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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS CHEKHOV INTERNATIONAL THEATRE
FESTIVAL'S ALL-MALE, ALL-RUSSIAN PRODUCTION OF *TWELFTH NIGHT*
THURSDAY – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 – 10 AT ZELLERBACH PLAYHOUSE**

AWARD-WINNING DECLAN DONNELLAN DIRECTS THE HERALDED PRODUCTION

**SIGHTLINES: A PRE-PERFORMANCE TALK WILL BE GIVEN BY UC BERKELEY DEPARTMENT
OF ENGLISH PROFESSOR JANET ADELMAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 FROM 7–7:30 P.M.**

Berkeley, November 2, 2006—Celebrated English director **Declan Donnellan**'s production of **William Shakespeare**'s crowd-pleasing comedy *Twelfth Night* comes to **Zellerbach Playhouse Thursday – Sunday, December 7 - 10**. The men-only production premiered at Moscow's 2003 **Chekhov International Theatre Festival**, and has been performed in Australia, Romania, England, France, Belgium, Ireland and Russia. Performed entirely in Russian with English surtitles, Donnellan infuses the play with ample physical comedy that aids in overcoming the language barrier. "But what's essential is not the word. The word is only the surface of something," explains Donnellan. Set and costume designer **Nick Ormerod** offers a first act dominated by black with the actors' costumes resembling funeral garb. In the second half, white banners and pristine colors reign celebrating the duality of life. *Twelfth Night* is one of Shakespeare's best-loved comedies of gender-bending antics driven by mistaken identity and unrequited love. The production has been heralded as "an exquisitely acted production whose confident directness speaks straight to the audience—even though every word is spoken in Russian" (*Guardian*, London).

The production is produced by **Cheek by Jowl** theater company, co-founded by Donnellan and Ormerod. The cast includes **Alexander Feklistov, Dmitri Shcherbina, Mikhail Zhigalov,** and **Dmitry Dyuzhev** of whom are well known film actors in their homeland. "Brilliant...love and sexuality perform their sad, hilarious dance to the melancholy music of time" (*Times*, London).

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A Sightlines pre-performance talk will be given by UC Berkeley Department of English Professor Janet Adelman Thursday, December 8 from 7–7:30 p.m.; this event is free to ticketholders.

THE ARTISTS

Declan Donnellan was born in England of Irish parents in 1953. He grew up in London and studied English and law at Cambridge before making theater his life's work. In addition to the 25 productions he has directed for Cheek by Jowl as Joint Artistic Director, he was made Associate Director of London's Royal National Theatre in 1989 where his productions have included *Fuenteovejuna*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Mandate* and both parts of *Angels in America*. He won several prestigious Olivier Awards for Best Director of a Play for the all-male production of *As You Like It* (1995) and Best Director of a Musical for *Sweeney Todd* (1994). For the Royal Shakespeare Company, he has directed *The School for Scandal*, *King Lear* and *Great Expectations* as well as having been the inaugural Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company Actors' Academy.

Donnellan is also a playwright; he wrote *Lady Betty* which was performed by Cheek by Jowl in 1989 and has adapted *Don't Fool with Love* by de Musset, *Antigone* by Sophocles, *The Mandate* by Erdman and *Masquerade* by Lermontov. His book *The Actor and the Target* was first published in Russian in 2001, and subsequently was translated into English, French and Spanish. He has received awards in Moscow, Paris, New York and London and in 2004 was made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres for his work in France.

Nick Ormerod is co-founder and Joint Artistic Director of Cheek by Jowl. After studying law at Cambridge, he went on to study design at Wimbledon School of Art. His first job in theatre was a year as an assistant at the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh. From there he went on to work with Donnellan on various productions for the Royal Court and Arts Education Drama School before they founded Cheek by Jowl in 1981. Ormerod has designed all but one of Cheek by Jowl's productions although his work also includes selecting the play, casting the actors and leading rehearsals. His design work is characterized by simplicity and directness. "It was Ormerod who set the visual signature on Cheek by Jowl, making it instantly recognizable wherever it tours," says

theater historian Carol Chillington Rutter. “His genius is a visual poetry of suggestion, of material minimalism.”

