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For Immediate Release

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Meet Charity Hope Valentine, Dance Hall Hostess, eternal optimist, and unlucky romantic, as she searches for true love in *Sweet Charity*, the Tony award-winning musical comedy with lively choreography, snappy Neil Simon dialogue, and show-stopping numbers including such favorites as “Big Spender,” “Rhythm of Life,” and “If They Could See Me Now.” This Bob Fosse extravaganza, which opened to rave reviews on Broadway in 1965, will open January 18 at the Coronado Playhouse and will run through February 17.

Sweet Charity is a tender, poignant and humorous look at the misadventures in the ways of love which reveals the unforgettable Charity Hope Valentine (Andria Elam) who always gives her heart and her dreams to the wrong man. Charity sings, dances, laughs, and cries her way through romances with the “animal magnetism” man, the “ultra-chic continental” type, and the “impossible to believe but he’s better than nothing” guy. Her world is the all too real world of Times Square populated by the most charming group of characters that have ever graced a stage. From her cynical trio of dance hall girlfriends to the phony evangelist, the Coney Island “fun people,” the Central Park strollers, and the YMCA “self-improvers,” every character is fascinating.

The original Broadway production was nominated for 12 Tony awards in 1966 and Bob Fosse took home the trophy for best choreography. The 1986 revival garnered four more Tony awards for Best Revival, Featured Actor, Featured Actress, and Costumes as well as the Outer Circle Award for Choreography. The clever dialogue was the creation of the ever funny Neil Simon. Cy Coleman has captured the rhythms and sounds of New York with his music just as Dorothy Fields found the vernacular and fun of New Yorkers with her lyrics.

Chrissy Burns directs this bright and sophisticated Coronado Playhouse production while Brian Hammond provides snappy musical direction and Trevor Periner contributes his original choreography in the Bob Fosse tradition. Designers David Kelso (scenic, lighting, & sound) and Marie Davey, (costuming) round out the production staff assembled by Burns and Producer Diane Musgrove.

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The Sweet Charity cast also features: Katie Belcher (Helene), Jeri Harms (Nikki), Ruben Muir (Oscar), Rob Poisner (Herman), Brett Daniels (Vittorio Vidal), Carolyn Stevenson (Ursula March), and Trevor Perenger (Daddy Brubeck). Fandango Hostesses include: Jenna Ingrassia (Rosie), Darcy Porter (Carmen), Tiffany Loui (Betsey), Armi Guzman (Elaine), April Wikholm (Frenchy), Marisa Musgrove (Sissie), Julie Graham (Suzanne). The featured male ensemble includes: Mitchell Hills, Kenny Ramos, and Lonnie Ramirez.

This show opens the 2008 season for San Diego county's oldest running community theatre, now in its 62nd year. The Coronado Playhouse, now in a new venue housed in the Coronado Community Center, features a full service bar, cabaret-style seating, a terrific view of the bay, and free parking.

Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m., with Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for Friday/Saturday, \$20 Thursday/Sunday with discounts available for students, senior citizens, military, and groups. Opening night and Valentine's Day dinner reservations are \$25 above ticket costs. Patrons can still purchase season tickets which provide six shows for the price of four and guarantee preferred seating for every show. For additional information and tickets, call the Coronado Playhouse Box Office at 619-435-4856 or visit the website at www.coronadoplayhouse.com.

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