

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Last Updated April 16, 2010

## SOUTHERN REP WELCOMES NEW ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

*New Orleans* — Southern Rep, now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> season, welcomes Mark Routhier to the newly created staff position of Associate Artistic Director. In addition to significant new work development and dramaturgical support of SRT activities, Mark will manage the programming and oversight of Southern Rep's new Second Stage life at Le Chat Noir.

*During his time in New Orleans, Mark has built such strong personal and artistic relationships with many of Southern Rep's affiliated artists and board members. In essence, he speaks our language, understands what it means to love New Orleans, and wants to be a part of Southern Rep's exciting trajectory to the forefront of new play development.*

– Artistic Director, Aimée Hayes

Mark first directed the critical and commercial success *THE SEAFARER* at Southern Rep in our 2008-2009 season. He has since directed *OPUS* this past Fall and will close our 2009-2010 season by directing *THE PIANO TEACHER*. He has worked as a tireless advocate for new play development via the National New Play Network by coordinating the organization's annual national showcase and functioning as a Literary Manager between 26 regional companies supervising a monthly literary meeting between all member theatres. His concurrent position at the Magic Theatre allowed him to develop relationships with both national and international playwrights and develop work under various program initiatives.

*I have had such rich experiences directing and dramaturging at Southern Rep. Aimée and I have enough similarities yet enough differences in our respective aesthetic(s) that we both complement and challenge one another. And I just love New Orleans. I am really looking forward to being a part of the artistic renaissance that has been steadily growing over the last few years.*

– Mark Routhier

ON NOW at SRT ... **WITH A BANG** by **Pete McElligott**, through April 18th. Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are on sale now from \$20 - \$35 and may be purchased at (504) 522-6545 or [www.SouthernRep.com](http://www.SouthernRep.com).

**Southern Rep** celebrates its 23<sup>rd</sup> season as the region's premiere professional theatre, continuing to produce bold world and regional premieres under the artistic leadership of Aimée Hayes, with Managing Director, Marieke Gaboury. In addition to its exciting Mainstage offerings; Southern Rep continues to offer educational programs such as free student matinees, \$10 student rush tickets and Academy SRT; "Free Night of Theatre"; as well as providing an artistic home to new works in development in the *New Play Bacchanal*.

*Southern Rep continues to show that it is staging the most important, challenging, and downright mesmerizing pieces of theater New Orleans audiences are graced to experience. - Theodore P. Mahne, The Times-Picayune Lagniappe*

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