

MORONGO VALLEY, APRIL 5, 2005

GROVES CABIN THEATRE RELEASE:

TONY AWARD WINNING DRAMA “AGNES OF GOD”
OPENS SATURDAY, APRIL 16, AT GROVES CABIN THEATRE
PLAYS SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS THROUGH MAY 22

John Pielmeir’s thoughtful Tony Award-winning mystery-drama “*Agnes of God*” opens at **Groves Cabin Theatre** in Morongo Valley on Saturday, April 16. The show will be performed Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons through May 22.

A newborn baby has been found dead, its umbilical cord wrapped around its neck, in a wastebasket in the room of Sister Agnes, a young nun residing in an isolated convent. The simple and naïve Agnes, who was found unconscious and having herself suffered a severe loss of blood at the time of the baby’s discovery, has no memory of the conception of the baby, nor the events surrounding its birth and death. As a preliminary to Agnes’ pending trial for the murder of her child, the Court has appointed a psychiatrist, Dr. Martha Livingstone, to determine the sanity of the young nun. Mother Miriam Ruth, the convent’s Mother Superior, seems bent on protecting Sister Agnes from the doctor, immediately arousing Dr. Livingstone’s suspicions. Who killed the baby? Who is the father? Unanswered questions abound, and in her search for the answers, Dr. Livingstone forces all three women, including herself, to face some harsh realities in their own lives, and to reexamine the meanings of faith and commitment to love.

“*Agnes of God*” is a fascinating drama that fires broadsides at religion and blind faith, yet is also critical of our modern consumerist way of life. Blissful ignorance may guarantee more happiness than dedication to institutional doctrines, but at what price? The play’s author, John Pielmeier, said of his play, “It is a detective story, not only of the world, but of the mind and of the soul.” In addition to its award-winning run on Broadway in 1982, “*Agnes of God*” was later made into a successful motion picture, directed by Norman Jewison and starring Jane Fonda, Anne Bancroft, and Meg Tilly.

Multiple Desert Theatre League award winners Joy Groves and Vicki Montgomery are featured as Mother Superior Miriam Ruth and Dr. Martha Livingstone, and Lindsay Campbell, who received universal critical acclaim for her recent role in the Groves production of *The Effect Of Gamma Rays On Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds*, will play Sister Agnes. Talented Wendy Cohen, director of last season’s DTL award-winning drama, *If We Are Women*, directs the provocative mystery-drama.

Groves Cabin Theatre has won multiple Desert Theatre League awards for its high-quality productions. The 24-seat theater offers one of the most intimate theatrical experiences in the world—that experience having been described as being “like a fly on the wall, witnessing real life happening before my eyes.” **The limited seating means early reservations are a must.**

“*Agnes of God*” will play Saturday evenings at 8:00 PM and Sunday afternoons at 2:30 PM, from April 16 – May 22. **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 are \$10 (\$8 for seniors 60+ and students). For additional information and reservations call! (760) 365-4523.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Joy Groves (760) 365-4523

Sam Sloneker (760) 369-9972; samslo@msn.com