*For Immediate Release*

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**LUCILLE LORTEL NOMINEE AND MULTIPLE LA AWARD WINNING DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER JANET MILLER ANNOUNCES NEW THEATER COMPANY AND DEBUT SHOW: *A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE***

***FRINGE MUSICAL FEATURES 15-MEMBER CAST,***

***JUNE RUN IS LA’S FIRST FULLY STAGED PRODUCTION***

***Opening June 7 and running through June 30, 2013***

***Hollywood Fringe Festival (Project #1093)***

LOS ANGELES — A newly formed Board of Directors joined with Producing Artistic Director Janet Miller to announce the launch of a non-profit theater venture—the Good People Theater Company (GPTC)—and its opening show, LA’s first fully staged production of A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE.

Offered as part of the Hollywood Fringe Festival (Project #1093) with direction and musical staging by Miller and musical direction by Corey Hirsch, GPTC’s “wee Irish musical” features a 15-member cast of accomplished actors—many of whom are drawn from Miller’s most successful productions. Winner of New York City’s Outer Circle Critics Award for Best Musical when it debuted, the show has a book by Terrence McNally, with music by Stephen Flaherty and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens. The musical tells the story of Alfie Byrne, a modest, poetical Everyman in 1960s Dublin weighed down by a secret love that, when exposed, tests the boundaries of true friendship and finally mutual tolerance.

According to Miller, the key members of the Good People team—organizational, technical and actor principals—are people she’s known for decades. “All these years, at the close of another show we would always find ourselves saying, ‘isn’t it great to work with good people’? So we decided that was it: we each wanted a home to do great work with good people. We found a show that deserved an LA production, we hooked up with the Hollywood Fringe Festival for momentum, and the Good People Theater Company was born!”

Good People’s first show, A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE, opens June 7 at the Lillian Theatre Hollywood (1076 Lillian Way at Santa Monica Boulevard) and runs each weekend through June 30 (Friday and Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 2pm.) Tickets are $20 general admission, with discounts for Fringe insiders (Citizens and Participants). All dates go on sale today (May 1) through the Fringe Box Office by calling 323-455-4585 or online at the show’s Hollywood Fringe Festival project page [www.hff13.org/1093](http://www.hff13.org/1093).

As a part of the their commitment to “good people doing good work,” the GPTC also announced a special “Charity of Choice” performance on Saturday, June 29 at 2pm. In a turn that book-loving Alfie Byrne would surely appreciate, 100% of the ticket proceeds from this performance will be donated to BookEnds, an LA-based non-profit that recycles quality children’s reading material to help build library collections at schools and youth centers in underserved areas across Southern California.

**Does LA Need Another Theater Company? Good People say Yes**

In a city blessed with many fine smaller theater companies, the GPTC Board feels there is artistic justification for giving Janet Miller a special forum. “Each Board member has known Janet for years and has long appreciated her talents as both director and choreographer, her ability to balance professionalism with humor, and her impeccable instinct for spotting, casting and developing talent,” said Board President and Company Marketing Director Kimberly Fox. “We each felt it was time to build a Company around Janet’s vision.”

Fox pointed out Miller was a Lucille Lortel nominee for her work on *The Marvelous Wonderettes*. “Janet’s won many honors here in Los Angeles, including Ovation, LADCC, and Garland awards. She’s successfully delivered more than 100 shows in her thirty-five year career. The Board doesn’t feel it’s taking much of a risk showcasing someone we consider one of LA’s most interesting director/choreographers.” Fox confirmed the Board’s plan treats the GPTC Fringe production as a test run for future shows: “We know our theatrical resources are running at 100%, so we’re using this first production to get the Company’s full administrative functions up and running. Based on what we learn this time around, we’ll fine-tune our planning and announce future shows.”

**ABOUT GOOD PEOPLE THEATER COMPANY**

The Good People Theater Company believes there are three good reasons to launch another small theater company in Los Angeles:

We believe you can never have enough intimate plays and chamber musicals performed to the highest standards by actors and theater techs of many generations. We like seeing good people of all ages do great work.

We believe Janet Miller—the company’s founding artistic director—is a walking theater encyclopedia and a true triple threat as a director of straight plays, a director of musicals and a choreographer. We believe Janet is one-of-a-kind. She deserves a professional forum for her talents and ideas, so we’re giving it to her.

We believe quality theater changes people—the actors, theater techs, musicians, and audiences young and old who experience it—for the better. It’s important to be good, to do good (including a charity fundraiser performance in every run) and to make a difference. So that’s what we’re doing.

