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OLD GLOBE PRESENTS 2003 PULITZER PRIZE-WINNER

NILO CRUZ'S TWO SISTERS AND A PIANO

POIGNANT PLAY TELLS TALE OF CUBAN SISTERS STRUGGLING TO PRESERVE SANITY AND BEAUTY IN DANGEROUS POLITICAL CLIMATE

San Diego – The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe is pleased to present *Two Sisters and a Piano*, by 2003 Pulitzer Prize-winner **Nilo Cruz**, directed by Globe Associate Artistic Director **Karen Carpenter**, playing in the Cassius Carter Centre Stage March 6 through April 11, 2004. (press opening: **Thursday, March 11 at 8pm**).

In 1991 Havana, just after the collapse of the Soviet empire, two sisters – a writer, Maria, and a pianist, Sofia – are placed under house arrest for speaking out against Castro's regime. For these two passionate, artistic siblings, this punishment is an excruciating test of the soul. Overseeing their confinement is Lieutenant Portuondo, who adds another element of tension as his police brutality changes to an intense attraction to Maria. *Variety* called *Two Sisters and a Piano* "an earnest and affecting drama," while the *Wall Street Journal* raved, "Beautiful...the playwright lets us glimpse at Cuba beyond the politics." In his piercing and passionate play, this award-winning Cuban-born playwright deftly shows audiences the intimate joys and sorrows of one family in a fascinating, politically-charged country.

Nilo Cruz is a young Cuban-American playwright whose work has been produced widely around the United States. His plays include *Anna in the Tropics*, which won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, *Night Train to Bolina*, *Dancing on her Knees*, *A Park in Our House*, *Two Sisters and a Piano*, *A Bicycle Country*, *Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams* (world premiere at New Theatre 2001), *Lorca in a Green Dress*, *Beauty of the Father*, and translations of Lorca's *Doña Rosita the Spinster* and *The House of Bernarda Alba*. Cruz has been the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including two NEA/TCG National Theatre Artist Residency grants, a Rockefeller Foundation grant, San Francisco's W. Alton Jones award and a Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays award. His work has been produced at the McCarter Theatre, the Public Theatre, South Coast Rep, Alliance Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, Magic Theatre, Minneapolis Children's Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Washington's Studio Theatre, Florida Stage, the Coconut Grove Playhouse, and at New Theatre, where he serves as Playwright-in-Residence.

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Karen Carpenter's Globe credits include *Splendour*, *Betrayal*, *Smash* and *Vita and Virginia*. Other directorial credits include Pinter's *Old Times* with Julianne Moore at the Huntington Theatre in Boston, *Water from the Moon*, a new musical, at the Westbeth Theatre in New York (finalist for the Jonathan Larson Foundation Grant), as well as *Play* by Samuel Beckett and Harry Kondoleon's *Vampires* at Yale. As the founder of Insight Entertainment, she has produced the American premiere of *Time and the Room* by Botho Strauss, the New York premiere of Mac Wellman's *The Lesser Magoo*, and a new musical, *Nirvanov*, for New York's Pure Pop and Chekhov Now Festivals. Carpenter was the Production Stage Manager on Broadway for *Sunset Boulevard*, *Les Miserables* (also for the Toronto Company starring Colm Wilkinson, and the national touring company), the August Wilson plays *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *The Piano Lesson* (both at the Globe) and *Two Trains Running*. She has also stage managed for the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Manhattan Theatre Club, La Jolla Playhouse, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Goodman Theatre, Arena Stage, Seattle Rep and the Martha Graham Dance Company, and many other companies, in her 20 years as a stage manager. Additionally, Ms. Carpenter was a member of the Yale School of Drama faculty from 1990 to 1995.

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