

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 3, 2010
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Premiere of *Nothing Pink*
(a new play with music by Paul Ferguson,
with musical compositions and arrangements by Mark Hartman,
based on Mark Hardy's novel)
to be presented by
UNC-Chapel Hill Department of Communication Studies,
co-sponsored by Ride Again Productions

(Chapel Hill, NC) – UNC-Chapel Hill's Department of Communication Studies in a co-sponsorship with **Ride Again Productions** is proud to present ***Nothing Pink***, a new one-act play with music based on the novel by **Mark Hardy**, a Virginia native who spent many years teaching in New York City public schools and now lives and teaches in North Carolina. ***Nothing Pink*** is written and directed by Off-Broadway playwright and award-winning UNC professor **Paul Ferguson** (*Good Ol' Girls*, *The Christmas Letters*, *The Devil's Dream*, *Killer Diller*). Original music, score, and music direction are by New York-based **Mark Hartman** (Broadway's *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *Avenue Q*, *1776*, and *Miss Saigon*). Hartman, recipient of two MAC Awards and the Backstage Bistro Award for Music Direction, will also play and conduct the show.

Nothing Pink is the story of a teenage boy's struggle to reconcile his gay identity with his Christian upbringing. Although his loving father (a Baptist preacher) and mother have raised him to believe that homosexuality is a sin, Vincent can't deny his attraction to Robert, a boy he meets at church. Confused and conflicted, Vincent turns to prayer and music for answers, waiting for God to speak directly to him.

Nothing Pink will be presented September 16 through 19 in Studio Six Theatre, Swain Hall, UNC-Chapel Hill (corner of Cameron and Columbia). Previews are September 9 through 12 and are open to the public without admission charge. Performances on Thursdays through Saturdays are at 8:00 PM; matinees on Sunday are at 3:00 PM.

Tickets will be available through Memorial Box Office (919) 843-3333 starting September 7 and will also be available at the door one hour prior to performances (seating is limited, so reservations are encouraged; all previews are first come first served). Visitors should also be aware that parking on campus can be troublesome, so plan to arrive early. Ticket prices are \$10.00 for the general public, and \$5.00 for UNC students with ID. There is no charge for preview performances.

The cast includes **Sean Casserly** and **Mason Cordell** as the Older and Younger Vincent; **Allan Maule** and **Andrea Powell** (star of ABC's *The Gates*) as Vincent's parents; **Phil Denny** as Robert; and **Dayna Bowers**, **Susan Burcham**, **Michelle Gear**, **Morgan Hoffman**, and **Turner Popalis** as the Choir. Associate Musical Direction is by **Charlie Clark**; Production Stage Management is by **Krysta Gahagan**; Lighting Design is by **Lawruh Lindsey**; and Set Design is by **Rob Hamilton**. Script and Music Consultants for *Nothing Pink* include **Sean Casserly**, **Charlie Clark**, and **Dayna Bowers** (who also serves as Producer for Ride Again).

The show marks a reunion for Ferguson, Hartman, Powell, and Burcham, who worked together in 1995 on the premiere of *The Devil's Dream* (based on the novel by Lee Smith) for Raleigh Ensemble Players. Ferguson and Hartman worked on more than a dozen shows together when Hartman was in North Carolina and have been looking for a new show on which to collaborate. When they met in New York during the Off-Broadway run of Ferguson's musical *Good Ol' Girls* and discussed the possibilities for *Nothing Pink*, they knew they had found their next project.

Equity artist Powell, who is also Ferguson's wife and producing partner, is thrilled that her shooting schedule for *The Gates* has allowed her to act in the show. "It is such a beautiful story, and I think it will resonate with anyone struggling to be comfortable with who they are," Powell said. "Plus, the music—a mix of traditional gospel, contemporary tunes, and new music written by Mark Hartman—is a joy to perform."

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