



For Immediate Release
through August 24, 2003

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Valley Youth Theatre presents
Titanic

Phoenix (June 14, 2003) – Valley Youth Theatre brings the musical *Titanic*, in the first local production, to the Herberger Theater Center’s Center Stage on Friday August 8 and runs Thursdays through Sundays until August 24.

Directed by VYT’s Producing Artistic Director Bobb Cooper, *Titanic* tells the amazing story about the ill-fated ship through music, and once again, it pulls at your heart strings. The *Titanic* launches at the Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe in downtown Phoenix, on Friday, August 8 and runs weekends through Sunday, August 24, 2003. Performance times are: Thursdays and Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$13-17 per person for adults and children (subject to additional fees), and can be purchased through the Herberger Theater box office at 602.252.8497 or Ticketmaster (480.784.4444 or www.ticketmaster.com).

Titanic, penned by Tony Award winners Peter Stone and Maury Yeston, examines the human stories underlying the mesmerizing drama of the “unsinkable” ship that set sail to New York from London in 1912. The musical focuses on the individuals of each class (1st, 2nd and 3rd) who boarded with hopes and dreams, some of those were, of course, shattered that fateful night. VYT’s production features young singers and actors from all over the Valley.

Valley Youth Theatre had great luck and acquired a magnificent set from the Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities, Redondo Beach, Calif. The \$250,000 set, built by NBC for CLOSBC, was set for destruction after spending only three weeks on stage and two years in storage; but VYT swooped in, just at the right moment, and purchased it for the princely sum of \$1. The “titanic” set then set sail across the desert from Los Angeles to Phoenix in five semi-trucks, and was transferred into a downtown warehouse for storage until VYT’s spectacular production of *Titanic* opens on August 8th. Daily Variety said about the set,

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“Tom Buderwitz’s sumptuous design (built at NBC Studios) far surpasses in form and function the original 1998 touring company..(the set) gives this work spectacle and grandeur...reminiscent of the awe inspiring *Sunset Boulevard*, the multi level *Titanic* envelopes the expansive Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center...”

Since his days writing *1776*, and later *The Will Rogers Follies*, Peter Stone (writer of the story and book) dreamed of staging *Titanic*. It became reality in 1990 when he worked with composer-lyricist Maury Yeston (composer of the music and lyrics) on *Grand Hotel* and learned Yeston had the same desire. They sought to tell the stories of the true individuals that have intrigued us and endured for nearly 100 years. Despite setbacks, seven years later in 1997, *Titanic* wowed Broadway audiences and earned five Tony Award nominations and won all of them (Best Musical, Best Book, Best Score, Best Orchestrations and Best Scenic Design).

Valley Youth Theatre is a non-profit organization that targets youths aged 7 – 19 for participation in and attendance at quality live theatre productions. Its positive impact on youth provides them with lifelong lessons through a wide range of performing arts opportunities. VYT is an award-winning theatre company voted “Rep’s Best Children’s Theatre” in 2001 and received 32 ariZoni Awards for theatrical excellence in the 2000-2001 season.

Valley Youth Theatre is supported in part by the Arizona Commission on the Arts with funding from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts. Partial funding also is provided by the Phoenix Arts Commission through appropriations from the Phoenix City Council.

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