

Spanish NUNSENSE (“Sorpresas”) is a Hit at ABT

(Peoria, AZ) September 3, 2008

Arizona Broadway Theatre (ABT), in cooperation with Bru’s Musical Theater, offered a special production of the off-Broadway hit *Nunsense* in Spanish (*Sorpresas*) to an enthusiastic crowd last Sunday evening, August 31. This special event, which was scheduled during ABT’s production of *Nunsense* (August 8 - September 21), was directed by Gerardo Bru, owner of Bru’s Musical Theater.

Sorpresas, starred renowned actress and Opera singer Greta Skelly, Julia Ceron, C. Urtubey and Rosalinda Duron and included super titles in English projected in the auditorium during the show to accommodate the bilingual audience. Consul General Carlos Flores Vizcarra (the Consulate of Mexico, Phoenix, AZ), Ruth Osuna, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor, City of Phoenix and Bob Booker, Executive Director, Arizona Commission on the Arts were among the 150 people that attended *Sorpresas*.

Created as a fundraiser with a percentage of the proceeds going to ALAC (Advocates for Latin@ Arts & Culture), the evening included a Latino-inspired three-course gourmet dinner. Additional arts activities included an exhibition of a dozen Latino artists in ABT’s Encore Room and entertainment in the lobby by Zarco and Carmen Guerrero of El Diablo y La Diabla (the MCs), Flamenco dancers Herlinda Lopez and Miguel Rodriguez, Victor Caldee and the Cuban Connection, Salsa music by Clarivel, and a special performance by Opendance.

About Bru’s Musical Theater

Gerardo Bru, who serves on the Board of Directors of ALAC, created this unique event at ABT to support ALAC and promote Bru’s Musical Theater (BMT) to new audiences. BMT produces Broadway musicals that showcase Latino artists. The company started as Shout Out Phoenix in 1997 and successfully presented shows with songs from *Up With People* at different venues throughout Greater Phoenix and Tucson.

In 2005, Bru’s Musical Theater produced its first full-length version of the Broadway musical *Nunsense* in Spanish and English with two different casts and a live orchestra at the Viad Corporate Center Theatre. The musical ran for four weeks and 32 performances. BMT followed this with a musical revue entitled *Broadway a la Carte* featuring an innovative "sandwich and show" in 2006. This production ran for three weeks. BMT also showcased the world premiere (in a short run) of *Suite Moms*, an original off-Broadway musical, at the Herberger Center and the Third Street Theatre in Phoenix.

Bru’s Musical Theater’s production of *Sorpresas* utilized the props, sets and costumes that were created for ABT’s production of *Nunsense*. This year a revival of *Sorpresas* will be performed in Mexico City at the Manolo Fabregas complex starring the renowned Lolita Cortez, known for her work in other musicals including *Annie*, *Rent*, *Cats*, and *Les Miserables*.

About *Nunsense* (*Sorpresas*)

The Little Sisters of Hoboken discover that their cook, Sister Julia, Child of God, has accidentally poisoned 52 of the sisters. In dire need of funds for the burials, the sisters put on a variety show where we meet a cast of nuns like no other, including a former circus performer, a wannabe ballerina and a country singer with amnesia. Featuring star turns, tap and ballet dancing, an audience quiz, and comic surprises, this hysterical show, which has been translated into 21 languages, has become an international phenomenon with more than 5,000 productions worldwide. **“A hail of fun and frolic – *Nunsense*, like the holy mother church, is a bona fide institution.” - *New York Times***

About ALAC

On June 29, 2007, more than 45 Hispanic artists and arts organizations gathered in the conference room of the Arizona Commission on the Arts for an historic meeting to create a consortium, which envisioned a Latino Cultural Center and Latino arts initiatives. Some of these community-based Latino arts organizations have provided diverse programs, festivals, performances, art exhibitions, murals, dance and theatre serving children, adults, and schools for more than 20 years. Out of that initial meeting and subsequent monthly meetings grew a membership of professional individuals and organizations dedicated to creating a collective voice on behalf of the Latino arts community, its supporters and the public it serves.

ALAC’s priorities include initiating a campaign and strategy to create a Latino cultural center; to establish professional training, communications, capacity-building and a technical support network for Latino artists and arts organizations; to advocate for resources, funding, and political and financial empowerment of Latino artists and arts organizations; to provide art resources to Arizona’s educational system; to instill an entrepreneurial ethic and standard of prosperity among Latino artists and art organizations; and to foster communication, collaboration, education and understanding between Latino and non Latino artists, art organizations, media, and communities.

ALAC’s primary strategy is the creation of innovative, collaborative “Artnerships.” The Board of Directors and its members

will mobilize its resources to forge the partnerships necessary to successfully connect arts, entrepreneurship, and technology in order to energize art expression and enhance Arizona's quality of life.

ALAC members are committed to supporting and strengthening the work of Latino artists and cultural arts organizations statewide while advocating Latino arts and acting as ambassadors for Latino cultures. Through participation in organizational collaborations, programs and projects, ALAC members are committed to cultivating relationships in a non-partisan manner with elected and governmental officials at all levels. ALAC actively encourages and will train its members to advocate greater public funding and resources for Latino art groups and artists. For more information about ALAC, please visit www.alacaz.org or email at info@alacaz.org or call Board President, ErLinda Tórrres at 602.793.1293.

About Arizona Broadway Theatre

ABT, Arizona's one-of-a-kind, state-of-the-art professional dinner theatre showcases locally and nationally acclaimed artists both onstage and behind the scenes. The upcoming fourth season features: *Cabaret* (October 3 – November 16), *A Christmas Carol* (November 28 – December 28), *Annie Get Your Gun* (January 9 – February 15, 2009), *Guys & Dolls* (February 27 – April 5), *Miss Saigon* (April 17 – May 24), *Bye Bye Birdie* (June 5 – July 19), *Forever Plaid* and *The Taffetas* (August 7 – September 20). ABT's luxurious auditorium comfortably accommodates 400 guests with unobstructed views from every seat. The theatre offers performances year-round with a variety of prices and times to fit every lifestyle. Gracious wait staff serve gourmet selections 90 minutes prior to each show. The theatre facilitates luncheons, parties and special events in its private banquet room, expansive lobby and auditorium. Groups can purchase an entire performance for their exclusive entertainment. Discounts are extended to groups of 20 or more. ABT is conveniently located south of W. Bell Road off the Loop 101, east of the Peoria Sports Complex. Parking is free. For tickets, gift certificates, group discounts, information about the Academy for Young Performers, to become an ABT subscriber or to find out how ABT can customize a special event with catering services, please call the Box Office at 623.776.8400 or visit www.azbroadwaytheatre.com

Exceptional theatre. Elegant dining. Be entertained...

#####

Marilyn Eisenberg, MFA
Director of Marketing & Public Relations
Arizona Broadway Theatre
7701 W. Paradise Lane
Peoria, AZ 85382
623.776.8400 Ext. 112
623.776.9974 (FAX)
marilyn@azbroadwaytheatre.com
www.azbroadwaytheatre.com