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PRESS RELEASE

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

Shona Lindsay, one of the most sought-after leading ladies in the West End, will take the star role in Aberystwyth Arts Centre's summer season show: Rodgers & Hammerstein's timeless classic is *The King & I*.

Shona Lindsay 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*. She recalls that the first night of *Phantom* was definitely a highlight of her career: 'Mum and Dad were in the audience. My parents have always been supportive.'

Shona has also played the enviable role of Sandy in the West End production of *Grease*. Shona described *Grease* as 'like being at the greatest party on earth. Even when I felt a little below par I would walk out on the stage and the noise and energy from the audience was so phenomenal, it would lift my spirits.' Her other West End roles include: *I Love You, You're Perfect Now Change* at The Comedy and Milly Pontipee in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* at Theatre Royal, Haymarket.



Shona made her professional debut when she was just eleven in the title role of *Annie*. She went on to play numerous children's roles in both theatre and television including playing the role of Barbara Boyer in *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole* and *The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole*. She left school to join the company of *Crossroads* for Central TV, playing the role of Sara Briggs for two years. To mark the end of *Crossroads* Shona released the single "Goodbye" for RCA/BMG.

Shona's other theatre roles include *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Wicked World of Bel Ami*, *The Provok'd Husband* and *Hobsons Choice* at The New End, *Same Time Next Year* and *A Chorus of Disapproval* at The Mill at Sonning, *Godspell* and the national tour of *Singin' in the Rain* opposite

Paul Nicholas. In between the national tours of *Seven Brides*, Shona appeared in the thriller *Murdered to Death*, *Oh What A Lovely War* and *The Mating Game*. Shona was then reunited with Paul Nicholas for the first UK production of the award winning Broadway Musical *Jekyll & Hide* by Leslie Bricusse. Most recently Shona played the role of Rose in the UK Tour of *Aspects of Love* alongside David Essex.

Regular listeners to radio will know Shona from her many appearances for the BBC Radio 2 series, most recently as Young Sally in *Follies* at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane with Julia McKenzie and Denis Quilley, Kristine in the 20th Anniversary recording of *A Chorus Line*, Grete Schone in *The Dancing Years* and Princess Maria in *Call Me Madam* with Tyne Daly. Most recently Shona appeared on Radio 2's Friday Night is Music Night.

For Shona the best aspect of being an entertainer is the knowledge that you can really make people feel good and smile: "It may sound corny, but to be able to do that is wonderful, it has got to be the best job in the world."

This summer Shona will take on the role of Anna Leonowens, alongside Marcus Cunningham as the King of Siam, in *The King and I*. This timeless classic, set within the splendour of the Royal Palace, tells the charming story of Anna the British governess brought into the court of Siam to tutor the King's many children. Anna and the King grow to understand one another and learn about each other's cultures. This moving story is combined with some of the greatest songs from the golden age of musicals: famous numbers include *Shall We Dance*, *I Whistle a Happy Tune*, *Hello Young Lovers* and *Getting to Know You*.

This year's musical is brought to the stage by the successful team behind previous Arts Centre summer shows including *West Side Story* and *My Fair Lady*: Director and Choreographer Anthony Williams, Creative Consultant Michael Bogdanov and Musical Director Michael Morwood.

The King and I will run at Aberystwyth Arts Centre from Thursday 23rd July to Saturday 29th August. Evening performances are 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 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 23 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 622894 email rst@aber.ac.uk
- Further Aberystwyth Arts Centre press releases can be found at www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/press.shtml.

