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Special One Day Only Staged Reading of HOUSE & GARDEN by Alan Ayckbourn at the Holmdel Theatre Company on Aug 14

June 26, 2010, Holmdel, NJ — The Holmdel Theatre Company will present the 4A's (Alan Ayckbourn Aficionados of America) in a rare staged reading of Alan Ayckbourn's comic masterpiece HOUSE & GARDEN. This special ONE DAY ONLY performance will take place Saturday, August 14 at the Duncan Smith Theater in Holmdel.

Not one, but two plays – HOUSE & GARDEN follows the dysfunctional Platt family on the day they host the annual village fete. This is the first New Jersey presentation of HOUSE & GARDEN. Although written to be performed by the same cast, simultaneously in two adjacent auditoria, the Holmdel readings will be performed sequentially with a matinee of HOUSE at 3pm and an evening reading of GARDEN at 8pm both on Saturday, August 14.

The 4A's (a group named by the author himself) are a troupe of New Jersey thespians dedicated to the presentation and preservation of the plays of Sir Alan Ayckbourn. In 2009 they presented four staged readings of rarely heard Ayckbourn plays as well as a fully-staged retrospective of his work at Chester's Black River Playhouse to celebrate the author's 50th anniversary of playwriting as well as his 70th birthday. Ayckbourn was recently the recipient of a 2010 Tony Award for lifetime achievement. He is currently premiering his 74th play LIFE OF RILEY in Scarborough, England.

The plays will be introduced and directed by the troupe's founder Michael T. Mooney, who studied with Sir Ayckbourn in England and has directed the American premieres of four of his plays. The cast of HOUSE & GARDEN includes Maria Brodeur-Ludwig, Patrick Carpenter, Cody Dalton, Laura DePinho, Julianne DiPietro-Renshaw, Rick Holloway, Chris Mortenson, David Neal, Geoff Shields*, Valerie Stack Dodge, Volney Steffle, Judy Stone, Elizabeth Urcinoli and Roxanna Wagner. Mr. Shields and Ms. Stone are appearing courtesy of the Actors' Equity Association.

This is a special one day only performance on Saturday, August 14. HOUSE will be performed at 3pm and GARDEN will be performed at 8pm. Audience members are invited to join the cast for dinner between the two shows at a local restaurant. All performances are at the Duncan Smith Theater, 36 Crawfords Corner Rd., Holmdel, New Jersey 07733. Ticket prices are \$10 for one show and \$15 for both. (Ticket prices for seniors are \$5 for one show and \$8 for both. In accordance with our mission as an educational theatre, students are admitted free of charge.) Reservations may be made by calling the box office at 732-946-0427.

The Holmdel Theatre Company is an independent, privately-funded theatre company dedicated to presenting classical plays as well as rarely presented dramas and comedies. The Company seeks to integrate professional actors, technicians, designers and directors with non-professionals and young people in a synergistic artistic and educational exchange. This initiative is used in an effort to raise the level of performance and to help all performers grow artistically from the exposure to professionals in the field.

There are many opportunities for students to become part of the Holmdel Theatre Company. The Company selects main stage productions with roles for young people. There are also many apprenticeship programs for students interested in all forms of stage craft such as stage management, crew, lighting, etc. We also offer many workshops throughout the year. If you would like to learn more about the opportunities available at the Holmdel Theatre Company, please visit the website at www.holmdeltheatrecompany.org.

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