



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"There are two kinds of friends in this life. Those you choose, and those who choose you.
When the choice is mutual, it's family."

***North Beach* Opening Receives Enthusiastic Response Audience Cheers Triumphant World Premiere**

Santa Monica, CA, April 15, 2005— The World premiere of *North Beach*, an original two-act drama written by Bill Swadley and directed by Taylor Nichols, brought the house down Friday night. Audiences were enthusiastic in their response and praise of the ensemble production. *North Beach* is about the endurance and fragility of friendship, and how the randomness of life can teach us in an instant what many of us spend years trying to learn. The story is told with a healthy dose of humor throughout, even as a darker underlying truth is slowly revealed.

Taylor Nichols, best known for his film and television roles (*Barcelona* and HBO's *The Mind of the Married Man*) and producer, Amy Macnow, have assembled a formidable ensemble cast lead by Anthony Michael Jones (*Advice from a Caterpillar, Welcome to the Neighborhood*) who plays *Red*, the anti-hero of the piece, a vice cop in continual relationship turmoil. Wolfgang Bodison (*The Letter, A Few Good Men*) is his best friend, *Patrick*, a self-made millionaire who seems to have it all, and Colin Walker (*Only on His Knees, Wyatt Earp, Butch*, the wise proprietor of the North Beach restaurant, where the three men assemble on a daily basis out of a common bond that was forged when they were teens.

These three friends find themselves at odds with one another when the only girl of their group from their teenage days, *Josie Costello*, played by Amy Stewart (*Monkey Love*), unexpectedly returns on a quest to reclaim her lost adolescence. The cast includes all the people of the three men's lives who affect and are affected by this familial friendship played by Blair Besten, Cindy Dolenc, Nassim Sanani, Dennis Delsing, Ralph P. Martin. Rounding out the cast are young actors Lauren Emmel, Zack Bennett, Thomas Hobson and Larry Sands, playing the four friends as teens.

Director Taylor Nichols had this to say, "The process of bringing *North Beach* to life was and continues to be an intense process of discovery, plumbing as deeply as we can into the inner-workings of each multi-dimensional character. This is a

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play in which the themes of friendship and family are paramount. In the process, we *became* a family.”

TrapDoor Ensemble is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation. Net proceeds of this and all other events go to support the TrapDoor Ensemble Youth Outreach through which the company intends to attract under-served young people and offer them a real opportunity to experience the joys and rewards of learning from and working in a professional theatre company.

***North Beach* runs thru May 22nd, Thursday-Saturday at 8:00 pm and Sunday evenings at 7:00. The Miles Memorial Playhouse, 1130 Lincoln Bl., Santa Monica. Tickets: \$12.50-\$19.50. Reservations: 323-656-6168 or www.trapdoorensemble.org.**

For detailed information on TrapDoor Ensemble and its members, please visit the website at www.trapdoorensemble.org

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