



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***THE FANTASTICKS PRESENTS***  
**“NIGHT OF 1,000 LUISAS”**

**One-Time Concert to Benefit Bideawee**

***FEATURED PERFORMANCES BY FORMER LUISA STARS FROM  
1960 TO THE PRESENT***

***New York, New York, September 29, 2009*** -- As part of a yearlong celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the longest-running musical in the world, The Fantasticks will present “Night of 1,000 Luisas,” a benefit concert featuring performers that have played Luisa, the musical’s ingénue role, from every decade since the show opened in 1960. The one-time event will be held Wednesday, November 4, 2009, at 7:00 PM at The Snapple Theater Center’s Jerry Orbach Theater located on West 50<sup>th</sup> and Broadway.

**All proceeds from the event will benefit Bideawee, one of the nation’s most beloved animal welfare organizations serving the New York metropolitan area. Tickets for the benefit concert are Now on Sale.** Premium ticket price of \$100.00 includes preferred seating and after-show reception at the theater with the performers. General admission ticket is \$45.00 Limited seating availability.

Among the leading ladies who will be performing selected repertoires in a specially produced one night only concert, and their post-*Fantasticks* credits are: **Alice Cannon** (Broadway’s *James Joyce’s The Dead*), **Glory Crampton** (*Phantom*, numerous leading roles at *The Paper Mill Playhouse*), **Karen Culliver** (Broadway’s *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *The Phantom of the Opera*), **Carole Demas** (original Sandy in Broadway’s *Grease*, TV’s *The Magic Garden*), original Luisa **Rita Gardner** (Broadway’s *Pal Joey*, *Ben Franklin in Paris*, *The Wedding Singer*), **Jean Louisa Kelly** (Luisa in the 2000 film version of *The Fantasticks*, Broadway’s *Into the Woods*, TV’s *Eli*

Stone), **Betsy Morgan** (*The Little Mermaid, A Little Night Music*), **Marty Morris** (Broadway's *A Little Night Music*), **Allison Munn** (co-star of TV's *What I Like About You* and *That '70s Show*), **Sarah Rice** (original Johanna in Broadway's *Sweeney Todd*) and **Sara Schmidt** (Broadway's *Jersey Boys, Brooklyn The Musical*).

TICKETS FOR THE BENEFIT CONCERT can be purchased by calling the box office at (212) 921-7862; or by visiting Ticketmaster.com

#### About The Fantasticks

*The Fantasticks* (music by **Harvey Schmidt**, book/lyrics/direction by **Tom Jones**) is a captivating and simple romantic comedy about a boy and girl who fall in and out of love at the hands of their meddling fathers. The audience uses its imagination to follow the narrator, El Gallo, as he creates a world of moonlight and magic until the boy and girl find their way back to one other. The score, which includes the hit songs "Try To Remember," "They Were You" and "Soon It's Gonna Rain," is as timeless as the story itself.

Having played a record-breaking 17,162 performances in its original run at the Sullivan Street Playhouse in Greenwich Village, *The Fantasticks* is now playing in the heart of Times Square at The Snapple Theater Center.

The Jerry Orbach Theater is located at 210 West 50<sup>th</sup> Street at Broadway

#### About Bideawee

**Bideawee**, which means "stay awhile" in Scottish, is one of the country's oldest and most respected pet adoption and animal welfare organizations. Founded in 1903 by Mrs. Flora Kibbe, Bideawee has been providing shelter, care and compassion to homeless animals for over 100 years.

Bideawee's mission is to promote and support safe, loving, long-term relationships between individuals and companion animals by providing a continuum of services and programs that are innovative, personalized and of the highest quality.

Bideawee is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 humane organization and 100% of Bideawee's funding comes from private sources. For more information visit: [www.bideawee.org](http://www.bideawee.org)

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