

Contact: Vanessa Butler
213/446-0774.Vanessa@leftcoastmarketing.com



Press Release

THE BROAD STAGE PRESENTS BASIL TWIST'S *PETRUSHKA* with TWIN RUSSIAN PIANISTS AND NINE PUPPETEERS

6 PERFORMANCES FEBRUARY 4th through 7TH, 2010

**GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY
ALISON AND RICHARD CROWELL**

MEDIA SPONSORS KCRW AND LOS ANGELES MAGAZINE

Santa Monica, CA (February 4, 2010) – Master Puppeteer Basil Twist will make his debut at The Broad Stage in Basil Twist's *Petrushka*. Set to music from Igor Stravinsky's *Petrushka*, Twist's *Petrushka* will be preformed by identical Russian twin pianists, Julia and Irina Elkina and nine puppeteers. It opens on Thursday, February 4 at 7:30 PM with five additional performances through Sunday, February 7th at The Broad Stage in Santa Monica. These performances are generously underwritten by Alison and Richard Crowell and media support is provided by KCRW 89.9 and Los Angeles Magazine.

First commissioned by Lincoln Center in 2001, this *Petrushka* also involves a conceptual sleight of hand. In the ballet dancers play puppets that come to life. In Mr. Twist's version, puppets play puppets, and when they come to life, they dance. It works perfectly, plunging us directly into the story's imaginative universe. It's a spectacle but a deliberately miniaturized one. The characters, pared down to just three -- the sad, striving *Petrushka*; the Ballerina he loves; and the Moor she seduces - inhabit a small black box of a world, circumscribed by a filigreed gilt frame.

Stravinsky's score, with its bright, stop-and-start melodies and dark undercurrents, has been downsized too. Adapted for two pianos, it's played by Julia and Irina Elkina, identical twins whose pianos are neatly fitted together. This *Petrushka*, uses nine puppeteers. Deana Acheson; Kirsten Kammermeyer; Lake Simons; Matthew Acheson; Erin Orr; Lindsay Abromaitis-Smith; Carol Binion; Marc Petrosino and

The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage
The Edge Second Space

Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center
Theater Address: 1310 11th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403
Mailing Address: 1900 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90405-1628
Phone: 310. 434. 3412 www.thebroadstage.com

Christopher Williams. Andrew Hill, lighting designer and Mr. David, puppet couture.

Basil Twist, creator/director, is originally from San Francisco, is a third-generation puppeteer who lives and works in New York City, and is the sole American graduate of the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts de la Marionnette in France. He is pleased to make his Broad Stage debut. Other original creations include The Araneidae Show, Symphonie Fantastique, Master Peter's Puppet Show, Dogugaeshi, and La Bella Dormente Nel Bosco. Collaborations include Behind the Lid with the late Lee Nagrin and Red Beads with Lee Breuer and Mabou Mines. Since 1998 Mr. Twist has continually expanded the realm of puppetry by creating and touring new works that integrate live music. He has partnered with such premier institutions as the Spoleto Festival, Lincoln Center Festival, Lincoln Center's New Visions series, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Japan Society, and Gotham Chamber Opera. Mr. Twist premiered his Hansel and Gretel with the Houston Grand Opera and Atlanta Opera Company. His work has been recognized with an OBIE Award, four UNIMA Awards for Excellence in Puppetry, two Bessie Awards, a New York Innovative Theatre Award, and an American Theatre Wing Henry Hewes Design Award. Mr. Twist is a Guggenheim Fellow and is an inaugural United States Artist Ford Fellow. He is the director of The Dream Music Puppetry Program at HERE Arts Center in New York.

Julia and Irina Elkina, piano, having played together since the age of five, The Elkina Sisters, Russian-born identical twins, are praised by critics. The Elkina twins won the top prize in the eighth Murray Dranoff International Two Piano Competition. They have performed throughout the United States, making their New York debut in 1996 and playing return engagements here and in San Francisco, Chicago, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Miami, and New Orleans, to name just a few. The twins have appeared at numerous festivals, including Ravinia, the Gilmore Keyboard Festival, Oregon Bach Festival, and Minnesota Orchestra's Sommerfest, and have performed with such conductors as Hugh Wolff and Bobby McFerrin. The Elkinas have been heard on National Public Radio and many public radio stations nationwide, including the award-winning weekly series Saint Paul Sunday and A Prairie Home Companion. The Elkinas' CD, The Sisters' Version: Cinderella and Other Stories for Duo Piano, was produced by the Schubert Club of St. Paul, Minnesota, for the Ten Thousand Lakes label. After receiving a great critical acclaim it was re-released nationally on the d'Note label.

About The Broad Stage:

Under the leadership of Director Dale Franzen and Artistic Chair Dustin Hoffman, The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage at the Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center opened its doors in Santa Monica in October 2008.

The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage
The Edythe Second Space

Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center
Theater Address: 1310 11th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403
Mailing Address: 1900 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90405-1628
Phone: 310. 434. 3412 www.thebroadstage.com

Inspired by Italian “horseshoe” theaters, yet conceived in an absolutely contemporary vernacular, The Broad Stage is an artist’s dream and an audience’s delight. Unlike any performance space in the country, it is sublimely intimate with 499-seats and strikingly grand at the same time – allowing eye contact with artists from the boxes to the back row –forging a new kind of artist and audience experience in Los Angeles. Theater, dance, film, operas, musicals, symphony and chamber orchestras will be presented on one of the city’s largest proscenium stages. Designed without compromise to embrace the artistic process from inspiration to opening night, and conceived as a global theater and community hub. In addition to The Broad Stage, The Edye Second Space, a smaller black box theater, presents new, developing and innovative work in theater, music and dance as part of the Under the Radar Series. Featuring younger, innovative artists and chamber pieces and plays, programming at The Edye is intentionally spontaneous, reflecting the dynamic nature of the space and allowing the latest, most exciting artists to be booked on short notice. The Under the Radar Series is only \$20. **Visit The Broad Stage online at www.TheBroadStage.com.**

Tickets: Range from \$45 - \$85 and are available online at www.theBroadStage.com or by phone, 310.434.3200. Parking is free. The Broad Stage season runs from September 4, 2009 through May 21, 2010.

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

The Broad Stage is located at 1310 11th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

Performance Dates and Times:

Thursday, February 4th – Opening Night, 7:30pm.

Friday, February 5th, 7:30 pm

Saturday, February 6th, 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Sunday, February 7th, 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

#####

The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage
The Edye Second Space

Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center
Theater Address: 1310 11th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403
Mailing Address: 1900 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90405-1628
Phone: 310. 434. 3412 www.thebroadstage.com