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PRESS RELEASE

ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE SUMMER SEASON MUSICAL: THE KING AND I
23rd July to 29th August 2009

To celebrate their 25th anniversary Aberystwyth Arts Centre presents their most ambitious summer season production to date: Rodgers & Hammerstein's timeless classic *The King & I*. Jennifer Tanarez, from Swansea, will take a lead role as the beautiful Tuptim.

Jennifer trained at Mountview, after completing a BEng degree at Queen Mary University of London. Out of Mountview she made her West End Debut as Christmas Eve in *Avenue Q*. She has recently completed a UK of Disney's *High School Musical*. Jennifer was part of the original UK cast, and appeared as Kelsi Neilson.



This summer Jennifer will be appearing as the beautiful but star-crossed Tuptim. The tragic story of Tuptim and her lover Lun Tha is played out within the splendour of the Royal Palace. Based on the novel *Anna and the King of Siam* by Margaret Landon, *The King and I* captured the hearts of millions with its charming story of the British governess brought into the court of Siam to tutor the King's many children. Within the splendour of the Royal Palace, Anna and the King grow to understand one another and learn about each other's cultures. This moving love story is combined with some of the greatest songs from the golden age of musicals: *Shall We Dance*, *Hello Young Lovers* and *Getting to Know You*. With gorgeous colourful costumes and lavish sets, *The King and I* promises to be the perfect summer season production.

This year's production is brought to the stage by the team behind previous successful Arts Centre summer shows: Director and Choreographer Anthony Williams, Creative Consultant Michael Bogdanov and Musical Director Michael Morwood.

The cast includes Shona Lindsay, one of the most sought-after leading ladies in the West End, as Anna Leonowens. Shona is an accomplished actress and singer with myriad TV, theatre and recording credits. She made theatrical history as the youngest Christine in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera*.

Marcus Cunningham will play the King of Siam. As well as appearing in numerous productions at the National Theatre, Marcus has also appeared in *Doctor Who* (BBC), *Tim Burton's Sweeney Todd*, and *The Fugitives* (ITV). Marcus sang on the soundtrack of Tim Burton's *Sweeney Todd*, and the original cast recordings of *Martin Guerre* and *Jerry Springer The Opera*. He also appeared as Bill in *Mamma Mia!* (International Tour). Marcus also created the roles of Chucky in *Jerry Springer The Opera*. Fifty-two children from the local area will also take part in the show.

The King and I will run at Aberystwyth Arts Centre from Thursday 23rd July to Saturday 29th August. Evening performances will be from Tuesday to Saturday at 7.30pm with matinees on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 2.30pm.

Tickets for evening performances are £19.50 (£18.50) and £16 for children. Tickets for matinees are £17.50 (£16.50) and £16 for children. Family Tickets are available for matinee performances at £55 to cover 2 adults and up to four children. All tickets are £15 for the Opening Night on Thursday 23rd July. Bookings can be made by contacting the Arts Centre ticket office on 01970 62 32 32 or online at www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

Notes to editors:

- A significant discount is available on tickets for groups of 8 or more. Bookings from 16 June and after are £16. It is possible to make group bookings in the Arts Centre's award winning cafe – for either a light meal or for a special Summer Strawberry Cream Tea.
- Further information is available from Rachel Taylor on 01970 622889 email rst@aber.ac.uk
- Further Aberystwyth Arts Centre press releases can be found at www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/press.shtml.