Founding GPTC Board members include:

* Kimberly Fox, Board President; Former marketing agency president, now marketing consultant and life-long lover of all things theater.
* Janet Miller, Artistic Director (see full bio below)
* Steve De Forest; Consumer Goods Corporate Executive, Executive Recruitment Board Member and Officer, Theatre Producer and Actor
* Rhonda Kramer; Morning and Afternoon Traffic anchor for KFWB News/Talk 980, former owner / CEO of LA Network, providing traffic and news to multiple LA radio stations.
* Steve Julian; Theater actor, director and playwright, voice-over artist, and host of Morning Edition on 89.3 KPCC.
* Dr. Robert Fink; UCLA professor of musicology and former Gilbert and Sullivan Society conductor and performer.

**ABOUT JANET MILLER**

*www.janetmiller.net*

Janet Milleris a director, choreographer and educator. Her choreography has been showcased Off-Broadway at the Westside Theatre in *The Marvelous Wonderettes*. She received a Lucille Lortel Award nomination for Outstanding Choreographer for this production. Janet garnered a LA Stage Alliance Ovation nomination for her work on *TMW*, a Garland, a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Choreography, a BroadwayWorld LA Award nomination for Best Choreography and was part of the team that won the Ovation Award for Best Intimate Musical in 2007*.* She also received a Garland and a LADCC choreography award for *Winter Wonderettes*.

Miller choreographed the European Premiere of *The Marvelous Wonderettes* for Teatro Franco Parenti in Milan Italy. She staged her award winning *Wonderettes* step-touch extensively throughout the US, most notably at Northlight in Chicago, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Capital Repertory in Albany, NY, Sacramento Music Circus, Pittsburgh CLO, The Plymouth Playhouse in Minneapolis, Cabrillo Music Theatre in Thousand Oaks, CA, Moonlight Stage Productions in Vista, CA, McCoy Rigby Entertainment, and The Merry-Go-Round Playhouse in Auburn, NY.

Miller was the Resident Director for Phantom Projects Theatre Group, based at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts. In 2010, she directed Lydia R. Diamond’s adaptation of the Toni Morrison book, *The Bluest Eye* to critical acclaim.The following season**,** Phantom remounted this production at the Miles Playhouse in Santa Monica. Also for Phantom Projects, Miller directed *The Miracle Worker, The Crucible, Of Mice and Men, To Kill a Mockingbird, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) Grapes of Wrath*, *The Giver* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Miller’s work has appeared on both coasts in productions of *Side By Side By Sondheim, South Pacific, Guys and Dolls, Kiss Me Kate, Jesus Christ Superstar, Anything Goes, Baby, The Fantasticks, Annie Get Your Gun, Dames At Sea, Charlie Brown, Urinetown, The Odd Couple, The Nerd, The Man Who Came To Dinner, The Rimers of Eldritch, and Taming of the Shrew* to name a few. She has a special expertise in tap, which she has taught and choreographed worldwide most recently in China and Thailand. She was one of the founding members of Golden State Theatre, the Family Theatre of La Mirada, for eighteen years, directing and choreographing over 50 productions. Miller is the recipient of the 2003 Excellence in Art Award for Drama from the city of Torrance, where she was the Artistic Director/Resident Director at the Torrance Theatre Company for seven years, directing sixteen shows during her tenure. She is also the Artistic Director for the MB Players.

Miller holds a B.A. in musical theatre from CSUN, and an M.A. in theatre from CSULA. She is adjunct faculty at CSUN, CSULA and Cerritos College, and is a proud member of SDC.

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**EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE**

