

For Further Information, Contact  
Cathy Taylor, Cathy Taylor PR – 773.564.9564  
Ben Frick, Public Relations Assistant  
Chicago Shakespeare Theater – 312.595.5633

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Chicago Shakespeare Theater Takes Audiences  
on a Magic Carpet Ride with  
*Disney's Aladdin*  
July 1 through August 30, 2009  
*The Lion King's* Larry Yando and Derek Hasenstab Team Up Again**

**Chicago—June 3, 2009—Chicago Shakespeare Theater (CST)** brings *Disney's Aladdin*, an enchanting adaptation of the 1992 animated film, to the stage continuing CST's tradition of bringing family-friendly theater to Navy Pier all summer long. The production features **Alan Menken, Howard Ashman** and **Tim Rice's** award-winning songs, including "A Whole New World" and "Friend Like Me." Previously performing as Scar and Zazu in the national touring production of *The Lion King*, **Larry Yando** and **Derek Hasenstab** will reunite as the diabolical duo, Jafar and his sidekick Iago. Immediately following each performance, the actors join the audience in the Lobby for one-on-one conversations and photo opportunities. Performances of *Disney's Aladdin* are scheduled July 1 through August 30, 2009 in the Courtyard Theater. Tickets are \$18 - \$23 with special discounts available for groups of 10 or more. All patrons receive a 40% parking discount. For more information or to purchase tickets contact Chicago Shakespeare Theater's Box Office at 312.595.5600 or by visiting the Theater's website at [www.chicagoshakes.com](http://www.chicagoshakes.com).

Aladdin, a clever street urchin, is wrongly accused of kidnapping the beautiful Princess Jasmine and locked away in a dungeon, leading him to a cave of wonders and the discovery of a magical lamp. One rub of the lamp releases a larger-than-life, fun-loving Genie ready to grant Aladdin three wishes. Together, they make their way into the city of Agrabah, where the devious, power-hungry Jafar and his parrot Iago are threatening to take over the kingdom. Aladdin and his newfound friends must now use their wits—and three wishes—to outsmart the villains and save the kingdom in this musical adventure full of unforgettable songs and lovable characters. A timeless message of friendship and the importance of staying true to oneself is at the heart of this entertaining family musical.

(over)

Casting both veteran CST actors and introducing Chicago audiences to some of the nation's newest talent, *Aladdin* will feature CST audience favorite **Larry Yando** as Jafar and **Derek Hasenstab** as Iago. The pair recently starred in the national touring production of *The Lion King*, in which they brought two other memorable Disney characters (Scar and Zazu) to life on stage. Opposite the villainous veterans are the production's heroes, played by CST newcomers **Tony Clarno** and **Melissa Espinosa** as Aladdin and Jasmine, respectively. They are joined by **Bill Larkin** as Genie and **Joseph Anthony Foronda** as the Sultan with an ensemble rounded out by **Karissa Barney**, **Sean Blake**, **Alex Goodrich**, **Jillian Jocson** and **Erik Kaiko** who will each take on several roles.

Making his directorial debut at CST is **Devanand Janki**, who recently choreographed the CST commissioned family musical, *How Can You Run with a Shell on Your Back?* Among Mr. Janki's credits are concerts for the Broadway stage including *Hair* (director), *Funny Girl* (choreographer) and *Dreamgirls* (associate choreographer). Off Broadway, he directed and choreographed *Zanna, Don't!*, for which he received the **Lucille Lortel, Callaway** and **GLAAD Media Awards**, and choreographed *Junie B. Jones*, *Henry & Mudge*, *Cupid & Psyche* and *Judy Speaks*. Janki has also directed at **Tokyo Disney** among other regional credits.

"What I love about doing *Disney's Aladdin* is that it's not just for kids. The parents love it too," says Janki. "I think that's the thing that's so sophisticated about doing a production like this. There's something for everyone. And doing it in a space like the Courtyard Theater right here on Navy Pier makes for such a magical and memorable day for the entire family."

The CST veteran production team includes: Scenic Designer **Brian Sidney Bembridge** (*Funk it Up About Nothin'*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Romeo and Juliet*); Costume Designer **Debbie Baer** (*Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Funk it Up About Nothin'*); Lighting Designer **Jesse Klug** (*Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *How Can You Run with a Shell on Your Back?*, *The Three Musketeers* and *Seussical the Musical*); Sound Designer **James Savage** (*Twelfth Night*, *Funk it Up About Nothin'*, *Willy Wonka*, *Passion*, *How Can You Run with a Shell on Your Back?*, *Hamlet*, *A Little Night Music*); Wig and Makeup Designer **Melissa Veal** (*Willy Wonka*, *How do You Run with a Shell on Your Back?*, *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, *Amadeus*); Puppet Designer **Meredith Miller** (*SS! A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Willy Wonka*); and Properties Master **Ann Meilahn** (*Twelfth Night*, *Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night's Dream*). Additionally, music direction will be provided by **Ben Johnson** (*The Comedy of Errors*, *Passion*).

*Disney's Aladdin* is recommended for ages 5 and up, with performances scheduled July 1 through August 30, 2009 in the Courtyard Theater. The press performance is Sunday, July 12 at 2:00pm. Tickets are \$18 - \$23 with special discounts available for groups of 10 or more. All patrons receive a 40% parking discount. For more information or to purchase tickets contact Chicago Shakespeare Theater's Box Office at 312.595.5600 or by visiting the Theater's website at [www.chicagoshakes.com](http://www.chicagoshakes.com).

**Title:** Disney's *Aladdin*  
**Music by:** Alan Menken  
**Lyrics by:** Howard Ashman and Tim Rice  
**Music adapted, arranged and orchestrated by:** Bryan Louiselle  
**Book by:** Jim Luigs  
**Directed by:** Devanand Janki  
**Dates:** July 1 – August 30, 2009

**Schedule:**

<u>Wednesday</u>	11:00 a.m.
<u>Thursday</u>	11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.* (*except July 2)
<u>Friday</u>	11:00 a.m.* & 2:00 p.m. (*except July 3)
<u>Saturday</u>	11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
<u>Sunday</u>	2:00 p.m.

**Ages:** Recommended for ages five and up

**Location:** Courtyard Theater  
 Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier  
 800 E. Grand Avenue

**Tickets:** \$18, Children 12 and younger; \$23, Adults  
**Groups (10+)** \$12, Children 12 and younger; \$18, Adults

**Box Office:** [www.chicagoshakes.com](http://www.chicagoshakes.com)  
 312.595.5600

**Group Sales:** 312.595.5678 (groups of 10 or more)

**Casting as of press time:** **Tony Clarno** (Aladdin), **Melissa Espinoza** (Jasmine), **Bill Larkin** (Genie), **Larry Yando** (Jafar), **Derek Hasenstab** (Iago), **Karissa Barney** (Ensemble), **Sean Blake** (Ensemble), **Joseph Anthony Foronda** (Sultan), **Alex Goodrich** (Ensemble), **Jillian Jocson** (Ensemble), **Erik Kaiko** (Ensemble)

###

Artistic productions in the Courtyard Theater are supported, in part, through a generous grant from the **McCormick Foundation**.

**American Airlines** is the official airline of Chicago Shakespeare Theater.

**ComEd** is the official lighting design sponsor of Chicago Shakespeare Theater.