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HOLLAND-DOZIER-HOLLAND
TO RECEIVE SONGWRITERS HALL OF FAME
JOHNNY MERCER AWARD

San Diego – Songwriting team Holland-Dozier-Holland, **Brian Holland, Lamont Dozier, and Eddie Holland**, currently in residence at The Old Globe with their new musical *The First Wives Club*, will accept the **Johnny Mercer Award from the Songwriters Hall of Fame on Thursday, June 18, 2009**. The award goes to a writer or a collaborative team who has already been inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame and judged by the Nominating Committee as having established a history of outstanding creative works. Previous inductees include Dolly Parton, Kris Kristofferson, Smokey Robinson, Stevie Wonder, Carole King, Stephen Sondheim, Paul Simon, Burt Bacharach, Jule Styne, Jerry Herman and Frank Sinatra.

Established in 1969, the Songwriters Hall of Fame honors those whose work represents a spectrum of the most beloved songs from the world's popular music songbook. Songwriter Johnny Mercer and publishers Abe Olman and Howie Richmond, who founded the organization, wanted to shine the spotlight on the accomplishments of songwriters who have provided us with the words and music that form the soundtrack of our lives. Each year the Hall of Fame inducts a slate of songwriters voted on by the membership at an awards gala that has been recognized by the music industry and the media as the most important of the year. In this digital age, the Hall of Fame has put together an award-winning online museum to honor songwriters who have been inducted. This has become a leading destination for music industry professionals and researchers, along with popular music fans. There are well over 300 inductees who make up the impressive roster inhabiting the Hall of Fame.

One of America's most popular and prolific "pop" songwriting teams ever, the hits of **Brian Holland, Lamont Dozier, and Eddie Holland** have received over 100 million airplays on radio and television. Their songs have had an indelible influence on the international music scene and have been a part of the fabric of our lives for over four decades. Their body of work has been recorded by Rod Stewart, Michael Jackson, James Taylor, Marvin Gaye, The Dixie Chicks, The Supremes, Martha and the Vandellas, The Four Tops, The Isley Brothers, Freda Payne, The Carpenters, Barbra Streisand, Reba McEntire, The Temptations, Dionne Warwick, The Jackson Five and The Beatles to name just a few. Among the numerous hits penned by the team of Holland-Dozier- Holland, whose music has had more airplay than the Rolling Stones, Elvis and the Beatles combined, are "How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved by You)," "Baby I Need Your Loving," "Stop! In the Name of Love," "You Can't Hurry Love" and "I Can't Help Myself." They were inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1988; into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990; they received the National Association of Recording Artists and Science Trustee Award and were recently honored with the BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc) "ICON"-award.

The First Wives Club is a funny, moving and empowering new musical based on the smash-hit movie comedy and Olivia Goldsmith's bestselling novel. Former college friends reunite at middle-age and soon discover they share the same unhappy story - their ungrateful husbands careened into midlife by dumping them for younger women. Inspired by their renewed friendship, the three women band together and take back their lives in style! This captivating new musical is destined to be the theatrical event of 2009! *The First Wives Club* will run July 17 through August 23, 2009, with an official opening on July 31.

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The internationally-acclaimed, Tony Award® -winning Old Globe is one of the most renowned regional theatres in the country and has stood as San Diego's flagship arts institution for 74 years. The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 15 plays and musicals on its three stages, including its highly-regarded Shakespeare festival. The Globe has become a gathering place for leading theatre artists from around the world, such as Tom Stoppard, Daniel Sullivan and Chita Rivera, among many others. Numerous Broadway-bound premieres and revivals, such as Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, The Full Monty and Damn Yankees, have been developed at The Old Globe and have gone on to enjoy highly successful runs in New York and at regional theatres across the country.

The Globe's 2009 Summer Season includes the renowned Summer Shakespeare Festival, featuring Coriolanus, Twelfth Night and Edmund Rostand's Cyrano de Bergerac playing in repertory; the world premiere musical The First Wives Club, by R&B legends Holland-Dozier-Holland and Rupert Holmes; and Charles Ludlam's The Mystery of Irma Vep. Under the leadership of Executive Producer Louis G. Spisto and Resident Artistic Director Darko Tresnjak, the Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting a standard for excellence in American Theatre.