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For Immediate Release

HERSHEY FELDER RETURNS TO THE REP FOR SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT OF *MONSIEUR CHOPIN*

SAN DIEGO, CA – May 30, 2019 - San Diego Repertory Theatre (San Diego REP) announced today the return of San Diego's beloved artist, **Hershey Felder** for a strictly limited engagement celebrating one of the world's greatest composers in ***Hershey Felder as Monsieur Chopin***. Originally created in 2006, followed by a sold-out national tour, this intimate theatrical event returns to San Diego in a newly updated production featuring the romantic story and music of the Polish pianist-composer, Fryderyk Chopin. Directed by **Joel Zwick**, performances of *Hershey Felder as Monsieur Chopin* run **September 13 - 29, 2019**, in the **Lyceum Space Theatre**. *Monsieur Chopin* begins previews on September 13, with press opening on **Saturday, September 14, 2019, at 8:00 p.m.**

The story begins at Fryderyk Chopin's salon in Paris where Monsieur Chopin will teach a piano lesson that actually took place in March 1848, just days after the February 1848 revolution. As the piano lesson unfolds, he reveals secrets about the art of the piano and composition, as well as secrets about himself. As he did with last season's record breaking *Beethoven*, Hershey Felder will now update *Monsieur Chopin* and delve deep into the music and psyche of the man, considered by his contemporaries, and now by history, as the true "Poet of the Piano," featuring some of the composer's most famous Waltzes, Nocturnes, Polonaises, Mazurkas and more.

"We are thrilled to have Hershey back at The REP for this special engagement presentation," shared **Sam Woodhouse**, San Diego REP Artistic Director. "Hershey is one of the most gifted writer/actor/musicians to every play the Lyceum in our 44-year history. To be able to share his talents with San Diego audiences for the second time at the REP in 2019 is a thrill and a blessing."

Monsieur Chopin features scenic design by Hershey Felder, lighting design by **Erik Barry**, sound design by **Erik Carstensen**, and direction by Joel Zwick with Associate Direction by **Trevor Hay**. The show is produced by **Samantha F. Voxakis**, **Karen Racanelli** and Erik Carstensen.

Performances for *Hershey Felder as Monsieur Chopin* run September 13 - 29, 2019, at the Lyceum Space Theatre in Horton Plaza. Tickets can be purchased in-person at the San Diego REP Box Office, by calling the box office at 619-544-1000, or online at sdrep.org.

Hershey Felder (Playwright/Performer): Named to Time Magazine's 2016 Top 10 Plays and Musicals, Hershey Felder has played over 5,000 performances of his self-created solo productions at some of the world's most prestigious theatres and has broken box office records consistently. *American Theatre Magazine* has said, "Hershey Felder is in a category all his own." His shows include: *George Gershwin Alone* (Broadway's Helen Hayes Theatre, West End's Duchess Theatre); *Monsieur Chopin*; *Beethoven*; *Maestro* (Leonard Bernstein); *Franz Liszt in Musik*, *Lincoln: An American Story*, *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin*, *Our Great Tchaikovsky* and *A Paris Love Story*,

featuring the music of Claude Debussy. His compositions and recordings include *Aliyah*, Concerto for Piano and Orchestra; *Fairytale*, a musical; *Les Anges de Paris*, Suite for Violin and Piano; *Song Settings*; *Saltimbanques* for Piano and Orchestra; *Etudes Thematiques* for Piano; and *An American Story* for Actor and Orchestra. Hershey is the adaptor, director and designer for the internationally performed play-with-music *The Pianist of Willesden Lane* with Steinway artist Mona Golabek; producer and designer for the musical *Louis and Keely: 'Live' at the Sahara*, directed by Taylor Hackford; and writer and director for *Flying Solo*, featuring opera legend Nathan Gunn. Upcoming projects include a new musical based on the award-winning book *Out on a Ledge* by Eva Libitzky. Hershey has operated a full-service production company since 2001. He has been a scholar-in-residence at Harvard University's Department of Music and is married to Kim Campbell, the first female Prime Minister of Canada.