**CALENDAR LISTING + SHOW SYNOPSES (3 different word count totals)**

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| **WHO** | Good People Theater Company |
| **WHAT** | A wee Irish musical about a Poet, a Princess, and  **A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE**  Project # 1093 – Hollywood Fringe Festival  *LA’s first fully staged production*  *Winner of NYC’s Outer Critics Award for Best Musical* |
| **SHOW CREDITS** | Book by Terrence McNally  Music by Stephen Flaherty  Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens  Produced and Directed by Janet Miller  Musical Direction by Corey Hirsch  Musical Staging by Janet Miller |
| **WHEN** | Opening Friday, June 7, 2013  Running through June 30, 2013 as part of Hollywood Fringe Festival  Friday & Saturday @ 8pm  Sunday @ 2pm  Plus a special *Charity of Choice* Show  Saturday, June 29 @ 2pm  100% of sales donated to BookEnds.Org  *Creating Readers and Leaders* |
| **WHERE** | Lillian Theatre  1076 Lillian Way @ Santa Monica Boulevard  East of Cahuenga, West of Vine  Metro Access: Three blocks South on Vine from Hollywood+Vine Red Line station |
| **TICKET PRICES** | $20 general admission  $19 for Fringe Citizens (people wearing the special Fringe Citizen button available at Fringe Central, located at Open Fist Theatre Company, 6209 Santa Monica Boulevard)  $15 for Fringe Participants (anyone registered to perform or produce during the Hollywood Fringe Festival) |
| **TICKETS** | On sale beginning May 1, 2013  Hollywood Fringe Festival Box Office  Online: www.hff13.org/1093  By Phone: 323-455-4585 |
| **CAST** | In order of appearance:  Dominic McChesney as *Alfie Byrne*  Mary Chesterman as *Mrs. Grace/Kitty Farrelly*  Marci Herrera as *Miss Crowe*  Gail Matthius as *Mrs. Curtin*  Matt Stevens as *Baldy O’Shea*  Michael Loupé as *Rasher Flynn/Carson*  Michael Wallot as *Ernie Lally*  Melina Kalomas as *Mrs. Patrick*  Bret Shefter as *Sully O’Hara*  Matt Franta as *Peter/Breton Beret*  Shirley Hatton as *Lily Byrne*  David Gilchrist as *Carney/Oscar Wilde*  Keith Barletta as *Robbie Fay*  Audrey Curd as *Adele Rice* |
| **CREATIVE TEAM** | Janet Miller *Producer, Director*  Corey Hirsch *Musical Director*  Janet Miller *Musical Staging*  Katherine Barrett *Lighting Designer & Stage Manager*  Kevin Williams *Set and Prop Designer*  Kathy Gillespie & Barbara Weisel *Costume Designers*  Chris Flores *Sound Designer*  Jill Massie *Dialect Coach* |

**Long Show Synopsis (244 Words / 1187 Characters)**

**A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE**

Dublin. 1964. Meet Alfie Byrne, a bus conductor with a poet’s heart.

In the morning he dispenses tickets and Oscar Wilde’s best verseto his regulars. After work, St. Imelda’s amateur theatricals are his passion. And, much to his sister’s distress, he cooks. Foreign things. With parsley on top.

Everyone knows Alfie can be maddeningly eccentric. But they follow him devotedly, because Alfie has a gift. He knows the difference between “real” life—working hard for his bread—and “true” life, where he works even harder to make art for his friends.

Sounds tidy enough, right? But there is just one problem.

Alfie is loved. But he’s not truly seen.

By his own choice, he is hiding in plain sight. A respectable cypher. A self-fashioned man of no importance. His secret has been kept safe these forty years—until he becomes bewitched by a princess. And not some black Irish lass, mind you, but the gorgeous and misunderstood Salome of Oscar Wilde’s transgressive imagination.

Well, when Alfie shows up with Salome at St. Imelda’s parish hall, all hell breaks loose. Truths tumble out, and judgments fly. But when the accounts of friendship are reckoned, Alfie’s true goodness, and his quiet philosophy—“you just have to love who you love”—wins out.

Winner of NYC’s Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE is a tender and beautifully woven tale of love, friendship and coming to terms with who we are.

**Medium Length Show Synopsis (161 Words / 784 Characters)**

**A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE**

Dublin. 1964. Meet Alfie Byrne, a bus conductor with a poet’s heart. In the morning he dispenses tickets with Oscar Wilde’s best verse to his regulars. He’s clearly beloved. But Alfie has a problem: he is not truly seen.

By his own choice, Alfie is hiding in plain sight. A respectable cypher. A self-fashioned man of no importance. His secret has been kept safe these forty years. Safe, that is, until Alfie introduces Oscar Wilde’s play *Salome* to his dearest friends in the St. Imelda’s amateur theatrical troupe. When that misunderstood biblical Princess arrives at St. Imelda’s, truths tumble out, and judgments fly. But in the final reckoning of the accounts of friendship, Alfie’s true goodness, and his quiet philosophy—“you just have to love who you love”—wins out.

Winner of NYC’s Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE is a beautifully woven tale of love, friendship and coming to terms with who we are.

**Short Show Synopsis (67 Words / 313 Characters)**

**A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE**

Dublin. 1964. Meet Alfie Byrne, a bus conductor with a poet’s heart. In the morning he dispenses tickets with Oscar Wilde’s best verse to his regulars. After work, St. Imelda’s amateur theatricals are his passion. And most privately, Alfie’s heart holds a secret he shares shyly with his Irish Salome: in the end, despite bigotry or shame, “you just have to love who you love.”

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