



**BOSTON
CENTER
FOR THE
ARTS**

NINE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Jim Torres (617) 529-1670

(BOSTON) – From January 21 thru February 20, SpeakEasy Stage will proudly present the two-time Tony Award-winning musical **NINE**.

Based on the classic film *8 ½* by Federico Fellini, and featuring a book by Arthur Kopit and music and lyrics by Maury Yeston, **NINE** tells the story of Italian film director Guido Contini, who is facing both personal and career crises as he approaches his fortieth birthday. Torn between his relationships with three women, haunted by images and memories from his past, and bereft of an idea for a new film after suffering three flops, Guido struggles to move forward as the boundaries between his inner life and reality begin to blur.

Timothy John Smith will star as Guido Contini in the SpeakEasy production, a role made famous on Broadway by film legends Raul Julia and Antonio Banderas, and played by Academy Award-winner Daniel Day Lewis in the recent musical film adaptation.

Smith's co-stars in the SpeakEasy production are a bevy of Boston's top musical theatre actresses including Julia Broder, Shana Dirik, Aimee Doherty, McCaela Donovan, Kerry A. Dowling, Jennifer Ellis, Celia Hottenstein, Amy Jackson, Maureen Keiller, Holly King, Cheryl McMahon, Brittany Morello, Rachel Prather, Kami Rushell Smith, and Santana Umbach.

Erik March of Newburyport, MA and Andrew Stewart of Newton, MA will be making their SpeakEasy debuts with this production, sharing the role of Little Guido.

Producing Artistic Director Paul Daigneault will direct **NINE** for SpeakEasy, assisted by music director Nicholas Connell and choreographer David Connolly.

The design team includes Eric Levenson (scenic), Charles Schoonmaker (costumes), Jeff Adelberg (lighting), Seághan McKay (video & projection design) and Aaron Mack (sound). Amy Weissenstein is the Production Stage Manager. Emily Page is the Assistant Stage Manager.

NINE will play for five weeks, from January 21 –February 20, in the Roberts Studio Theatre in the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street in Boston's South End.

Ticket prices range from \$30-\$57 with discounts for students and seniors. For tickets or more information, the public is invited to call 617-933-8600 or visit www.SpeakEasyStage.com.

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In a recent interview with SpeakEasy dramaturg Suzanne Bixby, composer/lyricist Maury Yeston noted that the road to Broadway for the original production of **NINE** was a nine year journey that began in 1973 as his project in the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop. Efforts to gain the rights to the film *8 1/2*, however, were stalled until Katharine Hepburn personally intervened after seeing a workshop of the show in New London, CT in 1978. Tommy Tune signed on to direct after Yeston won a Richard Rodgers Award, which carried with it a \$40,000 grant. **NINE** premiered a year later on Broadway, on May 9th, 1982 at the 46th Street Theatre featuring Raul Julia, Anita Morris, Karen Akers, and Liliane Montevecchi. That production ran for 729 performances and went on to earn five Tony Awards.

The Donmar Warehouse in London presented a production of **NINE** four years after its 1992 London debut in concert. A Broadway revival followed in 2003 at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre starring Antonio Banderas as Guido. The revival won two Tony Awards: Best Revival and Best Featured Actress in a Musical (Jane Krakowski).

In 2009, a film adaptation of **NINE**, directed by Rob Marshall and featuring Daniel Day-Lewis, Penelope Cruz, Marion Cotillard, Nicole Kidman, Dame Judi Dench, Kate Hudson, Fergie, and Sophia Loren, with a screenplay by Anthony Minghella and Michael Tolkin, was nominated for five Golden Globes and four Academy Awards.

Show creator Maury Yeston is a composer, lyricist, author and teacher, who moves easily among the worlds of theatre, film, and academia, writing concert music, Broadway shows, and holding teaching posts as a respected musicologist.

In addition to winning his second Tony Award for Best Score for Broadway's *Titanic* (which won five Tonys including Best Musical), Yeston won a Tony Award and two Drama Desk Awards for his music and lyrics to Broadway's **NINE** (based on Fellini's *8 1/2*). That production won four additional Tonys, including Best Musical. Yeston's contribution to the score for Broadway's *Grand Hotel* was nominated for a Tony and two Drama Desk Awards, and the Donmar Warehouse London production of this show won the Olivier Award. His score for *Phantom*, his own musicalization of the Gaston LeRoux novel, has received national and international acclaim and is currently in production across America and Europe and Japan.

Headed soon for the New York stage is Yeston-penned musical *Death Takes A Holiday*, with a book by Peter Stone and Thomas Meehan. Scheduled for 2011 is Yeston's new full-length Ballet – *Tom Sawyer*, commissioned for the Kansas Ballet to inaugurate Kansas City's new Opera House and Arts Center.

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Playwright **Arthur Kopit** is the author of the plays *Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feelin' So Sad*; *Indians* (Finalist for Pulitzer Prize); *Wings* (Tony Nominee, Finalist for Pulitzer Prize); *End of the World, with Symposium to Follow*; a new translation of Ibsen's *Ghosts*; the book for the musicals *Nine* and *Phantom* (both with scores by Maury Yeston); the book for the musical *High Society*; *Road to Nirvana*; *Because He Can* (originally entitled *Y2K*); and numerous one act plays. Current projects include *Discovery of America*, a play based on the journals of the Spanish conquistador Cabeza de Vaca, a new musical *Eureka!*, and four other new plays, *Secrets of the Rich*, *Autumn Light*, *The Incurables*, and *A Dram of Drumchhicit*, the latter written with Anton Dudley, and slated for production in 2011 at the La Jolla Playhouse, Chris Ashley directing. Mr. Kopit is a member of the Dramatists Guild and the Lark Play Development Center, where he heads the Lark Playwrights' Workshop.