Joel Zwick (Director): Joel Zwick directed *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, the highest-grossing romantic comedy of all time. Recent films include *Fat Albert* and *Elvis Has Left the Building*. Mr. Zwick directed the Broadway production of *George Gershwin Alone* at the Helen Hayes Theatre. Mr. Zwick began his theatrical career at La Mama E.T.C., as director of the La Mama Plexus. He has directed on Broadway, Off-Broadway and Broadway touring companies. He and Hershey Felder have collaborated on *Monsieur Chopin*, *Beethoven As I Knew Him* and *Maestro*. Currently, Mr. Zwick is recognized as one of Hollywood's most prolific directors of episodic television, having the direction of over 650 episodes to his credit. New York productions have included *Dance With Me* (Tony nomination), *Shenandoah* (Broadway national tour), *Oklahoma* (national tour) and *Cold Storage* (American Place Theater). He acted in the original New York production of *MacBird*. He directed *Esther* (Promenade Theater, NY), *Merry-Go-Round* (Chicago and Las Vegas), *Last Chance Saloon* and *Woycek* (West End). Mr. Zwick has taught drama at Yale University, Brooklyn College, Queens College, Wheaton College, and the University of Southern California. He is a graduate (B.A., M.A.) of Brooklyn College

About San Diego Repertory Theatre

San Diego Repertory Theatre (San Diego REP) produces intimate, provocative and inclusive theatre. Founded in 1976, San Diego Repertory Theatre is downtown San Diego's resident theatre, promoting an interconnected community through vivid works that nourish progressive political and social values and celebrates the multiple voices of our region. The company produces and hosts over 550 events and performances year-round on its three stages at the Lyceum Theatre. Since moving to the Lyceum, The REP has produced 54 main stage productions by Latino playwrights, and more than 45 world premieres. The company has received more than 200 awards for artistic excellence from the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle, Patti Theatre Awards, NAACP, Backstage West, Dramalogue and StageSceneLA. In 2005, the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle presented The REP with the Craig Noel Award "For 30 Years of Artistic Dedication to Downtown and Diversity." San Diego Repertory Theatre feeds the curious soul. To learn more about San Diego Repertory Theatre, to purchase tickets, or make a donation, visit sdrep.org. Join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@SanDiegoREP).

FACT SHEET

HERSHEY FELDER AS MONSIEUR CHOPIN

Written & Performed by Hershey Felder

Directed by Joel Zwick

Performance Dates: September 13-29, 2019

Previews: September 13, 2019

Press Opening: Friday, September 14 at 8:00 p.m.

Closing: Sunday, September 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Synopsis: Join beloved artist Hershey Felder at a strictly limited engagement celebrating one of the world's greatest composers in *Hershey Felder as Monsieur Chopin*.

Cast:

Hershey Felder as Fryderyk Chopin

Creative Team:

Director: Javier Velasco

Scenic Design: Hershey Felder

Lighting Design: Erik S. Barry

Production Manager/Video Design: Erik Carstensen

Costume Design: Stacey Nezda

Associate Director: Trevor Hay

Production Consultant: Jeffrey Kallberg, PhD

Performance Schedule:

Previews:

- Friday, September 13 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, September 14 at 2:00 p.m.

Opening Night

- Saturday, September 14 at 8:00 p.m.

Regular Performances

- Sunday, September 15 at 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, September 19 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, September 20 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, September 21 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, September 22 at 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 24 at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m.

- Thursday, September 26 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, September 27 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, September 28 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, September 29 at 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Ticket Prices: \$50.00-\$109.00

Ticket Information:

Tickets are on sale now. Tickets range from \$50.00 to \$109.00 and can be purchased in-person at the San Diego REP Box Office, by calling 619-544-1000, or online at sdrep.org. Active-duty military, teachers, group and senior discounts are available. Student tickets are available for all performances at ½ off regularly priced seats. Prices subject to change.

Location:

San Diego Repertory Theatre
79 Horton Plaza
San Diego, CA 92101

Box Office:

Phone: 619.544.1000
Website: www.sdrep.org

Parking:

Parking is available in the Horton Plaza parking garage for \$8 with validation. Enter the garage from Fourth Avenue just south of the Balboa Theatre. Follow entrance lanes, then turn right and continue to the third level to park. Horton Plaza parking tickets (issued from machines at entry) may be validated in the Lyceum Theatres lobby during your show. Validation will allow patrons to pay a flat \$8 rate.

Please note: If you do not validate your ticket at the theatre, the current rate charged at exit is \$2.00 for every 15 minutes (daily maximum charge = \$48.00). Westfield Horton Plaza parking garage rates are subject to change at any time. For any additional ABM Parking information, contact ABM Parking at 619.233.1491.

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