CHEEK BY JOWL

Cheek by Jowl was founded by Declan Donnellan and Nick Ormerod in 1981. Although Donnellan and Ormerod each studied law at Cambridge, it was student dramatic productions that brought them together. The company’s manifesto from the beginning was to re-examine classical texts, avoiding directorial and design concepts, and to focus on the actor’s art. For its first London season, Cheek by Jowl won the Laurence Olivier Award for Most Promising Newcomer in 1986. The company grew rapidly throughout the 1980s, creating 18 productions in the first ten years, touring across five continents and giving over 1,500 performances. “For the first 17 years our output was fairly intense, with one or two new pieces of work every year and gruelling but extraordinary tours across the world,” explains Donnellan.

Work since that period includes *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Othello* and *Homebody/Kabul* by Tony Kushner. One of the defining characteristics of the company is its collaborative nature. Ormerod does not submit designs before the rehearsal, instead the designs slowly evolve through the rehearsal period. The costumes are created around the actors and the set is created by watching how the actors move and realizing what the actors need. "It's no good coming in with a vision and thinking you're going to realize something purely from your own mind, because the process of working with people makes your vision change," explains Ormerod.

In 1986 Donnellan and Ormerod first visited Russia, when director Lev Dodin invited them to Leningrad to see his company perform at the Maly Drama Theatre. Since then a close relationship developed, with the two companies regularly performing together at the same international festivals. In 1997, Donnellan and Ormerod directed and designed *The Winter’s Tale* for Maly, the first Shakespeare production performed by that company. Meanwhile, the Russian Theatre Confederation had invited Cheek by Jowl to Moscow. *Measure for Measure* was performed at the Moscow Arts Theatre to great acclaim and the company was invited back the same year to perform *As You Like It*. This was followed closely by Russian tours of *The Duchess of Malfi* and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

This intense relationship between Cheek by Jowl and Russia culminated in 1999, when the Russian Theatre invited Donnellan and Ormerod to form their own company of Russian actors in Moscow. This sister company performs in Russia and internationally and its current repertoire includes *Boris Godunov* by Pushkin, *Three Sisters* by Anton Chekov as well as this production of *Twelfth Night*.

“I often say that theatre thrives in countries with a large population and a terrible climate,” says Donnellan.

CHEKOV INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL

Since its creation by the International Confederation of Theatrical Associations in 1992, The **Chekhov International Theatre Festival** has grown to become one of the most important and prestigious theatre events in the world. Over the course of six festivals in Moscow, the program has given a platform to the work of directors as diverse and eminent as Robert Wilson, Tadashi Suzuki, Heiner Goebbels, Peter Fomenko, Luc Bondy, Peter Stein, Giorgio Strehler, Eimuntas Nekrosius, Robert Sturua, Bartabas and Declan Donnellan.

The festival also aims to support and develop the work of emerging Russian practitioners and supports cutting edge and experimental work through its Experimental and Youth Program. The most recent festival in 2005, showcased work by Theatre de Complicité, Matthew Bourne’s *New Adventures*, Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan plus a new production of Sarah Kane’s *4.48 Psychosis* and a specially commissioned Russian language production of Chekhov’s *Three Sisters* directed by Declan Donnellan.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for *Twelfth Night* at Cal Performances, **Thursday, December 7 at 8:00 p.m., Friday, December 8 at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, December 9 at 2:00 and 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 10 at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m.** at Zellerbach Playhouse are priced at **\$65.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty, staff, senior citizens and other students

receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:
CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

Friday, December 8 at 7–7:30 p.m.
SIGHTLINES

Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Dana Court, Berkeley

Pre-performance talk with UC Berkeley Department of English Professor Janet Adelman. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with Cal Performances' guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. These events are free to ticket holders.

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Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Dana Court, Berkeley

Theater

Twelfth Night

Cheek by Jowl

Declan Donnellan, director

Nick Ormerod, designer

Program: Moscow's Chekhov International Theatre Festival's *Twelfth Night* is an all-male, all-Russian performance of Shakespeare's most-beloved comedy, with English surtitles.

Tickets: \$65.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.
