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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 18, 2004

Who: Actors Alliance of San Diego
What: **Actors Alliance Festival 2004**
When: Wednesday, July 21- Sunday, August 1, 2004
Where: Lyceum Space
79 Horton Plaza
San Diego, CA 92101
Tickets: General Admission \$17; Student, Senior, Military, AASD \$14;
Festival Pass (all 34 plays) \$76; KidsFest (under 18) \$5
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"Worth A Try" rating in 2002 & 2003 by SD Reader Critic Jeff Smith
Named a "Best Bet" in 2003 by SD Union Tribune Critic Anne Marie Welsh
A "Must See" in 2003 by KPBS Critic Pat Launer

More than 100 actors, directors and playwrights will participate in San Diego's largest showcase of theatrical talent. More than 30 short plays will be presented in 7 programs over the last two weeks of July at the Lyceum Space in Horton Plaza. This represents only a quarter of the membership of the Actors Alliance of San Diego. And most them will be involved in new works, many of which will go on to tour schools, other festivals, or develop into full productions. The Festival is one of the featured services the Actors Alliance performs for its membership by helping to develop career-enhancing material as well as engage a public hungry for a live connection.

Pulsing with new additions, Festival 2004 will include:

- **Best of the Fest:** 4 plays selected by **judges and audience** for a final performance on Sunday, August 1.
- **Canadian Fringe Award:** one performing company will earn an entry fee (up to \$500) to any of the Canadian Fringe Theater Festivals in 2005. (This is the most extraordinary theater circuit in the world).
- **Collaborative Writing Project:** San Diego playwrights team up to address a hot issue. This year it's *The "M" Word*: an exploration into the meaning and future of marriage.

Some specifics on this year's shows include:

- **A Girl's War** -- by Joyce Van Dyke; Produced by and featuring Anahid Sharik (New Yorker Anna Sarkisian returns to her home in Karabakh in the former Soviet Union to face an unresolved civil war still smoldering between Armenians and Azerbaijanis.
- **Chela** -- written by and featuring Dulce Solis (Based on a true story of one woman's struggle from Mexico to America, from martyrism to self-worth and from ignorance to self-discovery, motivated only by her desire to be loved in spite of herself.)
- **Sick in Love** -- by Todd Blakesley (Desperate for relief from an unfathomable pain, a woman seeks help from a "doctor" who claims to have distilled love to its essence.)

Please join us for what will prove to be San Diego's most exciting Festival to date!