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**J*COMPANY BRINGS BACK POPULAR
PROJECT CENTERSTAGE: A TEEN MUSICAL THEATRE COMPETITION 2008**

First Round Auditions on November 13-15

SAN DIEGO – J*Company Youth Theatre, a program of the San Diego Center for Jewish Culture at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS, is pleased to announce the second annual *Project CenterStage: A Teen Musical Theatre Competition*, sponsored by Scripps Investments and Loans, Inc. and Jeffrey and Barbara Lubin. The competition will begin with *First Round Auditions* at three of San Diego’s top cultural centers and end with a *Final Concert Round* on Saturday, **February 2, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.** in the David & Dorothea Garfield Theatre, 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla. Last year’s winner was 15-year-old April Kilbourne, a student at Rancho Bernardo High School, who was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

The competition is free and open to teens ages 13-18. After a county-wide round of auditions, 15 finalists will be chosen to perform with a live band while audience members and guest judges vote to see who will take home the top prizes, which include educational scholarships in the amount of \$250, \$500, and \$1,000.

The competition began last year as the brainchild of Aaron Huniu, J*Company’s Managing Director, who was inspired by the popularity of *American Idol*. “I thought this would be a fun opportunity to showcase the extraordinary talent we have in San Diego. Last year’s event generated such excitement and the overflow audience had so much fun that we had to bring it back,” said Huniu.

Teens interested in competing should prepare a musical theatre selection of their choice, no more than two minutes in length. They must bring a photo or headshot and sheet music; an accompanist will be provided. No CDs, tapes or a cappella singing will be allowed. The *First Round Auditions* are an open call, so no registration or scheduled appointments are needed.

First Round Audition Dates, Times and Locations:

Tuesday, **November 13**, 2007, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

David & Dorothea Garfield Theatre, Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS, 4126 Executive Dr., La Jolla

Wednesday, **November 14**, 2007, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 N. Escondido Blvd, Escondido

Thursday, **November 15**, 2007, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Joan B. Kroc Theatre at The Salvation Army Kroc Center, 6611 University Ave., San Diego

Complete rules and information can be found on the J*Company website at www.lfjcc.org/jcompany or by calling 858-362-1155.

Tickets for the final event are \$20 and will be available starting at noon on Thursday, November 29, 2007 at the JCC Box Office, by phone at **858-362-1348**, or online at www.lfjcc.org/jcompany.

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About the San Diego Center for Jewish Culture

The San Diego Center for Jewish Culture is the largest Jewish institution in San Diego dedicated solely to presenting high quality, nationally recognized programs which are unique to San Diego County. The mission of the SDCJC is to expand and enrich cultural life in San Diego by presenting the finest in Jewish artistic expression, encouraging the preservation of Jewish culture and heritage, and nurturing new creativity in the arts. A core belief of the SDCJC is to promote respect for diverse cultures and build community tolerance.

The SDCJC offers a wide variety of multi-disciplinary artistic programs that explore cultural identities and perspectives, promote cross cultural understanding, and highlight human themes of family, tolerance, compassion, and hope. These programs, including the San Diego Jewish Film Festival, the San Diego Jewish Book Fair, New Jewish Plays Project, the San Diego Jewish Music Festival, a Holocaust Education Program, and the J*Company Youth Theatre, foster ideas of cultural appreciation and respect. Its facilities feature a 500-seat theatre, a Judaica library, an art gallery, and a community Holocaust Memorial Garden. Approximately 40,000 tickets are sold or provided annually to residents, visitors, and students for San Diego Center for Jewish Culture events.

About the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS

The mission of the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS is to provide social, cultural, educational, and recreational programs to individuals and families of all ages, religions, races, and financial, physical and mental abilities. Likewise, the JCC provides equal opportunity employment to individuals of all religions and backgrounds. The JCC welcomes San Diego's diverse Jewish community and the community at large. The Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS is located at 4126 Executive Drive in La Jolla.



SAN DIEGO CENTER FOR JEWISH CULTURE
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