

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

**Chance Theater announces final play for its 16th Season
the World Premiere of**

A Celtic Holiday with Craic in the Stone

**Local Irish “trad band,” comprised of Chance artists, wraps up the first season in the
Chance’s new theater with an eight-show limited engagement**

December 14, 2014 ... Anaheim Hills, California ... Chance Theater is excited to present the world premiere of *A Celtic Holiday with Craic in the Stone*. Book by resident artists Jocelyn A. Brown, Karen O’Hanlon and Jennifer Ruckman, music arrangements by Craic in the Stone, and original music and lyrics by James McHale and Jocelyn A. Brown. ***A Celtic Holiday with Craic in the Stone* will preview on Tue, December 9 and Wed, December 10. Regular performances begin December 11 and continue through December 23 at Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center.**

Struggling to find some much-needed cheer as she travels to California for Christmas, a young woman stumbles upon an ancient Celtic tale that brings spirit and a new outlook to her journey home. Rediscover rich Celtic musical traditions with this lively and unique hybrid of concert and musical theater in which the members of the band are your storytellers. With a wonderful blend of ethereal melodies, rousing pub songs, familiar spiritual tunes, and contemporary medleys, this new holiday tradition weaves story and song into an event like no other.

Irish band Craic in the Stone made its debut at Chance Theater’s unique fundraiser, 24hr Chance-a-thon, in March 2013. Its founding members – Jocelyn A. Brown, Aimee Gomez, David McCormick, Bill Strongin and Scott B. Well – had such a great time performing together that they decided to release an album, *Say Yes to Craic*. Soon they were playing at several local Irish pubs, bringing on additional members – Erika C. Miller and James McHale – and just celebrated the release of their second album, *no nay NEVER*, at this year’s Chance-a-thon. Craic in the Stone continues to grow in popularity, with an emerging legion of “Craic-heads” making custom t-shirts and showing up at their concerts to sing along and share a pint with the band after the show. For more about Craic in the Stone, visit www.CraicInTheStone.com.

Originally, the Chance had announced *Striking 12* as its season closer, but when the rights were pulled, Artistic Director Oanh Nguyen approached Jocelyn A. Brown, also Chance’s Associate Artistic Director, about developing a new musical (more)

for audiences that would create a unique and fun experience that would celebrate the holidays with a different flavor than other holiday shows.

“So much of traditional Celtic music is sharing a love of music and community,” said Brown. “When I lived abroad, I was struck by how common it was throughout Ireland to find the locals breaking out an instrument or two, playing a few lively tunes or heart wrenching ballads while drinking a pint before heading home. There was a wonderful sense of community and a desire for everyone to take part in the music, no matter how small. As Celtic holiday music has always been a favorite of mine, I can't wait to fuse traditional storytelling with well-known carols and holiday folk tunes for a world premiere here at our artistic home, the Chance.”

“Ugh! Another mushy heartfelt holiday show for the whole family?” queries director Karen O’Hanlon, on her first reaction to hearing about the project. “I'm sure I've seen it already. I'll see it next year. Oh wait, the Chance is doing a heartfelt, holiday show for *their* family? With the fun, insanely talented, Celtic band, **Craic in the Stone**? Huh....I'm interested. So, a community comes together to celebrate, connect, remember, laugh, and sing over a pint? Okay, I'm hooked!” O’Hanlon, who is appeared onstage last year in *The Laramie Project Cycle*, and will next be seen at the Chance in *Passion Play*, continues, “Sitting down with the creative team from the Chance and **Craic in the Stone**, has been an exhilarating journey of exploring traditions, family, and community. A night of music interwoven with what we love and dread most about the holidays. Not just a play, not just a concert. An experience.”

To schedule press interviews, request photos, or for any additional information, please contact Casey Long at (714) 900-3284 or by e-mail at casey@chancetheater.com.

(more)

ABOUT CHANCE THEATER

Proud to be one of the leading ensemble-driven theatre companies in Southern California, CHANCE THEATER has won five Ovation Awards (including two for Best Production of a Musical--Intimate Theater for *Triassic Park -- The Musical* and *Jerry Springer: The Opera*). The Chance also received an LADCC Award last year for its reimagined revival of *West Side Story*. The Anaheim City Council recently named Chance Theater "the official resident theater company of Anaheim". Twice named "Outstanding Arts Organization" by Arts Orange County, Chance Theater is also a recipient of the LADCC's Polly Warfield Award for Excellence. Founded in 1999, Chance Theater is focused on its goal of being Orange County's premiere mid-size contemporary theater by contributing to a more compassionate, connected, and creative community. As a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group, Network of Ensemble Theaters, and the LA Stage Alliance, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT: **A CELTIC HOLIDAY WITH CRAIC IN THE STONE**

Struggling to find some much-needed cheer as she travels to California for Christmas, a young woman stumbles upon an ancient Celtic tale that brings spirit and a new outlook to her journey home. Rediscover rich Celtic musical traditions with this lively and unique hybrid of concert and musical theater in which the members of the band are your storytellers. With a wonderful blend of ethereal melodies, rousing pub songs, familiar spiritual tunes, and contemporary medleys, this new holiday tradition weaves story and song into an event like no other.

WHEN: **Preview Performances**

Tuesday, December 9 at 8pm
Wednesday, December 10 at 8pm

Regular Performances

Thursday, December 11 through Tuesday, December 23
Tuesdays at 8pm
Wednesdays at 8pm
Thursdays at 8pm
Sundays at 7pm

WHERE: Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken theater arts Center, 5522 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807

TICKETS: \$20.00 - \$40.00. Call (714) 777-3033 or visit www.ChanceTheater.com.

###