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**NORTH COAST REP PRESENTS THE SAN DIEGO PREMIERE OF
STRING OF PEARLS BY MICHELE LOWE**

(Solana Beach, CA) – Four actresses. Twenty-seven characters. One strand of pearls. Written by Michele Lowe and directed by Karen Carpenter, *String of Pearls* will premiere in San Diego County at the North Coast Repertory Theatre on January 12, 2008.

Michele Lowe's radiant new play explores the possibilities that arise in the lives of several women as they come into contact with a certain strand of pearls. While the pearls are stolen, bought, bestowed, unstrung and nearly lost, four actresses play 27 characters in this deeply moving drama that is as fresh as it is funny. On the eve of her granddaughter Amy's wedding, Beth asks to see the pearls she gave Amy's mother long ago. When Amy cannot produce them Beth is determined to find the pearls. She takes us back to the time when she received them and passed them on to her daughter, who gave them to her dearest friend Ela who lost them one Sunday morning. Spanning 35 years, the pearls touch the lives of mothers and daughters, sisters and friends, even husbands and wives as they weave a deeply affecting story of love and loss.

David Ellenstein, Producing Artistic Director is excited about this production, especially after the successful run of Lowe's *The Smell of the Kill* at North Coast Rep in 2005. "When I read *String of Pearls* for the first time, I laughed, I was titillated, and ultimately I was very moved by the

unadorned humanity of the play. I knew that we needed to produce it. I am excited to see it come alive on our intimate stage," states Producing Artistic Director, David Ellenstein.

Karen Carpenter, the director, is thrilled to return to San Diego where she served several years ago as the Associate Artistic Director at The Old Globe Theatre. She has put together a stellar cast of four dynamo artists. All but one are new faces to the North Coast Rep stage. The only local pearl, Christy Yael, appeared in the recent production of *Dracula*. Joining her are Los Angeles based Kwana Martinez, Jennifer Seifert, and Crystal Sershen. "They are so transformative," says Karen. "They can do anything."

Tickets are on sale now. *String of Pearls* opens January 12, 2008 and runs through February 10, 2008. This production is for mature audiences.

On January 25th, there will be a special performance benefiting **Susan G. Komen for the Cure, San Diego**. 10% of all single ticket sales for that performances will be donated directly back to Susan G. Komen, and there will be a special reception sponsored by North Coast Rep and the La Jolla Brew House immediately following the play.

Opening night curtain is at 8 p.m. and will be followed by a reception in North Coast Rep's adjoining café. Preview dates, January 9-11, have a curtain time of 8 p.m. Performances run Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 PM, Sunday at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM and select Wednesday evenings and Saturday matinees. Ticket prices range from \$26 - \$40.

North Coast Repertory Theatre is located in the Lomas Santa Fe Plaza at 987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Suite D, in Solana Beach, just east of Interstate I-5. The box office is open daily from noon to 4 p.m. and from noon to 7 p.m. on performance days. Tickets may be purchased by calling 858-481-1055, or online at www.northcoastrep.org.

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About the North Coast Repertory Theatre

From its beginning as a community theatre in a shopping center in 1982, the North Coast Repertory Theatre has evolved into one of the area's leading performing arts organizations,

recognized for the quality of its work and its commitment to excellence. Located in Solana Beach, in the heart of San Diego's Coastal North County, the theatre boasts an award-winning main stage season, with performances year-round to over 40,000 people in its intimate 194-seat setting. In addition, the theatre involves thousands of young people each year in the Theatre School @ North Coast Rep, and in North Coast Rep's education and outreach program.