

DEL SHORES TO REVIVE ALL 6 OF HIS HIT PLAYS IN
-- **A SEASON OF SHORES** --
TO COINCIDE WITH THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ZEPHYR THEATRE!

Southern Baptist Sissies – the theater's most successful play
in its 50-year history – will kick off the celebration January 13, 2006!!

LOS ANGELES, CA, October 12, 2005 – Writer/Director/Producer Del Shores (*Queer as Folk*, *Sordid Lives*, *Dharma & Greg*), one of Los Angeles' most prolific playwrights, will revive all six of his critically acclaimed plays in 2006, starting with ***Southern Baptist Sissies*** on January 13 (previews begin January 6th). The second play to launch will be the 10th Anniversary production of ***Sordid Lives*** on February 3 (previews begin January 27th) and will run in repertory with ...***Sissies***. Both plays are scheduled to run for limited eight week engagements. Shores will then launch 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 finally 2003's *The Trials and Tribulations of a Trailer Trash Housewife* (order to be determined).

Shores' plays are some of the most honored productions in Los Angeles Theater, with over 75 awards, from the LADCC, Ovation, Backstage West Garland, LA Weekly, NAACP and GLAAD. He will again direct the new productions, which are currently being cast. *A Season of Shores* will be produced by Del Shores and Jason Dottley (*The Best of Del for Sharyn*, *An Intimate Evening with Debby Holiday*), with lighting designer Kathi O'Donohue (*Biloxi Blues*, *After the Fall*), musical director Joe Patrick Ward (Composer/Lyricist of *Judy's Scary Little Christmas* and *The Trials and Tribulations of a Trailer Trash Housewife*), and set designer Robert Steinberg (*Oliver!*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*).

Cast members returning to their roles in ***Southern Baptist Sissies*** include Ted Detwiler (*Must Love Dogs*, *The Ring Two*), Leslie Jordan (*Will & Grace*, *Boston Legal*), Newell Alexander (*For Heaven's Sake*, *Big Love*), Rosemary Alexander (*The Trip*, *Madhouse*), Scott Presley (*America's Next Top Model*, *Legendary Bingo*), Joe Patrick Ward, and Dale Dickey (*My Name is Earl*, *Domino*).

The wildly successful play and subsequent cult film ***Sordid Lives*** has not been performed in Los Angeles in 10 years. This new production will include original play cast members reprising their roles, including Mary-Margaret Lewis (*Kalamazoo*, *Friends*), Ann Walker (*Las Vegas*, *Sex, Love & Secrets*), Patrika Darbo (*Days of Our Lives*, *In the Line of Fire*), Newell Alexander, Mitch Carter (*Tom and Huck*, *Children of the Corn*), Rosemary Alexander, Leslie Jordan, Earl Bullock (*Mr. & Mrs. Smith*, *ER*), and Sarah Hunley (*Ghosts of Mississippi*, *Marie*), who for the first time will appear on stage as Juanita, the character she originated in the feature film *Sordid Lives*.

Tickets are available now for *Southern Baptist Sissies* and *Sordid Lives* by calling 1-800-595-4TIX (4849), or online at www.seasonofshores.com.

BACKGROUND – DEL SHORES:

Daddy's Dyin'... Who's Got The Will? originally ran two years at Theatre/Theater in Hollywood, winning many Los Angeles theatre awards, including LA Weekly's Best Production and Best Writing. The play has subsequently been produced in over 2,000 theatres worldwide. A movie version of "Daddy's Dyin'" was released in 1990 by MGM and Propaganda Films and starred Beau Bridges, Tess Harper, Judge Reinhold, Keith Carradine and Beverly D'Angelo. Shores wrote the screenplay and executive produced the film.

Sordid Lives, his fourth play, opened in Los Angeles in 1996 and ran for 13 sold-out months. The critics raved -- ultimately 13 of them awarding the production "Critic's Choice." F. Kathleen Foley of the Los Angeles Times wrote: "Sordid Lives has more laughs than a hunting dog has ticks. Del Shores is a master of the Texas comedy." The play went on to win 14 Drama-Logue Theatre Awards, including three for Shores for writing, directing and producing.

