For immediate release

CHICAGO The Musical Hits Hong Kong

Murder, Greed, Treachery Delightfully Set in ‘All That Jazz’!

“Still the hottest show in town”

THE INDEPENDENT, UK

(Hong Kong, 20 May 2010) Don’t miss one of the quintessential musicals in history coming to Hong Kong this summer— CHICAGO The Musical — a story of murder, greed, corruption, violence, exploitation, adultery and treachery! With its first performance tonight, at the Lyric Theatre, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) and playing to 20 June, the musical has everything that the best of Broadway and the West End offers – a universal tale of fame, fortune and all that Jazz! Show-stopping songs follow one after another in the show, and the most astonishing dancing you will see!

Created by the legendary Bob Fosse, the sensational choreography and a sizzling score from Broadway icons John Kander and Fred Ebb highlight such well-known tunes as All That Jazz and Cell Block Tango. It’s no surprise this razzler-dazzler has brought cheering audiences to their feet all around the world. An estimated 17 million people have seen CHICAGO The Musical, which has played over 15,000 performances worldwide.

At the exclusive Photo Call for the Hong Kong media today, the stars of CHICAGO: Sharon Millerchip, Deone Zanotto, Craig McLachlan, Colleen Hewett and the fabulous ensemble cast performed excerpts for the hit musical. The show’s quintessential number All That Jazz was performed by Deone Zanotto, Craig McLachlan did All I Care About is Love, the imitable Colleen Hewett shined in When You’re Good to Mama, and Sharon Millerchip strutted out Roxie.

Proudly presented by 1O1O, this mega blockbuster returns to Hong Kong for a strictly limited season. With the huge demand for tickets, the Producers are thrilled to announce the show has been extended to 20 June, so don’t miss the entertainment event of the year!

Producer James Cundall of Lunchbox Theatrical Productions says, “We are thrilled the show is extended to 20 June. CHICAGO The Musical is a hit smash everywhere: it is sexy, sassy and sensational! It would be a crime to miss it!”
**CHICAGO The Musical** has assembled a versatile and stellar cast of world-class talent, set to captivate a whole new generation of theatre-goers in the most devilishly delicious musical ever written. The all star cast includes:

★ Sharon Millerchip as the murdering nightclub chorus girl Roxie Hart. Sharon is one of Australia’s leading musical theatre actresses. In her current role as Roxie she won Best Performance by an Actress in a Musical at the Sydney Theatre Critics Awards, Helpmann Awards and the Glugs Of Gosh Awards. She previously played Velma Kelly in **CHICAGO The Musical** ten years ago, and is the only actress worldwide to have won awards for her portrayals of both Velma and Roxie.

★ Taking on the infamous vaudevillian role of Velma Kelly for the first time is Deone Zanotto. Bringing a wealth of performance experience with her, Deone boasts an extensive theatrical resume and has performed on some of the world’s greatest stages. Her career has seen her star in a myriad of powerhouse productions including *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber, Dirty Dancing, Leader of the Pack, Saturday Night Fever, Fame The Musical, We Will Rock You* and *West Side Story* to name a few.

★ Playing the smooth-talking lawyer Billy Flynn is Craig McLachlan, one of Australia’s most talented performers and a true international star of stage and screen. Winner of the prestigious Gold Logie Award for Most Popular Australian TV Personality for his role in the long-running soap *NEIGHBOURS*, Craig has starred in many TV dramas and feature films, and has recently played leading roles in London’s West End in *Grease*, and in the UK in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *White Christmas*.

★ Matron “Mama” Morton, the prison’s “mother superior” is played delightfully by Colleen Hewett, one of Australia’s best-known entertainers. Since 1970, Colleen has had a fully-fledged recording career; achieving three Gold records and is one of the country’s best-known personalities.

★ Playing Roxie Hart’s husband Amos to great acclaim is Damien Bermingham. Damien’s outstanding performance in **CHICAGO The Musical** has earned him a Best Performance by an Actor in a Musical at the recent Sydney Theatre Critics Awards.

"The most exciting musical of its generation"
- THE TIMES, UK

Winner of 6 Tony Awards, 2 Olivier Awards, a Grammy and thousands of standing ovations, **CHICAGO The Musical** is one of the longest-running smash-hit musicals on both Broadway and the West End.
CHICAGO The Musical tells the enticing tale of Roxie Hart, a nightclub dancer who dreams of headlining in Vaudeville, kills her lover, then convinces her husband to come up with the $5000 to hire Chicago's shrewdest, smooth-talking lawyer, Billy Flynn. Along with a cell block of sin and merry murdereresses, CHICAGO The Musical is a stunning spectacle full of social satire, intrigue, love, betrayal, rivalry and friendship, a pageant of music and dance that adroitly shifts between reality and fantasy, as Roxie Hart's world moves from prison to the courtroom to the stage.

“Insanely entertaining”
- PEOPLE MAGAZINE, USA

Producer James Cundall, Chief Executive of Lunchbox Theatrical Productions says “CHICAGO The Musical is one of the world’s most popular and thrilling smash-hit musicals. Unbelievably sexy, sassy and sensational, this musical thrills and chills, which is why it continues to tour the world after so many years and has been applauded by millions of people. So whether you’ve seen the Academy Award-winning film and want to experience the show live on stage, or whether you have seen it before and want to recapture the magic, here’s your chance. It would be a crime to miss it.”

