running musical. First produced in 1960, this magical telling of young love draws on elements from *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The bucolic score features *Try To Remember* and *Soon It's Gonna Rain*. The show runs from August 25-September 30.

MONDAY NIGHT SERIES

The Barn Playhouse has traditionally presented a musical revue on select Monday nights throughout the summer. This summer's offering is *Suds: The Rocking 60's Musical Soap Opera*. In the tradition of *Forever Plaid* and *Beehive*, this show tells the story of a lovesick young woman who is visited by her guardian angels as she works in a laundromat. Featuring some of the greatest music from the 1950s and 60's "girl groups", this show is sure to have audiences humming along. *Suds* is presented on Mondays June 29th, July 13, August 3, and 17.

BARN PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES ONLINE TICKETING AND LOWER TICKET PRICES FOR YOUTH UNDER 16

"One of our greatest recent improvements is our offering of online ticketing. This new system enables us to serve our audiences much more efficiently and has been extremely successful since its inception May 1st," says Dunne.

"This season, we offer a lower ticket price for youth under 16 because we believe that the best way to support the arts is to attend the arts. We want to make it possible and practical for a family to come often together to enjoy live performance."

Tickets for the general public are on sale now at www.nlbarn.org or at 603-526-6710. FlexPass tickets are currently available as are full season subscriptions.

The New London Barn Playhouse, a professional theater located in New London, NH, was founded in 1933 and is the oldest continually operating summer theater in New Hampshire. The legendary Norman Leger purchased the theater in 1955 and ran it until his retirement in 2005. At that time, a group of trustees led by Tom DeMille transformed the theater into its current not-for-profit status. In 2008, Carol Dunne was hired as Artistic Director and worked with the Board of Directors to define the theater's mission: to present vibrant theater created by emerging artists in collaboration with accomplished professionals. A plethora of successful theater artists got their start at the Barn including Tony-winning composer Stephen Schwartz, Broadway and film star Taye Diggs, and Matt Cavanaugh, current star of *West Side Story* on Broadway.

The Barn Playhouse boasts new online ticketing, a new web site, a larger orchestra than in years past, and a company of actors that includes two returning Acting Interns from the 2009 season.

Tickets are available at www.nlbarn.org or through the box office at 603-526-6710.