In 1999, Shores wrote and directed the film version of *Sordid Lives* starring Beau Bridges, Delta Burke, Olivia Newton-John, Bonnie Bedelia, Leslie Jordan, Beth Grant, along with most of the cast from the play. The movie quickly became a cult phenomenon, with Ivor Davis of The New York Times Syndicate calling it: "The most delicious combination of emotion and laugh out loud hilarity to come along in the new Millennium...The Birdcage meets the Bible Belt--and the result is the most hilarious comedy of the year." The movie won many festival awards, including Best Film at the New York Independent Film & Video Festival, Atlanta Gay & Lesbian International Film Festival, Austin Gay & Lesbian International Film Festival, South Beach Film Festival, Memphis International Film Festival and the San Diego International Film Festival and racked up a total of thirteen "Audience Awards." In 2002 Twentieth Century Fox released the DVD/Video, which has now sold over 200,000 units.

Southern Baptist Sissies is 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. The original LA production of ...*Sissies* received 20 Los Angeles Theatre Awards, including the prestigious GLAAD Award for Outstanding Production of the Year.

Most recently, Shores' enjoyed critical and commercial success with his darkest play, *The Trials and Tribulations of a Trailer Trash Housewife*. The play ran for six sold-out months in 2003 at the Zephyr Theatre in Los Angeles. For *Trials...* Shores' won the prestigious Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle's Ted Schmitt Award for World Premiere of an Outstanding New Play. The Circle also awarded the play Best Production and Beth Grant Best Lead Performance. *Trials...* also won five Back Stage West Garland Awards (Best Play, Best Direction, Best Writing, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress), two NAACP Awards (Best Play, Best Playwright), an Ovation Award (Best Actress) and three L.A. Weekly Awards (Best Playwright, Best Ensemble, Best Supporting Actor).

Del Shores has recently been working in television, as co-executive producer and writer on the Showtime series *Queer as Folk*, and has produced and written for *Maximum Bob*, *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, *Touched by an Angel*, *Ned and Stacey*, and *Dharma and Greg*. He is currently working on a feature film for Mandalay Entertainment, and has started preproduction on the feature film version of *Southern Baptist Sissies*.

BACKGROUND - ZEPHYR

Originally known as The Horse Shoe Stage, the theatre was built in 1955 by actor/director Robert Beecher, a graduate of The Pasadena Playhouse School of Theatre. Manuel Cruz owned the theatre during the 70's, renaming it the Zephyr. Lee Sankowich purchased the theater in 1978 and has produced and directed many original works on its stage. He currently serves as Artistic Director for both The Marin Theatre Company and Center Rep in Northern California. Since the late 80s, Linda Toliver and Gary Guidinger have been its guardians, managing and/or co-producing a wide range of theatrical and performing events, from original works to the classics. Throughout the decades, productions at the Zephyr have garnered numerous awards for excellence in LA theatre, with many shows moving on to larger venues in New York and other major cities. The theatre is routinely visited by film, television and Broadway actors, writers and directors who drop by with fond memories of their time on the stage.

The Grand Opening was on January 5th, 1956 with Carson McCullers' *The Member of the Wedding*, directed by and starring James Edwards (known for his leading role in *Home of the Brave*), a pioneering actor of his time. Tickets were only \$1.65! The Zephyr is proud to celebrate its 50th Anniversary in January 2006 with the revival of Del Shores' *Southern Baptist Sissies*, the theatre's longest-running play.

SCHEDULE:

Southern Baptist Sissies will premiere on January 13, 2006 (previews begin January 6th)
Sordid Lives will premiere on February 3, 2006 (previews begin January 27th)

The plays will run in repertory with performances on:

Tuesday – 8:00 PM

Wednesday – 8:00 PM

Thursday – 8:00 PM

Friday – 8:00 PM

Saturday – 3:00 PM and 8:00 PM

Sunday – 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Please consult with the box office at T: 1-800-595-4TIX (4849) or www.seasonofshores.com for a comprehensive schedule. Tickets are now available for *Southern Baptist Sissies* and *Sordid Lives*.

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