

**SAN FRANCISCO ARTS EDUCATION PROJECT'S
'SFArtsED PLAYERS' TO REVIVE PULITZER PRIZE MUSICAL
FIORELLO!**

February 5-20, 2010

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (December 14, 2009) – **The San Francisco Arts Education Project (SFArtsED)** celebrates the ninth year of its musical theater company, The SFArtsED Players, with three weekend performances of Broadway's Pulitzer Prize winning, *Fiorello!* at San Francisco's **Eureka Theatre** (215 Jackson Street, between Front and Battery) for a three-week engagement beginning Friday, February 5; with a **Gala fundraiser Saturday February 20, featuring host San Franciscan B.D. Wong**, Tony Award winning actor and star of television's *Law and Order*. Tickets range in price from \$10 for students and seniors, and \$15 for adults and are available by phone at 415-392-4400 and on the Web at www.cityboxoffice.com. All tickets for the Gala performance are \$30.

One of only seven musicals to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, *Fiorello!* is based on the life of New York City mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia. The book is by Jerome Weidman and George Abbott, with lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, and music by Jerry Bock. The musical follows the life of LaGuardia during World War I and ten years later. As mayor of New York City, LaGuardia reformed city politics by helping end Tammany Hall's formidable political machine.

These special performances of *Fiorello!* are a collaboration of SFArtsED, the **School of the Arts High School Technical Theater** program (SOTA) and **Theatre Rhinoceros**. The SFArtsED Players, featuring theater performers

ranging in ages from nine through fifteen, will be sharing the Eureka Theatre performance space and a common set with Theatre Rhinoceros during its 2009-2010 season. The students from School of the Arts High School's (SOTA) program will design the technical aspects of the performances including the set and props and are responsible for the stage management of the show, as part of SFArtsED's apprentice programs. Jon Lowe, Theatre Rhinoceros's lighting designer will mentor the SOTA theater apprentices, teaching the students lighting design and operational skills.

Following its Eureka Theatre run, The SFArtsED Players will perform *Fiorello!* at SOTA, in free matinee performances for San Francisco Unified School District students on April 15 and 16.

Fiorello! is directed by Danny Duncan. Diana Lee is the Musical Director and Conductor. Vocal directors are Robert Cowan and Ben Keim. Choreography is provided by Natalie Greene, Katie Kerwin and Emily Keeler, who is also the Artistic Director of SFArtsED and the SFArtsED Players.

Fiorello! is playing San Francisco's Eureka Theatre (215 Jackson Street., between Front and Battery) February 5 – 20, 2010. The performance schedule is:



Cast members of *Fiorello!*, from left to right: Jillian Wong, Eva Cisneros, Daniel Fine-Salan, Lumi Sugazawa O'Neil and Anisa Henry. Photo by: Karen Steffens.

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 7:30 p.m.	6 2 p.m. & 7:30p.m.
7 2 p.m.	8	9	10	11	12	13 2 p.m.
14 2 p.m.	15	16	17	18	19	20 2 p.m. *
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

**Gala fundraiser*

Tickets

Tickets to The SFArtsED Players' performances of *Fiorello!* are \$15 each for adults and \$10 each for seniors and students. The cost for the Gala performance at 2:00 PM, February 20 is \$30 for all tickets. To purchase tickets, visit www.cityboxoffice.com or call 415-392-4400.

Special performances for the San Francisco Unified School District are Thursday, April 15 and Friday, April 16 at 10 a.m. at the School of the Arts High School (SOTA) (555 Portola Drive). These performances are free to students.

About SFArtsED

Founded in 1965 (as the Alvarado Arts Workshop) by renowned artist Ruth Asawa, SFArtsED has transformed the lives of children, their families, teachers, artists and volunteers. Programs include SFArtsED Summer camp, In-School Artists-In-Residence, After-School programs, The SFArtsED Players Musical Theater Company, apprentice programs for college and high school students and public visual art exhibits. For more information about SFArtsED, visit www.sfartsed.org or call 415-551-7990.

About The SFArtsED Players

The SFArtsED Players is a musical theater company that reflects San Francisco in all its diversity. Hailing from the neighborhoods of San Francisco, the SFArtsED Players is made up of 30 theater performers who come from SFArtsED's performing arts residencies as well as from the organization's summer arts intensive, called SFArtsED Summer, held each year at School District sites. The young performers are selected for their talent, enthusiasm and commitment for the musical theater form. They work with the directors of the company 10 hours each week, training as "triple threats" (actor/singer/dancers) and rehearsing for their performances. The company performs both original musicals and Broadway classics.

About Theatre Rhinoceros

Theatre Rhinoceros (John Fisher, Artistic Director), America's longest running professional queer theatre, develops and produces works of theatre that enlighten, enrich, and explore both the ordinary and extraordinary aspects of our queer community.

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For additional press information or to request digital images, contact
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