

For Immediate Release
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California Shakespeare Theater's Gala Flamenco Grosses More Than \$335,000

*"Fund-a-Need" portion of live auction raises a record \$60,000
for artistic and educational programming*

Berkeley, CA – Oakland's historic Rotunda Building, its foyer transformed into a tree-lined boulevard opening to a Spanish-style fountain, provided an elegant and dramatic setting for California Shakespeare Theater's **Gala Flamenco** on Saturday, March 14, 2009.

More than 300 guests mingled and feasted on scrumptious hors d'oeuvres including albondigas, baccalao on toast, membrillo and manchego cheese on crostini, and fried prawns pil pil, with spirits courtesy of **Stockholm Krystal Vodka**, while taking in the silent auction display that ringed the perimeter of the Rotunda's mezzanine.

"I am heartened by the success of Gala Flamenco and incredibly grateful to our extended family for their extraordinary support of this event," said Cal Shakes newly-appointed Managing Director **Susie Falk**. "The fact that, despite these challenging economic times, our patrons did not stint in their support of our work is testament to the value of Cal Shakes in our communities."

Guests included **Jeff and Janie Green, Simon and Allese Baker, Heidi Moore and Brad Miller, Leslie and JP Thieriot, Marsha Maytum and William Leddy, Sunne and John McPeak, Lois DeDominico, Tracey and Robert Menicucci, Frank and Carey Starn, Sharon and Barclay Simpson, Dick and Sue Rainey, Ellen and Joffa Dale, Jim and Nita Roethe, Norman and Janet Pease, Peter Read, Harvey and Gail Glasser, Karen Hawkins and Bill Taggart, and Philippa Kelly and Paul Dresher.**

With softly strummed guitar music wafting through the air, the guests moved from the mezzanine down a stunning staircase to the Rotunda floor to dine on **Shaved Puntarella and Fennel Salad** with prawns, onion and Andalusian olives; **Charred Tenderloin of Beef** with smoked paprika rub and romesco sauce, asparagus, and saffron potato gratin; artisan breads, housemade breadsticks and flatbreads with sweet butter; and a trio of delectable sweets for dessert: **Tarta de Almendras, Flan de Canela, and Hojaldres** with cajeta and chocolate – all by **Grace Street Catering by Erin McKinney**. Wine was generously



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provided by **Anderson's Conn Valley Winery, Goosecross Cellars Winery, and Prima Ristorante.**

Following the sumptuous meal, the artists from the **Flamenco Room in San Francisco** drew cheers for their exuberant performance from the assembled guests, then the party kicked into high gear with an energetic live auction featuring **two tickets to a taping of *Dancing with the Stars*** and accommodations at L.A.'s glamorous boutique **Hotel Angeleno; a world-class evening at the Getty Mansion** including dinner and a curator-led tour of the Getty's famous art and antique collection; dinner for four at the world-famous **French Laundry** with a twilight tour and tasting at **Opus One Winery** and an overnight stay at the five-star **Carneros Inn Resort; an original signed lithograph by surrealist master Joan Miro; a Las Vegas getaway** for a two-night stay at the Venetian and spa treatments at Canyon Ranch Spa, plus tickets to Blue Man Group, *Phantom: The Las Vegas Spectacular*, and Madame Tussauds, and dinner for two at Pinot Brasserie; a **walk-on role** in a 2009 Cal Shakes performance, **private winery tours, and getaways to Italy, New Zealand, Ashland, and New York.**

The evening's auctions, wine raffle drawing, ticket sales, and donations raised more than \$335,000 to support Cal Shakes' artistic and educational programming, with the Fund-a-Need appeal single-handedly garnering more than \$60,000 to bring Shakespeare to underserved youth throughout the Bay Area.

The evening was made possible in part through the generosity of **City National Bank, Mechanics Bank, McKesson, Safeway, and Simpson Strong-Tie.**

Photos available upon request.

ABOUT CAL SHAKES

Founded in 1974, California Shakespeare Theater is a fully professional, critically acclaimed theater known for its innovative productions of the plays of William Shakespeare and other reimagined classics. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Jonathan Moscone and Managing Director Susie Falk, Cal Shakes is committed to being a leading community citizen by nourishing the imaginations of audiences, artists, and learners of all ages. Cal Shakes makes boldly imagined and deeply entertaining interpretations of Shakespeare and the classics; provides in-depth, far-reaching artistic learning programs for learners of all ages and circumstances; and brings disparate communities together around the creation of new American plays that reflect the cultural diversity of the Bay Area.

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