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Two River Theater Company
presents

A LIMITED ENGAGEMENT RUN

Lady Bird, Pat & Betty

TEA *for* THREE

By Eric H. Weinberger with Elaine Bromka

November 6 – November 8, 2009

Red Bank, NJ— Three former First Ladies will be sharing secrets in the vivid and delightful one-woman show, *Lady Bird, Pat & Betty: Tea for Three*. Starring the **Emmy Award-winning Elaine Bromka**, the play is a witty and intimate exploration of three women who suddenly found themselves celebrities -- a behind-the-scenes look at Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon, and Betty Ford, revealing the personal cost of what Mrs. Nixon called the “hardest unpaid job in the world.”

Touring the country, *Tea for Three* has been critically acclaimed for its blend of humor and passion, cited as “**marvelous, poignant**” (*The Star-Ledger*, Newark, N.J.) and “**a fascinating evening, laced with insight, emotion and humor... brilliant acting**” (*The Record-Review*, in Westchester County.)

Associate Artistic Director KJ Sanchez had this to say: “Elaine Bromka's performance is truly brilliant, she's a chameleon. Her performances of the three first ladies are filled with such precision, subtlety, love, and respect, that you will feel like you're really spending time with these remarkable women. When creating this piece, Bromka's research was so thorough (even meeting with former White House staff), that audiences will leave with much insight and a new appreciation for the private lives of these so very public women.”

The inspiration for ***Tea for Three*** came about when Bromka starred opposite Rich Little in *The Presidents*, which she performed across the country and on PBS. Called upon to impersonate eight of the most recent first ladies, she ended up spending months poring over videotapes of the women. Studying nuances of their body language and speech patterns to explore psychologically why they moved and spoke as they did, she became more and more drawn in by their personalities. “These were women of intelligence and grit who suddenly found themselves in a fishbowl,” Bromka observed. “I realized I wanted to tell the story from their point of view.”

Tea for Three is at Two River Theater Co. on a limited engagement run from **Friday, November 6 to Sunday, November 8.**

Biographies

Elaine Bromka: has been a professional actress for over thirty years. Film: Cindy the mom in *Uncle Buck*; *Without a Trace*. T.V.: *E.R.*, *The Sopranos*, *Providence*, *Dharma & Greg*, *Sisters*, *L.A. Law*, *Law and Order*, *Law and Order: Special Victims’ Unit*, *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*, Stella Lombard on *Days of Our Lives*, the Emmy Award–winning *Playing for Time* with Vanessa Redgrave and *Catch a Rainbow*, for which Ms. Bromka herself won an Emmy. She has appeared on Broadway (*The Rose Tattoo*, *I’m Not Rappaport*, *Macbeth*) and off-Broadway (*Cloud 9* at the Lucille Lortel, Roundabout’s *Inadmissible Evidence* with Nicol Williamson, the world premiere of Michael Weller’s *Split* at E.S.T. and *Candide* with the National Theatre of the Deaf.) She has played leads at regional theaters across the country, including Long Wharf, Hartford Stage, Center Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville, ACT/Seattle, O’Neill Playwrights Conference, Shakespeare and Company, McCarter Theatre, Pittsburgh Public Theater, George Street Playhouse, and the Folger Theatre Group, in roles ranging from *Much Ado About Nothing*’s Beatrice to *Shirley Valentine*, cited as the outstanding solo performance in New Jersey in 1997 by the Star Ledger. Starring opposite Rich Little in *The Presidents* for P.B.S., she impersonated the last eight First Ladies. A member of the Actors Studio and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Smith College, she recently led a special semester-long course, “Acting for the Media”, at Smith. As a guest artist, Ms. Bromka has taught her one-day workshop, “Acting for the Camera”, at more than sixty colleges and prep schools across the country. She loved collaborating with Eric.

Eric H. Weinberger: Eric’s one-woman play *Class Mothers ‘68* was produced Off Broadway, garnering a Drama Desk nomination for its star, Priscilla Lopez. The play was named best new comedy in New Jersey by the Star Ledger in 1999. His first musical, *Wanda’s World*, ran Off Broadway and was nominated for two Lucille Lortel Awards, including best musical. The show, for which he wrote the book, was produced by Amas Musical Theatre and is slated to return. Eric’s book was also nominated for a Drama Desk Award. His one-act plays *The Nightwatchman* and *Six Hands* were produced by the Luna Stage Company. *Six Hands* was also produced at Yale. A staged reading of his play *Strangers in the Night*, starring Ed Asner and Kelly Bishop, was done in Los Angeles. He has had three children’s plays produced at Andy’s Summer Playhouse in New Hampshire. He is most grateful to Lenny Bart and Byam Stevens for their support and input on *Tea for Three*. He thanks Elaine for this deeply rewarding collaboration. Thanks and love to Steve always. Eric dedicates his work in this play to Audrey and Dave Sagman with much affection.

Byam Stevens: is the Artistic Director of both the Chester Theatre Company, a summer theatre in the Berkshires, and Synapsis Co., a New York based company that promotes the development of new scripts. His directing credits include: the World Premieres of *Carbondale Dreams*, *The Plains Of Iliion*, *The Darlings*, *Ohn and Teddy*, *Home Fires Burning*, *Rosaline*, *The Pearl Of The Orient*, and *Holdouts* (co-authored with Gregory Mortensen). American Premieres: *Sixteen Words For Water*, *Beef*. Other credits

include: *An Almost Holy Picture*, *Valley Song*, *The Interrogation Of Nathan Hale*, *Eleemosynary*, *The Underlings*, *Shirley Valentine* and numerous collaborations with the kids of The 52nd Street Project and The Greylock Project at the Williamstown Theatre Festival. He has taught at HB Studio, American Ballet Theatre, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Adelphi University and Bucknell University, and is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. With Susan Jaffe, he is co-founder of DanceText, an acting curriculum created specifically for dancers.

Tea for Three is scheduled to run **Friday, November 6 at 8pm, Saturday, November 7 at 3pm and 8pm, and Sunday, November 8 at 3pm. Tickets are \$20.** Get more information online at www.trtc.org, call **732.345.1400**, or visit the **Two River Theater Company Box Office** in Red Bank, located at 21 Bridge Avenue. Box Office Hours: Monday-Saturday: 10am-6pm; Sunday: 12pm-5pm.

TRTC is accessible to people with disabilities, including wheelchair accessibility, assistive listening devices and large print programs at every performance. Accessible seating is available by reservation. For more information call the Box Office at **732.345.1400**.

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TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY is a professional not-for-profit regional theater company providing outstanding plays and educational programs for audiences of central New Jersey and beyond. TRTC was founded in 1994 by Robert and Joan Rechnitz and over the past 15 seasons has grown into one of the most vital and dynamic arts organizations in the region. Since opening its new theater in May of 2005, TRTC has hosted a number of luminaries and award winners, including Bruce Springsteen, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Stephen Colbert, Olympia Dukakis, Jackson Browne, Jon Bon Jovi, Edward Albee, Sheldon Harnick, and the African Children's Choir. The company received "Theatre of the Year" awards from the New Jersey Theatre Alliance in 2006, and from *The Star-Ledger* in both 2006 and 2008. At the July 2009 meeting of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, TRTC was designated as a Major Impact Organization. TRTC is supported in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and contributions from hundreds of local and national corporations, foundations, businesses and individuals. Two River Theater Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre. TRTC is a member of LORT (League of Resident Theatres) and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance.