



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 15, 2008

Contacts: Judith Anderson, Publicist, 760-525-0012, publicrelations@lfjcc.com
Aaron Huniu, Managing Director, 858-362-1155, aaronh@lfjcc.com

PHOTOS OF WINNERS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

PROJECT CENTERSTAGE:

A TEEN MUSICAL THEATRE COMPETITION

2008 WINNERS selected by Audience Vote and Professional Judges

LA JOLLA – **Elisha Moore**, 15, a student at Coronado High School, was the winner of J*Company Youth Theatre’s *Project CenterStage: A Teen Musical Theatre Competition 2008* on February 2. She was awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. In second place was **Bethany Slomka**, 17, from San Diego School for the Creative and Performing Arts, and **Avery Henderson**, 17, of Rancho Buena Vista High School was third. Slomka and Henderson won scholarships of \$500 and \$250, respectively.

The county-wide competition culminated in a Final Concert Round before an overflow audience at the David & Dorothea Garfield Theatre in La Jolla. Fifteen teenage finalists, chosen from auditions across San Diego County, competed with live band accompaniment before the live audience and a panel of guest judges. Votes from the audience and the judges were combined to determine the winners.

“The five professional judges, from New York, Boston, and San Diego, were in complete agreement that the talent of the 15 finalists was absolutely amazing,” said Joey Landwehr, J*Company Artistic Director. “They all had incredible energy, stage presence, vocal ability, and professionalism. When the winners were announced they accepted the final scores with grace and humility. It is something I work very hard to instill in our J*Company artists. They’re all winners.”

“Elisha (the winner) has so much to look forward to in her artistic career, keep your eyes peeled for her as I’m sure we will see big things from her in the future.”

According to J*Company's Managing Director, Aaron Huniu, "With a sold out house for a second year in a row and an increased number of talented young artists coming out to audition, this event is becoming a highlight of the already spectacular J*Company Season and is creating such a wonderful buzz in the youth theatre community."

The professional judges for the Final Concert Round were New York vocalist and pianist **W. John Bainbridge**; Boston-based actor **Richard Buckley**; La Jolla Playhouse's Associate Artistic Director **Shirley Fishman**; J*Company Artistic Director **Joey Landwehr**; and San Diego-based director and choreographer **Carlos Mendoza**.

J*Company Youth Theatre is a program of the San Diego Center for Jewish Culture at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS.

Photos of the winners are available upon request.

#

About J*Company Youth Theatre

Celebrating its 15th Anniversary Season, J*Company Youth Theatre has become one of the leading youth theatres in San Diego, garnering local and national attention through its award winning productions, as well as providing a foundation for young artists to train and develop their creative potential through year-round classes and workshops, and giving them the opportunity to express themselves through the dramatic arts.

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
Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS
4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037-1348 • (858) 457-3030 • FAX (858) 457-2422 • www.lfjcc.org