

Cape May Stage

Cape May, NJ 08204

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Cape May Stage Hosts a Free Open House on Saturday, May 24th

Cape May, NJ- Cape May Stage, Cape May's renowned Equity theatre company, now in its 20th consecutive season of offering professional theatre in Cape May, is hosting two special Opening Weekend events on Saturday, May 24th at the Robert Shackleton Playhouse on the corner of Bank and Lafayette Streets in downtown Cape May.

From 2-4 PM, Cape May Stage cordially invites the public to visit and walk through the newly renovated interior of the Robert Shackleton Playhouse during a free Open House on Saturday afternoon. You will be able to take guided tours through the new box office, lobby, and backstage area in addition to sitting in the new stadium style seats or relaxing in the outdoor piazza while enjoying light, summer refreshments. Several Board and staff members will be on hand to talk about Project Encore, the theatre's ongoing and recent renovations, as well as share stories and answer questions about the hilarious production, "**Fully Committed**", opening this week.

In addition to tours, there will be opportunities to enroll students in the theatre's popular "Summer On Stage: *Youthstyle*" program that begins at the theatre in mid-July. Education Outreach Coordinator Jessica Perich-Carleton will be available to answer any questions about Cape May Stage's outreach programs and discuss this year's Shakespeare study, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Visitors can still purchase the Stage's 2008 Subscription Series as well as buy a brick to support Project Encore's Buy-A-Brick campaign which provides residents and visitors the opportunity to make their mark forever on the theatre's Walk of Recognition.

Later that evening, Cape May Stage will host a special dedication ceremony at 7:45 PM to honor three very generous donors whose major contributions provided the following:

- Naming rights for the Stage/Auditorium - the Haas family
- Naming rights for the outdoor piazza fountain - the Shultz family in honor of Marguerite Patrick

- Design and installation of the auditorium draperies – Joe and Jan Schmidt of Dragonfly Interiors

The restoration that began four years ago has transformed the building from a dilapidated 150 year-old church into a state-of-the-art theatre. Cape May Stage is thrilled to open the doors to the newly restored interior and celebrate two decades of bringing the citizens of Cape May dynamic, professional Equity theatre since the company's founding in 1988 by Michael Laird.

“Fully Committed” performances are Wednesdays thru Sundays at 8pm thru June 28th 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.

During the current run Cape May Stage is participating with 18 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, Aleathea's, 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.

This production is generously **sponsored by Cafe Promenade at the Montreal Inn and co-sponsored by Café Tuscany.**