

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: New Village Arts presents the groundbreaking work THE HEIDI CHRONICLES by Wendy Wasserstein.

Acclaimed local actor Amanda Sitton makes her directing debut.

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Carlsbad, CA. February 12, 2010. New Village Arts presents THE HEIDI CHRONICLES, Wendy Wasserstein's groundbreaking play about identity, family, feminism and art. It follows Heidi Holland (Kristianne Kurner) from insecure student at a high school dance in the 1960s to successful art historian promoting female artists in the late 1980s. Through Heidi's travels, we are able to peek in on the changing roles of women in our society in the last half of the twentieth century, and explore what defines success and how we go about searching for meaning in our lives. Along for this touching and humorous journey are Heidi's friends, including the ever-changing Susan (Jacque Wilke), the witty and supportive Peter (Brian Mackey) and the charming on-again off-again lover Scoop (John DeCarlo). The production will be showing at New Village Arts Theatre (2787 State Street, Carlsbad Village) from April 1-25, 2010. The press opening night is Saturday, April 3 at 8 PM. Ticket prices range from \$22 - \$30 and can be purchased at www.NewVillageArts.org or by calling 760-433-3245.

THE HEIDI CHRONICLES premiered on Broadway in 1988 and won every major theatrical award, including the Pulitzer Prize, the Tony Award, the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, the Outer Critics Circle Award and the Drama Desk Award. Personal and provocative, this play keeps its audience laughing while it celebrates the power of the individual.

Wendy Wasserstein is the best-known female playwright of her generation, author of the plays *Uncommon Women and Others*, *Isn't It Romantic*, *The Sisters Rosensweig*, *Old Money*, *An American Daughter*, and *The Heidi Chronicles*, for which she received a Tony Award and the Pulitzer Prize, and of the books, *Bachelor Girls* and *Shiksa Goddess*. She was admired both for the warmth and the satirical cool of her writing; each of her plays and books captures an essence of the time, makes us laugh and leaves us wiser. Wendy Wasserstein was born on October 18, 1950, in Brooklyn, and died at the age of 55. Her daughter, Lucy Jane, lives in New York.

THE HEIDI CHRONICLES marks Amanda Sitton's debut as a director, after many years as one of the most highly regarded actors in San Diego. Ms. Sitton has won San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Awards for her acting for the past two years – for her work in San Diego Rep's DOUBT and New Village Arts' GOLDEN BOY. A founding member of NVA's Ensemble, she has appeared in the New Village Arts productions of THREE SISTERS, CRIMES OF THE HEART, SAILOR'S SONG, GOLDEN BOY, BE AGGRESSIVE and FOUR DOGS AND A BONE.

Leading the cast as the character Heidi is NVA's Executive Artistic Director Kristianne Kurner. "I'm thrilled to be sharing this role with our audiences at this time. I am now the age that Heidi is by the end of the play, and have had many similar experiences in my own life. It is such a gift to be able to look back, through Heidi's experiences, and find that universal search we are all on for meaning and purpose in our lives. Plus, it's an amazing cast and creative team, lead by one of my favorite women of all time, Amanda Sitton." Ms. Kurner last appeared on the NVA stage as Germaine in Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and at Moxie Theatre as Dr. Whetstone in Mary Fengal Gail's *Drink Me*.

Accompanying the action of the play with music will be the acclaimed San Diego performer Linda Libby. Ms. Libby commented, "the play lives in an era of incredible music and I'm thrilled to be a reminder to those who knew this music first-hand and a messenger to those who discover this music through NVA's production. In a past life I played clubs and in bands and it's wonderful to play guitar & piano again!" This unique approach to the play will make HEIDI even more relevant to our contemporary audiences.

The rest of the cast is made up by some of San Diego's most popular actors, including Jacque Wilke as Heidi's best friend Susan (last appeared in THE LAST CENTURY at Diversionary), NVA regular John DeCarlo as Heidi's sometimes lover Scoop (with NVA: OFF THE GROUND, GOLDEN BOY, most recently MAN FROM NEBRASKA at Cygnet), Brian Mackey as Heidi's fellow traveler (currently in LITTLE WOMEN at North Coast Rep), and as various other roles: Sunny Smith (In her first NVA production), Kelly Iversen (WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF, Compass Theatre and THE LITTLE DOG LAUGHED, Diversionary), Frances Regal (THE JOY LUCK CLUB, Asian American Rep) and Anthony Phifer (current MiraCosta College student).

The design team includes NVA resident designers Tim Wallace on set and sound and Bonnie Durben on props, with Jason Bieber creating the lighting and Renetta Lehman-Lloyd designing the costumes.

Ticket prices range from \$22 - \$30, with the exception of two pay-what-you-can previews on Thursday, April 1 and Friday, April 2 at 8 PM. Showtimes are Thursdays and Fridays at 8 PM; Saturdays at 3 PM & 8 PM and Sundays at 2 PM. The theatre is located in the heart of Carlsbad Village, at 2787 State Street. Tickets can be purchased by visiting www.NewVillageArts.org or calling 760-433-3245.

FACT SHEET

THE HEIDI CHRONICLES

Written by Wendy Wasserstein

Directed by Amanda Sitton

Featuring NVA Ensemble Members Kristianne Kurner and Amanda Morrow with John DeCarlo, Kelly Iversen, Brian Mackey, Anthony Phifer, Frances Regal, Sunny Smith and Jacque Wilke with musical accompaniment by Linda Libby

Set & Sound Design by Tim Wallace; Costume Design by Renetta Lehman-LLOYD; Light Design by Jason Bieber; Properties Design by Bonnie Durben; Stage Managed by Sam Sherman.

Pay-What-You-Can Previews April 1 & 2 at 8 PM

Performance runs April 1 - 25, with a Press Opening on Saturday, April 3 at 8 PM

Performance Dates and Times: Thursdays and Fridays at 8 PM; Saturdays at 3 PM & 8 PM; Sundays at 2 PM

Tickets: \$30 General Admission/\$25 Senior, Student, Military/\$22 Groups of 10 or more

Purchase Tickets: www.NewVillageArts.org; 760-433-3245.

Short Listing: New Village Arts presents Wendy Wasserstein's THE HEIDI CHRONICLES, a comedic and moving trip through the 1960's, 70's and 80's as seen through the eyes of art historian Heidi Holland. Kristianne Kurner stars and Amanda Sitton directs.

Pre-Production Photos are available at www.newvillagearts.org/press or by request.

Thank you,

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