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Banyan Theater Company Celebrates Tenth Season

SARASOTA, FL – The Banyan Theater Company celebrates its tenth anniversary season of summer entertainment with a line-up of contemporary plays: “Becky’s New Car” by Steven Dietz from June 30-July 17; Rajiv Joseph’s “Animals Out of Paper,” which runs from July 21-August 7; and “Kiss the Moon, Kiss the Sun” by Norm Foster, from August 11-28.

The Banyan Theater Company performs in the Jane B. Cook Theatre at the FSU Center for the Performing Arts, 5555 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. A three-show subscription costs \$70, a two-show package is \$52 and single tickets are \$28.50. To purchase tickets, visit www.banyantheatercompany.com, call (941) 351-2808, or visit the box office inside the FSU Center lobby Tuesday – Friday from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Saturday noon – 3:00 pm, and Sunday noon – 2:00 pm.

“Becky’s New Car” by Steven Dietz, June 30-July 17

An old-fashioned romantic comedy with new twists, “Becky’s New Car” tells the story of a 50-something wife and mother (Geraldine Librandi) who meets a millionaire Prince Charming (Peter Thomasson) and faces a hilarious mid-life crisis of major proportions. Will Becky leave her comfortable home and successful job for a new and glamorous life? Will she leave everything behind and choose adventure over safety? Will she climb into that new car, step on the gas, and drive off into the unknown? Directed by Gil Lazier, “Becky’s New Car” is a delightful blend of comedy and weight - a story about choices and consequences that could believably happen to anyone. Cast includes Jesse Dornan, Melliss Kenworthy, Robert Mowry, Rachel Swindler and Don Walker.

8:00 pm June 30; July 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16

2:00 pm July 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17

“Animals Out of Paper” by Rajiv Joseph, July 21-August 7

Using the Japanese art of origami as a metaphor, “Animals Out of Paper,” directed by Jim Wise, is a humorous, powerful and uplifting exploration of how life can get messy as it unfolds and the healing power of art. World-famous origami artist Ilana Andrews (Barbara Sloan) has “folder’s block.” Her husband left her, her three-legged dog ran away, and she is struggling with a loss of inspiration. Opening her studio to a high school math teacher (Christopher Swan) and a hip-hopping origami prodigy (Luke Bartholomew), all three of these intriguing characters become folded together, marvelously reshaping each other through the discovery that life and love can’t always be neatly arranged. Nominated for the Outstanding Off-Broadway Play of 2009.

8:00 pm July 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30; August 3, 4, 5, 6

2:00 pm July 23, 24, 30, 31; August 6, 7

“Kiss the Moon, Kiss the Sun” by Norm Foster, August 11-28

As a child, Robert (Robert David May) was bright and outgoing with a curious mind. He was also direct and inclined to speak without censoring his thoughts. At the age of seven he suffered a brain injury that dramatically changed his life, but did not change the appealing qualities that made him such a charming child. Fast forward to Robert’s adulthood, as he makes his way through a world that avoids, judges and takes advantage of people who are “different.” When he meets Holly (Katherine Michelle Tanner), a young woman facing her own challenges in life, his open and engaging nature leads to an unlikely friendship. This warm and humorous story is about people finding the courage to take responsibility for their lives, taking action based on blind faith, and having the will to persevere against the odds. Directed by Carole Kleinberg, the cast includes Dan Higgs, Wayne LeGette and Karel K. Wright.

8:00 pm August 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27

2:00 pm August 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28

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