

Press Release: **Granville Van Dusen** stars as ‘Lincoln’
at the Falcon Theatre

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2008

Falcon Theatre

presents

The Memoirs of Abraham Lincoln

Written by **Peter King Beach**

Original Direction by **Delbert Mann**

Falcon Staging by **Jenny Sullivan**

Starring **Granville Van Dusen** as ‘Lincoln’

Previews begin January 30 for the 5-Week Engagement

OPENS Friday, February 8th at 8pm

The Falcon Theatre is thrilled to present **Granville Van Dusen** in the touching comedy, *The Memoirs of Abraham Lincoln*, written by **Peter King Beach**, with original direction by **Delbert Mann** and Falcon staging by **Jenny Sullivan**. **Mr. Van Dusen**, who has entertained Falcon audiences in *Golf with Alan Shepard* and *Darwin in Malibu*, stars as the beloved Honest Abe in the fourth production of Falcon Theatre’s 2007-2008 all-comedy subscription season.

In the wake of Delbert Mann’s passing this last November, Mr. Van Dusen still holds true to Mr. Mann’s inspiring direction. “Delbert Mann will always be a part of this play,” said Mr. Van Dusen. “Even as I implement Jenny’s wonderful direction, the echo of Del’s voice and Del’s suggestions will continue to reverberate in my work and in my soul.” Delbert Mann won the Academy Award for Best Director in 1956 for the film *Marty*.

In this solo performance written specifically for Mr. Van Dusen, Lincoln is back—tougher, smarter, funnier, sadder, more ruthless than you’ve ever imagined—to set the record straight. *The Memoirs of Abraham Lincoln* is a refreshing portrait of one of our country’s most beloved presidents; spanning his early years as a country bumpkin to the troubling times of the Civil War, it is a vibrant mix of fact and personality which gives the voice and spirit of our sixteenth president a second chance to tell his side of the story. Yes, they could kill him—but they couldn’t shut him up.

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Granville Van Dusen (*Abraham Lincoln*) was last seen at the Rubicon Theater in Ventura in *A Delicate Balance* with Susan Clark, Bonnie Franklin, and Robin Gammell. Prior to that, he appeared in *Darwin in Malibu* at the Falcon Theatre for which he earned an Ovation Award nomination and *Honour* with Susan Sullivan at the Matrix Theatre. In 2005, he starred with Len Cariou in the Manitoba Theatre Company’s production of *The Dresser*, also directed by Jenny Sullivan. Other Los Angeles theater credits include *Golf with Alan Shepard* with Jack Klugman, Charles Durning and Paul Dooley, *One Slight Hitch* with Michael Learned and as ‘Scar’ in *The Lion King* at the Pantages Theater. He is a member of the Matrix Theater Company in Los Angeles where he has appeared in *Waiting for Godot*, *The Homecoming*, *Dangerous Corner* and *Habeas Corpus*. He has won Dramalogue Awards for *Otherwise Engaged* and *Undiscovered Country* at the Mark Taper Forum. Overall, Granville has starred or guest starred in over two hundred television shows during his career. His recent television credits include *The West Wing*, *E.R.*, *Star Trek: Enterprise*, *Judging Amy*, *The Gilmore Girls* and *The Young and the Restless*. He has narrated video games, documentaries and hundreds of TV and radio commercials, as well as voicing the role of ‘Race Bannon’ in the cartoon classic, *Jonny Quest*.

Peter King Beach (Playwright), a Michigan native, is the great grandson of a Union soldier. His degrees are from the University of Toronto and Columbia University. Beach has been writing professionally most of his adult life, chiefly in the fields of advertising and marketing. This is his first play. Once, between commercials, he wrote (with Dr. William Dunphy) *Benedictine and Moor*, reportage about North Africa picked by *The NY Times* as one of the 100 Best Books of the year. His fascination with the Civil War era comes out of his childhood—one of his close neighbors was an ancient and talkative Civil War hero, Oliver Blackington, who was a captain of the Corps d’Afrique and later the colonel of the 81st US Colored Infantry. Beach grew up convinced that what a boy did when he was old enough was go to war. He was right! He was the 5th son in his family to serve in World War II. Beach was married to the late Susan Hasbrouck Decker, his college sweetheart, and they had five children. He has just finished his recollections of parenthood in the 60s and 70s, a period he refers to, with only the slightest of smiles, as World War III.

