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MEDIA ALERT FOR THEATRE EDITORS AND REVIEWERS
AND CALENDAR LISTINGS

THE ANTAEUS COMPANY KICKS OFF
CLASSICSFEST 2008
WITH A WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL!

AMERICAN TALES

Based on the works of Mark Twain & Herman Melville

Music by Jan Powell
Book and Lyrics by Ken Stone
Musical Direction by

Directed by Thor Steingraber

OPENS FRIDAY, JUNE 27 & SATURDAY, JUNE 28
AT ANTAEUS' NEW INTERIM HOME...
DEAF WEST THEATRE IN NORTH HOLLYWOOD

April 16, 2008...North Hollywood... L.A.'s Classical Theater Ensemble, the Antaeus Company presents the World Premiere of a new musical, AMERICAN TALES, with Music by Jan Powell, Book and Lyrics by Ken Stone, Musical Direction by xxx and will be Directed by Thor Steingraber. [As the main event of the Antaeus' CLASSICSFEST 2008, this world premiere musical will also be part](#) of the ASCAP Festival of New American Musicals. AMERICAN TALES begins previews June 19th and opens on Friday, June 27 & Saturday, June 28 and runs through August 17 at Antaeus' new interim home, Deaf West Theatre, 5112 Lankershim Blvd. in North Hollywood.

Connections made...connections missed... AMERICAN TALES takes us on a musical journey through the world of two of the greatest American writers of all time, Mark Twain and Herman Melville. The Loves of Alonzo Fitz Clarence and Rosannah Ethelton is a free adaptation of Mark Twain's wry and comic look at that new invention, the telephone. [Alonzo in Maine and Rosannah in California, in probably the first story of two people falling in love with the aid of technology, meet by the accident of crossed wires and instantly fall in love with an imagined ideal of the other.](#)

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Connections are made, lost and made again as well in Herman Melville's slyly funny but ultimately tragic story of Bartleby the Scrivener. In a law office of the 1840's men are employed day upon day for a lifetime, copying out the words of others. Bartleby, a cog in the machine, one day inexplicably refuses to work, responding to every request with the enigmatic "I would prefer not to." Bartleby's secrets will remain his alone, but the people around him are left with a transforming question: What do we owe the people who come into our lives?

The world premiere production of AMERICAN TALES will be the kickoff event for Antaeus' CLASSICSFEST 2008, a bi-annual eight-week festival running from June 27 through August 17 which includes workshops and readings of classic plays, new translations, and works in process, including more than a dozen separate projects.

ABOUT THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

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THOR STEINGRABER (BIO HERE)

JAN POWELL (BIO HERE)

KEN STONE (BIO HERE)

The cast of AMERICAN TALES will feature notable Antaeus regulars such as John Apicella, Emily Bergl, Daniel Blinkoff, Josh Clark, JD Cullum, Richard Miro, Philip Proctor, Devon Sorvari, Peter Van Norden and guest artist Jeremy Shouldis.

AMERICAN TALES has assembled an award-winning design team. The scenic design is by Laura Fine Hawkes. The costume design is by Jeffrey Schoenberg. The lighting design is by Jose Lopez. The stage management will be by Young Ji. Produced by Laura Hill and Co-Artistic Directors John Apicella and Jeanie Hackett.

AMERICAN TALES, the kickoff event of CLASSICSFEST 2008, will preview on Thursday, June 19, Friday, June 20, Saturday, June 20 at 8pm Sunday, June 21 at 7pm and Thursday, June 26 at 8pm and will open on Friday, June 27 & Saturday, June 28 at 8pm and runs through Sunday, August 17. AMERICAN TALES will perform Friday, Saturday nights at 8:00pm, and Sundays at 3:00pm and 7:30pm at Deaf West Theatre, 5112 Lankershim Blvd. in North Hollywood. Tickets are \$25 for all performances (Previews \$20) and will be on sale beginning May 15 and are available through Theatermania.com or by calling 1-866-811-4111 or visit www.antaeus.org.

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For press interviews, photos or comps, please contact David Elzer/DEMAND PR at 818-508-1754 or at ElzerD@aol.com or visit www.demandpr.com.

The Antaeus Company, L.A.'s Classical Theater Ensemble, has a 15 year history of providing quality classical

theater in Los Angeles. Through productions, readings and workshops; educational outreach to the community and acting training programs for young professionals, the Antaeus mission remains steadfast and simple: To keep classical theater **vibrantly** alive in ourselves and in our community.

With a broad range of age and ethnicity, Antaeus members and board includes over 100 professional actors, composers, designers, translators, playwrights, and directors, including Oscar and Tony award nominated and winning actors, as well as countless L.A. Weekly, L.A. and NYC Drama Critics Circle, Ovation, and Backstage Garland award recipients.