



**DELTA BURKE FRACTURED ANKLE DURING REHEARSAL FOR HER LA-STAGE DEBUT
IN DEL SHORES' GLAAD AWARD-WINNING PLAY *SOUTHERN BAPTIST SISSIES***

Burke was Scheduled to go on Stage Today - Wednesday, March 29th -
She Will Now Step On Stage (Wearing a Cast) Only One Week Later -- Wednesday April 5th!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

LOS ANGELES, CA, March 29, 2006 – Delta Burke (*Designing Woman, DAG, Delta*) was injured on Sunday while in rehearsal for her Los Angeles stage debut in the critically acclaimed play *Southern Baptist Sissies* from playwright Del Shores (*Queer As Folk, Sordid Lives*). Burke fractured her left ankle after falling from a riser on the stage, the break not discovered until yesterday. The limited four week engagement was set to begin Wednesday, March 29th, but will now start one week later on April 5th. Today and Thursday's shows, March 29th and 30th, have been cancelled. Rosemary Alexander (*Sordid Lives, The Trip*) will perform the role Saturday, April 1st and Sunday April 2nd.

"I wish I could blame it on the choreography, but it's not a musical. I just had a clumsy moment," remarked Burke. "In a 'straight' play, maybe someone would have run over and caught me, but those *Sissies* just stood there and screamed," Burke joked. "Seriously, they were all so sweet and concerned, such a wonderful cast."

"Our first concern, of course, was that Delta was okay," said Shores. "And today Delta called and said, 'I'll be back for final dress rehearsal on Tuesday, ready to perform on Wednesday.' Man, I love this woman! That's one week and two days after she broke her ankle. I think that's faster than Madonna after her horse-riding accident."

This is the second venture for Burke and Shores. They first worked together on Shores' cult hit movie "Sordid Lives."

"We are lucky to have her. She's a joy to work with and she has an amazing sense of humor. Delta is the utmost professional. I mean come on – she even finished the rehearsal in pain with a broken ankle!," Shores said.

The multi-Emmy nominated Burke will tackle three roles in the production, playing the mothers to sons who are each coming to terms with and questioning their faith and sexuality. The role, originated by Rosemary Alexander, is at times comedic, always demanding, and ultimately heart-wrenching.

Burke was last seen on Broadway in *Steel Magnolias*, playing the role of beauty salon owner "Truvy." Before that she made her debut on The Great White Way starring in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* as "Mrs. Meers."

Hailed as a "bona-fide masterpiece" by *Frontiers Magazine*, and "Daring, Heroic, and more relevant than ever" by the *Los Angeles Times*, *Southern Baptist Sissies* has won more than 20 Los Angeles Theatre Awards, including the prestigious GLAAD Award for Outstanding Production of the Year (2001). *Southern Baptist Sissies* is an exploration into the lives of four gay men raised in the church. Through laughter and tears, each story unfolds to reveal a struggle for self-discovery.

Marked as Shores' most personal play, it enjoyed a ten-month sold-out run in Los Angeles in 2000 and 2001, and then became a sold-out hit even before opening at the McKinney Avenue Contemporary Theatre in Dallas. Revived in L.A. in April 2002, *Sissies* enjoyed yet another six month sold-out run. The play opened at the Bailiwick Theatre in Chicago to rave reviews July 2002 and was the theatre's biggest hit during their Pride summer series, garnering two After Dark Awards for Best Direction and Best Ensemble.

A Season of Shores is a revival of all six Del Shores plays, including the GLAAD Award-winning *Southern Baptist Sissies*, the 10th Anniversary production of *Sordid Lives*, his 1984 play *Cheatin'*, the 1987 hit *Daddy's Dyin... Who's Got the Will?*, the 1993 favorite *Daughters of the Lone Star State*, and 2003's NAACP winner *The Trials and Tribulations of a Trailer Trash Housewife*.

Southern Baptist Sissies and *Sordid Lives* are currently running in repertory at the Zephyr Theatre (7456 Melrose Avenue). Delta Burke will be on-stage (now starting April 5th) Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 8 PM, with a Sunday matinee at 3 PM. For tickets and a complete schedule, please log online at: www.seasonofshores.com or call 1-800-595-4TIX (4849).