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**The Ogunquit Playhouse Receives Six IRNE Award Nominations for *My Fair Lady!***

**Ogunquit, Maine**—The Ogunquit Playhouse is thrilled to announce that it has received six Independent Reviewers of New England Award (IRNE) Nominations for its stunning 2008 production of the Lerner and Loewe musical, *My Fair Lady*. Nominations were received for Best Musical; Best Actor (Musical), Jefferson Mays; Best Director (Musical), Shaun Kerrison; Best Music Director, Catherine Stornetta; Best Costume Design, Gregory Poplyk; and Best Choreography, Jennifer Werner. “We were fortunate to have such a talented international team of directors and designers, many of who have worked extensively with Cameron Macintosh and Trevor Nunn,” noted Bradford Kenney, Executive Artistic Director.

Shaun Kerrison, having staged the show all over the world, led the dream-team of directors and designers, along with an all-star cast that included Jefferson Mays (Higgins), Gail Bennet (Eliza Doolittle), Conrad John Schuck (Pickering), Nancy Dusseault (Mrs. Higgins) and Timothy Jerome (Alfred P. Doolittle) in the stunning new production created especially by the Ogunquit Playhouse.

“While in existence for over 76 years, the Ogunquit Playhouse has only in recent years expanded from a 10-week summer season to a three-season, true regional theatre format, noted Kenney. “This is the first time we’ve been recognized by IRNE,” he continued, adding that “the strength of the show and the cast attracted the attention of IRNE, bringing them north to Ogunquit.”

The Independent Reviewers of New England (IRNE) Awards were founded by Beverly Creasey of the Journal Newspapers and Larry Stark of Theater Mirror in 1997. The IRNE Awards recognize the extraordinary wealth of talent in the Boston and New England theatre community.

The Playhouse’s production of *My Fair Lady* also garnered an American Masterpiece Grant from the Maine Arts Commission, an independent state agency supported by the National Endowment for the Arts. Originally developed by the National Endowment for the Arts to fund projects with a national stature and scope, the Maine Arts Commission offers American Masterpieces as a major initiative to acquaint Maine people with the best of their cultural and artistic legacy.

“These nominations are particularly gratifying,” said Kenney. “Even as many of the country’s theatres are fighting for survival, these awards highlight the significance of regional theatres and their impact on the fabric of American life.”

The Independent Reviewers of New England Awards (IRNE'S) will take place on Monday, April 6, 2009, at 7:30pm at the Boston Center for the Arts.

The Ogunquit Playhouse produces the best in Broadway musicals each season from Memorial Day to Columbus Day. The 2009 Season is slated to include *A Chorus Line*, *Shout! The Mod Musical*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Singin’ in the Rain* and *All Shook Up*. For a complete list of show times, ticket prices and more information about the season, visit [www.ogunquitplayhouse.org](http://www.ogunquitplayhouse.org).

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*The Ogunquit Playhouse is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit charitable organization.*