“The sharpest, slickest show on the block”
- THE TIMES, UK

CHICAGO The Musical was first created by the legendary Broadway trio of John Kander (music), Fred Ebb (book/lyrics) and Bob Fosse (co-author, original director and choreographer) in 1975, and was based on a 1926 Broadway play written by a journalist from the Chicago Tribune who had covered the sensational trials of two women, both of whom were accused of killing their lovers whilst under the influence of drink and jazz.

Kander and Ebb enjoyed a collaboration that spanned four decades, defined musical theatre on Broadway and earned them numerous awards. Bob Fosse was one of Broadway’s biggest and brightest creative stars, renowned for his innovative and spectacular staging, with the emphasis on exhilarating dance sequences. He turned out one hit after another from the 1950s to the late 70s and is the only director so far to have won an Oscar, two Tony Awards and an Emmy Award in the same year, 1973.

In November 1996 a revival of CHICAGO The Musical opened on Broadway produced by Barry and Fran Weissler, and a year later opened in London’s West End. The rest, as they say, is history, as CHICAGO The Musical has gone on to become the longest running musical revival on both Broadway and in the West End, and the longest running Broadway musical to play in the West End. The show’s global success has reached over 24 countries and been translated into 11 languages.

CHICAGO The Musical is produced in Hong Kong by Lunchbox Theatrical Productions and David Atkins Enterprises with John Frost and Barry and Fran Weissler.
CHICAGO The Musical press release

“CHICAGO remains a phenomenon”
- SUNDAY EXPRESS, UK

A murder, an arrest and a surprise ending – who says murder’s not an art?

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CHICAGO The Musical is Proudly Presented by 1O1O of CSL Limited, the leading mobile operator in Hong Kong, and sponsored by Masterpiece by King Fook. Other sponsors and partners include Grand Hyatt Hong Kong as the Official Hotel, Virgin Atlantic Airways as the Official Airline, OOCL as the Official Ocean Carrier, Agility Logistics Limited as the Official Logistics Partner, American Express as the Official Promotion Partner, Pacific Coffee Company as the Official Partner, South China Morning Post as the Official Print Media Partner and Metro Broadcast as the Official Radio Station.

The Producers

One of Australasia’s leading producers, James Cundall heads Lunchbox Theatrical Productions, which has created a reputation for bringing top quality international productions to audiences across five continents. Since 1992, Lunchbox Theatrical Productions has brought a wide array of live entertainment to Hong Kong, including CATS, We Will Rock You, CHICAGO The Musical, Miss Saigon, Saturday Night Fever, Les Misérables, Alegria from Cirque Du Soleil, STOMP, The Woman in Black, ABBA Mania, The 39 Steps, David Helfgott, as well as The Imperial Ice Stars’ productions of The Sleeping Beauty on Ice, Swan Lake on Ice and Cinderella on Ice.

David Atkins Enterprises (DAE) is one of the world’s leading event and production companies. Headed by David Atkins OAM, DAE has been producing international ceremonies, musicals, arena events and live productions across Australia, Asia, America, Europe and the Middle East for over 25 years. These include the Opening & Closing Ceremonies of the Doha 2006 Asian Games; the Opening & Closing Ceremonies of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games; the Closing Ceremony Harbour Spectacular of the Sydney 2000 Olympics; and the Melbourne Handover Ceremony of the 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games. Most recently DAE is proud to have been awarded the contract to produce the Opening, Closing & Victory Ceremonies of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

John Frost OAM is the managing director of The Gordon/Frost Organisation, one of the leading commercial producers of live theatre in Australia. He has produced shows on both Broadway and in London’s West End, with The King and I on Broadway winning the coveted Tony Award for ‘Best Revival of a Musical’ as well as the Drama Desk and New York Outer Critics Circle Award. John is currently represented on Broadway with the smash hit musical Hairspray for which he won his second Tony Award, and in the West End with Priscilla Queen of the Desert. In Australia, John Frost’s numerous productions have achieved huge box office success and a plethora of awards, most notably The Producers which won five Helpmann Awards in 2005. He is currently producing Wicked around Australia.

Barry and Fran Weissler are top Broadway producers responsible for a string of popular musical revivals and plays over forty years. They are the recipients of five Tony Awards for Othello, Fiddler on the Roof, Gypsy, Annie Get Your Gun and CHICAGO The Musical, their most successful production. Other productions include Cabaret, Macbeth, My Fair Lady, Grease and Sweet Charity, to name just a few.
Ticketing Information

*CHICAGO The Musical* will be staged at the Lyric Theatre, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts from 20 May to 20 June 2010. Tickets are priced from HK$350 to HK$895, with VIP tickets at HK$795/HK$895. 40% discount on A and B Reserve tickets for all performances (excluding Friday and Saturday nights) for full-time students aged 25 or under.

To book, call 31 288 288, or visit HK Ticketing’s website [www.hkticketing.com](http://www.hkticketing.com)

Tickets are also available at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Asia World Expo, Hong Kong Fringe Club, The Academy’s Landmark Heritage Campus – Bethanie, Hong Kong International Trade & Exhibition Centre and all Tom Lee Music outlets.

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The above press release is issued by Lunchbox Theatrical Productions and David Atkins Enterprises with John Frost and Barry and Fran Weissler through PRO Marketing Services Co. Ltd.


Official Website: [www.lunchbox-productions.com](http://www.lunchbox-productions.com)

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