Delbert Mann (Original Director) was born in Kansas and educated at Vanderbilt and Yale. This World War II bomber pilot worked in the glory days of live NY television, directing more than 100 shows for Omnibus, Ford Star Jubilee, DuPont Show of the Month, Lights Out, Philco-Goodyear Playhouse and Playhouse 90. In the theater he’s staged *Zelda*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Speaking of Murder* and *A Quiet Place*. In his Hollywood days, he directed a vast number of films and TV specials. Among the actors and actresses he directed were Laurence Olivier, Sophia Loren, Ernest Borgnine, Cary Grant, Geraldine Page, James Garner, Michael Caine, John Hurt, Cliff Robertson, Eva Marie Saint, Henry Fonda, Richard Thomas, Sally Field, Pearl Bailey, and, four times, Granville Van Dusen. Among his many credits are an Oscar, a Golden Globe Award, five Directors Guild nominations, three Emmy nominations and three Christopher Awards.

Jenny Sullivan (Falcon Director) Recent work includes: *You Can’t Take It With You*, *Hamlet*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* and *Tuesdays with Morrie* for Rubicon Theatre in Ventura; *The Clean House*, *Dublin Carol* and *The Memory of Water* for Ensemble Theatre of Santa Barbara; West Coast premiere of Jane Martin’s *Flags*; *Death of a Salesman* with Stuart Margolin and Wendy Phillips; and *The Dresser* with Len Cariou and Granville Van Dusen at Manitoba Theatre Centre. Other RTC credits: Beckett’s *Happy Days*, *Defying Gravity*, *Dancing at Lughnasa* with Susan Clark, Bonnie Franklin and Stephanie Zimbalist, *Art* with Cliff DeYoung, Joseph Fuqua and Bruce Weitz, *The Rainmaker* with Stephanie Zimbalist, *Little Foxes* with Linda Purl, *Love Letters* with Jack Lemmon and Felicia Farr and *Old Wicked Songs* with Harold Gould and Joseph Fuqua. Jenny was Associate Director for the L.A. production of *The Vagina Monologues* and directed premieres of *Ad Wars*, *The Cat’s Meow*, *The Awful Grace of God: a Portrait of RFK* and *Bicoastal Woman*. Her premiere production of *The Baby Dance* began at Pasadena Playhouse then moved to Williamstown Theatre Festival, Long Wharf Theatre (CT Critics’ Directing Award) and the Lucille Lortel Theatre Off-Broadway. In six seasons at Williamstown, she directed *MACS (A Macaroni Requiem)*, *Defying Gravity*, *Hotel Oubliette*, *Dirt* and *The Ferry Back*. Jenny’s film credits include *Access All Areas* and *The Next Best Thing* (in which she had the good fortune to direct her father, Barry). RTC produced the world premiere of Jenny’s play, *J for J* with Jeff Kober and the late, great John Ritter. 11th Hour productions then moved *J for J* to the Court Theatre.

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PREVIEWS	Wednesday, Jan. 30 – Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008
OPENING NIGHT	Friday, February 8, 2008 at 8pm
SHOW CLOSES	Sunday, March 2, 2008
PERFORMANCES	Wed. – Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 4pm
PRICES	Tickets range from \$25.00 – \$37.50

**THE FALCON THEATRE is located at 4252 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, in Burbank.
For ticket reservations, call 818.955.8101.**

For press seats and photos please contact Cheryl Games at 818.955.8004., ext. 133.

www.FalconTheatre.com

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