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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 17, 2008

### **Cape May Stage Presents Regional Premiere of Baseball Comedy “Rounding Third”**

Cape May Stage gets into the swing of things on October 1<sup>st</sup> as baseball season prepares for the World Series with the regional premiere of Richard Dresser’s sidesplitting comedy “Rounding Third.” Called “hilarious” by *Variety*, “Rounding Third” follows two very different dads as they attempt to work together and coach their sons’ Little League team to the championship. Orlando Shakespeare’s Artistic Director Jim Helsinger directs Philadelphia-based actor Greg Wood and NY-based actor Richard Hoehler in this humorous and heartfelt play.

“Rounding Third” is the perfect sports comedy for anyone who has ever experienced the thrill of victory or the agony of defeat while cheering on the child they love in everything from sports to science fairs. “First and foremost this play is very funny,” states Helsinger. “It strikes such a familiar chord for anyone who has ever played, or for that matter even attended, a child’s sporting event.”

Inspired by Dresser’s own coaching experiences, this quirky comedy teams up two mismatched men to coach a Little League baseball team. Don (Greg Wood) is a win-at-all-costs veteran whose son is the star pitcher; Michael (Richard Hoehler) is the wide-eyed newcomer who just wants the kids to have fun. Over the course of the season, the two disparate men clash on a variety of issues – from the philosophy of victory to the importance of honesty in relationships. It all comes to a head as they attempt to cajole their struggling young team into the playoffs, while battling their own personal demons.

“Rounding Third” marks Wood’s first production at Cape May Stage. Wood, a well known Philadelphia-based actor, has earned multiple Barrymore Award nominations and in 1997 won the Award for Outstanding Leading Actor in a Play at the Walnut Street Theatre. His most recent stage credits include Cyrano in “Cyrano de Bergerac” with the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Martin Luther in “Wittenberg” for the Arden Theatre

Co., Arnolp in the Lantern Theatre's production of "School for Wives", and Phileas Fogg in "Around the World in 80 Days" at Syracuse Stage. Audiences may recognize Wood from his film and television credits including "The Sixth Sense", "Signs", "The Happening", "The Lovely Bones", "The Killing of Emmett Young", and "Law & Order", "Hack", "Homicide", and "Ed."

Hoehler returns for his fourth season to Cape May Stage having previously performed in "K2" and in his original works during the theatre's Flying Solo Festivals. An actor and a playwright, Hoehler's new play, "Fathers and Sons", is currently in development and has received staged readings at the Rattlestick, Michael Weller, and Altered Stages theaters in New York. He has premiered two original one-man shows off-Broadway and received the OOB Award for Best Solo Performance. Recent stage roles include Ted in "Pre-Nups", Karl in "Kalighat", Austin in "True West", and Kuniso in "Cries for Peace". Television appearances include "NYPD Blue", "Law and Order", "Guiding Light", "As The World Turns", "One Life to Live", and the recurring role of Detective Dave Hillman in "Third Watch."

Richard Dresser's "Rounding Third" appeared off-Broadway at the John Houseman Theatre after regional productions in Chicago, Laguna Beach, and the Old Globe in San Diego. Other plays by Dresser include "Below the Belt" and "Gun-Shy", both of which started in the Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville before moving off-Broadway. Dresser's has written several short plays including "What Are You Afraid Of?" staged in the front seat of a car, which premiered in the 1999 Humana Festival and has been running in Germany for several years, and "Greetings From the Home Office" which premiered at Capital Repertory Theatre in Albany and has no actors. He also writes for film and television.

This show previews on Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and ticket prices that evening will be half-price. The official opening night performance will be Thursday October 2<sup>nd</sup> with an after party at the Carney's on Beach Avenue immediately following the performance.

During the current run Cape May Stage is participating with 17 Cape May gourmet restaurants in a money-saving "Dinner & A Show" package promotion - a special night out. Restaurants involved in the promotion include 410 Bank Street, The Blue Pig Tavern, Bloody Mary's Bar and Grill, Café Promenade, Café Verandah at the Hotel Alcott, Copper Fish, Cucina Rosa, The Ebbitt Room, Frescos, The Mad Batter, Martini Beach, Merion Inn, Oyster Bay Restaurant & Bar, The Pier House, Tisha's Fine Dining, Union Park, and The Washington Inn. Call the individual restaurants for reservations and information.

"Rounding Third" performances are Wednesdays thru Sundays at 8pm thru November 1<sup>st</sup> at the Robert Shackleton Playhouse of the Cape May Stage. Tickets are \$35 adults, \$25 seniors, and \$12.50 students. Call (609) 884-1341 for reservations and information or visit the theatre's web-site, [www.capemaystage.com](http://www.capemaystage.com).

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