

For immediate release
December 15, 2008

Contact: Linda Jacobs
212.609.5900, ext. 255, ljacobs@tcg.org

“American Theatre is ‘the’ journal for theatre professionals and students, as well.”

--- Phylicia Rashad, Tony award-winning actor

The AMERICAN THEATRE January issue includes:

- A special section on theatre designers from the United States and abroad
 - An in-depth conversation about philanthropy in tough times
- A profile of Rick Shiomi, artistic director of Mu Performing Arts of Minneapolis
- Reviews of new biographies of stage divas Mary Martin, Julie Andrews, and
Ethel Merman

New York – Long considered the essential magazine for professional not-for-profit theatre, AMERICAN THEATRE (AT), published monthly by Theatre Communications Group (TCG) has been providing theatre professionals, students, advocates and audiences a comprehensive journal for nearly 25 years.

“All Eyes on Design” is the title of a five-part special section that highlights AMERICAN THEATRE magazine’s annual oversized January issue devoted to theatre training. The issue, one of the largest and most widely read of the year, will be available on selected newsstands nationwide on or about January 1st, or through an Individual Membership in TCG by contacting custserv@tcg.org.

An array of theatre designers from the United States and abroad are featured in the issue, alongside striking color images of contemporary and historic accomplishments in stage design. The five entries in the special section are:

- “The Design Dilemma,” a roundtable discussion between powerhouse designer/educators Neil Peter Jampolis, Marjorie Bradley Kellogg, Thomas Lynch, Susan Tsu and Michael Yeargan, moderated by Richard Isackes, broaching such crucial questions as: “With so many academic programs cranking out new designers, what exactly are we training them for—and how?”
- “Last Call at Ming’s (and Betsy’s) Clambake,” in which a chorus of voices—including those of Christopher Barreca, Dawn Chiang, John Conklin, George

Tsypin and Nic Ularu—celebrates the legacy of legendary designer Ming Cho Lee's annual stage design portfolio review at Lincoln Center.

- "The Case for Live Movies," in which innovators Kirby Malone and Gail Scott White explore the eye-popping techno-media advances of contemporary design.
- "When Designer and Actor Are One," a compelling introduction to the work of Russia's Dmitry Krymov, whose award-winning productions showcase the work of the young students he takes on as active collaborators.
- "The Further Adventures of Monsieur Space," senior editor Randy Gener's report on the current work of French designer Jean-Guy Lecat as he ponders the living intricacies of space, design and performance.

In addition to the Approaches to Theatre Training special section, design-focused coverage includes an illustrated review of the current retrospective "Curtain Call: Celebrating a Century of Women Designing for Live Performance" at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center.

According to AMERICAN THEATRE editor Jim O'Quinn, the January issue also features:

- A profile of Rick Shiomi, artistic director of the Midwest's leading Asian-American company, Mu Performing Arts of Minneapolis.
- An opinion essay by playwright J.T. Rogers making the case for global subject matter in contemporary playwriting.
- An in-depth conversation about philanthropy in tough times, featuring major U.S. funders for the arts.
- Author and humorist Mike Albo reviewing new biographies of stage divas Mary Martin, Julie Andrews and Ethel Merman.

As usual, the issue contains listings of dates, directors and productions at Theatre Communications Group member theatres from coast-to-coast, as well as news of job appointments, awards and prizes and significant upcoming productions in the U.S. and abroad.

Theatre Communications Group's (TCG) mission is to strengthen, nurture and promote the professional, not-for-profit American theatre. TCG initiatives include a variety of artistic, management, international and advocacy programs. Its many publications offer a national resource for reference, opinion and debate on theatre and the performing arts today.