

MORONGO VALLEY; AUGUST 29, 2008

GROVES CABIN THEATRE RELEASE:

**LOCAL LAWYERS TO APPEAR AS JURORS
IN GROVES CABIN THEATRE PRODUCTION OF
COMPELLING COURTROOM CLASSIC "12 ANGRY MEN"**

Three local attorneys and a judge are lending an extra dose of authenticity to the upcoming **Groves Cabin Theatre** production of the stirring classic courtroom drama *12 Angry Men*.

Written by Reginald Rose, *12 Angry Men* first appeared on CBS television's *Studio One* in 1954. The program's success resulted in its adaptation to the big screen in 1957. Sidney Lumet, then a director of TV dramas, was selected to direct the film, his feature film debut. The picture was nominated for four Academy Awards including Best Director and Best Picture; it has been ranked by the American Film Institute as among the top 100 films of the past 100 years, among the top 50 most inspiring films, and the second best courtroom drama of all time. Its notable cast included Henry Fonda, Lee J. Cobb, Ed Begley, E.G. Marshall, Jack Warden, Martin Balsam and a young Jack Klugman.

The play follows the acclaimed film closely, with few deviations or directorial additions and, when taken off the silver screen and transferred to the intimacy of the stage, the raw excitement of the drama becomes a palpable and explosive display of human dynamics. Twelve flesh and blood individuals bring real world preconceptions and prejudices into a cramped, hot jury room to deliberate the guilt or innocence of a young, disadvantaged boy charged with the stabbing murder of his father. The diversity of the jurors is quickly apparent. Layer after layer of artifice is stripped away, with both subtle dialog and violent eruptions making the play as much a blistering character study, as an examination of our jury system. At its core, *12 Angry Men* is patriotic, expressing the belief that our legal system does work and, when unimpeded, will do good; it also demonstrates that one person can actually make a significant difference by participating in the process to the best of his or her ability.

Lending support and realism to the Groves production is the Honorable Bert L. Swift as the voice of the Judge, attorney Richard Ghan, Esquire as the jury Foreman, Public Defender Ben Sasnett as Juror #4, and attorney Harlan Bransky, Esquire as the Guard. The cast also includes talented and popular desert actors Barry Inscore as Juror #2, Dan Graff as Juror #3, Dennis Priest as Juror #5, Don Amos as Juror #6, Ben Costello as Juror #7, Bob Harrison as Juror #8, Conrad Riggs as Juror #9, Ken Lindsey as Juror #10, Brian Peacher as Juror #11, and Ron Cameron as Juror #12. The show is produced by Legal Document Services of Joshua Tree and directed by its owner Patricia A. Smith, who, in addition to her local acclaim as a director of plays, holds a law degree from Western State University.

12 Angry Men opens **Groves Cabin Theatre's** 2008/2009 season on Saturday, September 20, 2008. Legal Document Services will sponsor the opening night Champagne Gala, which will commence with drinks and hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 PM and provide a coffee and dessert table at intermission. Opening night tickets are \$25.00. Because of the large cast and advance demand for tickets, seats may not be available for all shows. Additional performances may be scheduled to accommodate more theatergoers.

12 Angry Men will be performed each Saturday evening at 8:00 PM and Sunday afternoon at 2:30 PM from Saturday, September 20, through Sunday, October 19. **Groves Cabin Theatre** is located at 8768 Desert Willow Trail in Morongo Valley north of Highway 62 (look for the large red, white, and blue stone on the north side of the highway). Tickets for all seats are \$10. For additional information and reservations call! (760) 365-4523.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Joy Groves: (760) 365-4523; forjoyg@yahoo.com

Sam Sloneker: (760) 366-9081 (*please note my new phone number*); samslo@msn.com