NINE brings the number of plays that SpeakEasy Producing Artistic Director Paul has produced at SpeakEasy to 93! His SpeakEasy directing highlights include: *Body Awareness*; *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*; [title of show]; *The Savannah Disputation*; *Jerry Springer -The Opera*; *The New Century*; *Some Men*; *Zanna, Don't!*; *Parade* (2008 Elliot Norton Award – Outstanding Director Midsize Company); *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*; *Almost, Maine*; *Caroline, or Change*; *Take Me Out*; *Company*; *Elegies: A Song Cycle*; *A Man of No Importance* (co-production Sógán); *Bat Boy: The Musical* (2003 Elliot Norton Award – Outstanding Director, Small Company); *Passion*; *A New Brain*; *Violet*; *Merrily We Roll Along*; *Songs for a New World*; *Floyd Collins*; *Jeffrey*; and *Love! Valour! Compassion!*. Regional credits: *Grand Hotel* and *Nine* (The Boston Conservatory and Cincinnati Conservatory of Music); *Rent*, *City of Angels* and *Wonderful Town* (The Boston Conservatory); and *Urinetown* and *Blue Window* (Boston College). Paul is also on the faculty at The Boston Conservatory. In 2007, Paul was honored with the Boston College Arts Council's Alumni Award for Distinguished Achievement.

For more information on **NINE**, the public can call the Boston Theatre Scene Box Office at 617-933-8600 or visit www.BostonTheatreScene.com.

Press inquiries should be directed to **SpeakEasy Marketing Director Jim Torres**:
Office: 617-482-3279 Cell: 617-529-1670 Email: JimTorres@SpeakEasyStage.com.

About SpeakEasy Stage Company

Since 1992, SpeakEasy Stage Company has distinguished by presenting top-quality productions of contemporary plays and musicals that might not otherwise play the Hub. Our mission is to connect, inspire, and challenge our audience with the most socially relevant theatrical premieres featuring the most talented artists in Boston. We are also committed to supporting local actors, directors, and designers by providing a nurturing environment in which they can practice and develop their craft. In 2007, SpeakEasy was named the Calderwood Pavilion Resident Theater at the Boston Center for the Arts, a nonprofit performing and visual arts center whose mission is to support working artists to create, perform, and exhibit new work; to develop new audiences; and to connect the arts to a broad public. In 2008, the company received the Stage Source Theater Hero Award for inspiration leadership and support of the Boston Theatre Community. For more information, visit www.SpeakEasyStage.com.



Calendar Listing Information

NINE

Book by Arthur Kopit, Music & Lyrics by Maury Yeston

Adaptation from the Italian by Mario Fratti; Based on Fellini's 8 1/2

Celebrate SpeakEasy's 20th Anniversary with a very special production of Paul Daigneault's all-time favorite musical. This spectacular show tells the story of celebrated film director Guido Contini, who is facing both mid-life and marital crises after turning 40. In an effort to gain inspiration and save his career, Guido escapes to a Venetian spa, where he finds himself examining his past relationships with the many women who have touched his life.

Presented by: SpeakEasy Stage Company, the Calderwood Pavilion Resident Theatre Company at the Boston Center for the Arts; Paul Daigneault, Producing Artistic Director

- Cast: Julia Broder, Shana Dirik, Aimee Doherty, McCaela Donovan, Kerry Dowling, Jennifer Ellis, Celia Hottenstein, Amy Jackson, Maureen Keiller, Holly King, Erik March, Cheryl McMahon, Brittany Morello, Rachel Prather, Kami Rushell Smith, Timothy John Smith, Andrew Stewart and Santana Umbach
- Director: Paul Daigneault
- Musical Director: Nicholas Connell
- Choreographer: David Connolly
- Production Stage Manager: Amy Weissenstein
- Design Team: Eric Levenson (Scenic Design)
Charles Schoonmaker (Costume Design)
Jeff Adelberg (Lighting Design)
Seághan McKay (Projection Design)
Aaron Mack (Sound Design)
- Performing at: Nancy and Edward Roberts Studio Theatre
in the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion
at the Boston Center for the Arts,
527 Tremont Street in Boston's South End
- Press Performance: Sunday, January 23, 2010, 3:00 PM
- Performance Schedule: January 21, 2010 – February 20, 2011
Wed., Thurs. at 7:30PM; Fri at 8PM; Sat. at 4PM & 8PM; Sun. at 3PM
- Run Time: 2:30 including one fifteen-minute intermission
- Ticket Prices: Wed. & Thurs. at 7:30 PM; Fri. at 8PM, -- \$52.00 / \$47.00 seniors
Sat. 4PM & 8PM; Sun. at 3PM -- \$57.00 / \$52.00 seniors
- Under Age 25 \$25 at all times.
- Student Rush: \$14 with valid college ID, at the box-office only, one hour before curtain, subject to availability
- Box Office: 617-933-8600; www.BostonTheatreScene.com
- Press Contact Only: Jim Torres – 617- 529-1670 (cell)

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