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Theatre Dept. Presents Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* Oct. 17-25

ORANGE, Calif., Sept. 25, 2008 -- Chapman University's Department of Theatre presents Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* October 17-25 in the Waltmar Theatre on the campus in Orange (located on the corner of Palm Avenue and Center Street). Performance times are October 17-18 and 22-25 at 8 p.m and October 19 and 25 at 2 p.m. Tickets may be purchased from the Chapman University Ticket Office at 714-997-6812. Ticket prices are \$15 general admission and \$10 for senior citizens and students.

A free preview of scenes from the play will be held in Community Rooms A & B of the Orange Public Library at 407 E. Chapman Ave. in Orange on October 4, 2008 at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. The director and actors will be available after the preview to answer questions from the audience. A display of Renaissance costumes can also currently be seen in the library through the closing of the show.

This production of *The Taming of the Shrew* begins with an "Induction," where a trick is played by a noblewoman on the drunkard Christopher Sly. The lady arranges for a troupe of players to perform *The Taming of the Shrew*. The players agree and the comedy is performed to cure "bad humours and congealed blood." What follows is Shakespeare's comic masterpiece, exploring the age-old question of gender roles and a woman's proper place in the Elizabethan chain of being, where if order is not restored the universe will cease to exist. The play is set in modern times.

The Taming of the Shrew is directed by Thomas Bradac, artistic director of Shakespeare Orange County and associate professor of theatre at Chapman University. Professor Bradac has directed , the award-winning *King Lear* , and *The Taming of the Shrew* for SOC. He has also performed as Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Professor Bradac was awarded the prestigious Dramalogue Publisher's Award for Exceptional Achievement in Theatre (1991) for his work with Grove Shakespeare Festival, the *OC Weekly* Helena Modjeska Award (1997) for his contributions to theatre in Orange County, and more recently the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Excellence in Education Award for his work at Chapman (2001). He is a founding director of the Shakespeare Theatre Association of America, a national service organization for theatres dedicated to producing professional Shakespearean productions, and has served as the organization's President. He is also a former member of South Coast Repertory.

Chapman students featured in *The Taming of the Shrew* include Peter Greathouse as Petruchio, Jenni Putney as Katharina, Daniel Tobin as Lucentio, Camille Collard as Bianco, Brian Clark as Baptista, Katelyn Gault as Tranio, Tyler Cherman as Hortensio, Scott Farris as Gremio, Jesse Fair as Grumio, Adam Sepulveda as Vincentio, Kyle Cooper as Biondello, and Jessy Bremner as Curtis. The production also includes student performers Noelle Arms, Marissa Pistone, Paul Anderson, Wyatt Biessell, Nicole Polomba, Alyssa Chaffee, Annelih Holganza, and Vanessa Wolf, with fight choreography by Peter Greathouse and tango choreography by Yvonne Cone.

An alumni reception for *The Taming of the Shrew* will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 22. A \$5 ticket includes a champagne reception in the university's Guggenheim Gallery and the performance. For more information, call the College of Performing Arts office at 714-997-6519.