

## ~ Director's Notes ~

Welcome to the U.S. Premiere of **Fame Forever, Reunion and Rebirth** - the long awaited sequel to David De Silva's Academy Award-winning motion picture, long-running television series and popular musical, **FAME! Fame Forever, Reunion and Rebirth** warps through twenty years revealing the fate of the original musical's characters, now all grown up, and their children who are now students at the New York's famed "High School for Performing Arts," the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts.

Conceived by De Silva, fondly known to thousands of young, hopeful actors as "Father Fame", with book and lyrics by Ben Winter and music by Steve Margoshes, **Fame Forever** received its World Premiere on May 3rd, 2007 in Glasgow, Scotland at the King's Theatre by The Apollo Players. Directed by John Carlyle, the production received a total of seven performances, including two preview nights. And while production elements (both technical and structural) were still being worked out right up until the show's gala premiere opening, the show received an enthusiastically warm reception from both preview and opening night audiences alike.

**Fame Forever's** show structure and musical architecture is cinematic both in form and function. Told in very broad brush strokes, the musical covers a time span of 30+ years and follows numerous character storylines. Stylistically, this framework aptly supports the show's themes of 'Rebirth and Renewal' by creating a sense of time passing – rather quickly. There's a lesson to learn from this story – no matter how hard we try to hold onto the past, tomorrow inevitably comes. By the show's end, we should come to understand the connectivity of ourselves with each other and the world around us by 'connecting our past with our future'.

*"You know that we're forever connected  
And here's the part that's really profound  
Remember no matter what happens, baby,  
Together we're spinning around  
And the present always surrounds us  
While the future waits to be found  
Time, in circular motion, spinnin' round –  
Around and around"*

*Lyrics from "Around and Around"*

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with this hardworking, dedicated cast of actors and musicians—many of whom have completely rearranged work schedules and personal lives for the past four months to prepare for this show. Thanks to my incredible artistic and production team, the Waterville Opera House staff, the Board of Directors, our show sponsors and countless volunteers.

Most directors rarely have an opportunity to direct new works, let alone direct a premiere. It's been an honor and a privilege – one that I won't soon forget. When final bows are taken, the lights dim and curtain closes for the last time, I know I will continue to think about a show that I've been "living with" for the past year: the many production meetings, late night rehearsals and overnight express deliveries of the latest script revision. What I will miss the most, however, are my conversations with David – his insight, wit, advice and the opportunity I've had to go directly "to the source" with any question my cast and I had regarding the show. His unbridled passion for performance and enthusiasm for youth and theatre arts education are genuine and contagious. You only need to visit the Fame Network website, read the numerous testimonies from actors and audience members and view the numerous world wide productions already produced or scheduled to be produced, to see and feel David's impact on youth and the arts:

*"To know oneself is a life long process. It helps us along the way if we recognize that Life is Theater. There are many sides to the 'character' we play in it. We are always making our 'entrances' and 'exits'. Through the study and the appreciation of the Arts, we become better able to project our true selves, discover our uniqueness, design our space and channel our spirit, thus giving more meaning to our lives." - David DeSilva*

-Debra Susi