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December 4, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BAG&BAGGAGE PRESENTS A HYSTERICAL, ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS TALE;
*THE EIGHT: REINDEER MONOLOGUES***

Hillsboro, OR - The mass media is descending on the North Pole to cover the most sensational, scandalous story of the holiday season! Santa has been very, *very* naughty, and it has not been nice for his eight reindeer sidekicks!

Due to the popularity of their recent performances of *Steel Magnolias* at The Venetian Theatre, Bag&Baggage Productions has added an additional show to their 2008-2009 Season. *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues* by Jeff Goode, directed by the company's Artistic Director Scott Palmer, will be performed at The Venetian Theatre in downtown Hillsboro for four nights only this coming December.

"This is not a standard, traditional Christmas story," said Palmer. "In fact, it is as far from a traditional Christmas play as you can get! It is a raunchy, hysterical and in-your-face play that gives the audience a chance to hear what it is really like working for Santa Claus through eight ten minute monologues, one from each of Santa's hard-working and long-suffering reindeer."

The play, originally written in 1994 by playwright and actor Jeff Goode, has been performed across the globe and has been described as "wickedly funny" and "a hysterical, in your face alternative to traditional sugary-sweet Christmas fare."

Palmer said, "Santa has been arrested for inappropriate behavior with a reindeer, and each of his eight sidekicks have a chance to tell their side of the story. What really happened between Saint Nick and Vixen in the workshop on Christmas Eve? It all depends on which reindeer you believe."

Performances take place on the newly renovated Venetian Theatre stage in downtown Hillsboro on December 18 – 20 at 7:30pm with a final Sunday matinee on December 21 at 2:00pm. Tickets are \$18 for general admission and \$15 for seniors.

The show features the return of a number of popular actors from the company, including: Maggie Chapin (recently seen as Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*) as the militant feminist reindeer Blitzen; Jen Waters (seen in the Shakespeare's female showcase *Infinite Variety*) as the hard-case turned "hockey mom" Comet; Tommy Cavanaugh (who played Charles Dickens in last year's comedic

take on *A Christmas Carol*) as the gossiping Cupid; and Arianne Jacques (who played one of the Witches in Bag&Baggage's adaptation of *Macbeth*) as the much maligned Vixen.

"This show will be unlike anything our audiences have ever seen," said Chapin. "Not only does it skewer the Santa Claus legend, it also takes aim at Mrs. Claus, the elves, and turns everything you thought about reindeer upside down. These are not the cute, adorable animated characters we have grown up with. These are reindeer with attitude!"

The company, which acts as the resident in-house performing arts group for The Venetian, had plans to mount a world-premiere adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* in January of 2009 as their next production at the Venetian. However, after the close of Bag&Baggage's first show at the venue, the company met with Denzil Scheller and Saxony Peterson of The Venetian to discuss plans for the future.

"The Venetian staff just came right out and said 'we want you back before January,' and, given that we had such large audiences and so much success with *Steel Magnolias*, we couldn't turn them down," said Palmer.

Bag&Baggage Productions is the only professional theatre company in Hillsboro, and one of only two professional theatre organizations in Washington County. The company is led by Scott Palmer, a native of Hillsboro, and a group of 14 volunteer board members. The 2008-2009 Venetian Theatre season includes performances of *The Comedy of Errors* in January and February of 2009 followed by a production of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* in May. Details on the performances, ticket prices, dates and times can be found at the company website, www.bagnbaggage.org. Tickets can be purchased through the Venetian website at www.venetiantheatre.org.

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Editor's Note: interviews and production photos available upon request. Previews of the performance for review purposes can be arranged on December 16 and 17 only.

Calendar Listings:

The Eight: Reindeer Monologues by Jeff Goode
Presented by Bag&Baggage Productions
December 18, 19 and 20 at 7:30pm
December 21 at 2:00pm
The Venetian Theatre
253 E Main St, Hillsboro, OR 97123
Tickets: \$18 general admission, \$15 seniors
Tickets available online at www.venetiantheatre.com
Sorry, no children. Must be 21 or over to attend!