

MORONGO VALLEY, NOVEMBER 24, 2006

GROVES CABIN THEATRE RELEASE:

YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS OPENS
AT GROVES CABIN THEATRE IN MORONGO VALLEY
FOR ONLY FOUR PERFORMANCES ON DECEMBER 2, 3, 9 & 10

Andrew J. Fenady's radio drama of Francis P. Church's world famous editorial, *Yes, Virginia, There Is A Santa Claus*, opens Saturday, December 2, at **Groves Cabin Theatre** in Morongo Valley. The show is scheduled for only four performances on December 2nd, 3rd, 9th and 10th.

A young girl writes a letter to the editor of the *New York Sun*: "Dear Editor, I am 6 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says if you see it in THE SUN, it's so. Please tell me the truth. Is there a Santa Claus?"

Ed Mitchell, The *Sun's* Editor, assigns Frank Church—a reporter teetering on the verge of self-destruction—the task of answering Virginia's question. Church's quest and reply have become one of the world's most quoted and beloved editorials, and more than a century later, it remains the most reprinted editorial ever to run in any newspaper in the English language. The story of Virginia's inquiry and the *Sun's* response was adapted into an Emmy Award winning animated television special in 1974, animated by Bill Melendez (best known for his work on the various *Peanuts* specials) and featuring the voices of Jim Backus and Jimmy Osmond, and as a 1991 TV movie starring Ed Asner, Charles Bronson, Katharine Isobel, and Richard Thomas. Fenady co-wrote (with Val De Crawl) the teleplay for this version, for which he also served as Executive Producer; he later authored the radio drama version presented here.

Yes, Virginia, There Is A Santa Claus is directed by multiple Desert Theatre League award winner Vicki Montgomery, backed up by assistant director Joy Groves. The production's fine cast of popular local actors features John Corley, Dan Graff, Bob Harrison, Frank Sheckler, Steve Fuji, Stan Aschow, Donette Swain, Marge Doyle, Sue Bradley, Emily Sheckler, Joni Scofield, and Kody Fleischman.

A special treat will be the authentic sound effects by the amazing Henry Lozano. As in all old-time radio shows, the person crafting the sound effects is really the star of the show, and Henry will weave his magic to transport us back to the radio days of 1940's America. Using items from his extensive collection of original equipment, he will afford us an inside look at a dying art—one well worth experiencing.

Groves Cabin Theatre has won multiple Desert Theatre League awards for its high-quality productions. The 23-seat theater offers one of the most intimate theatrical experiences available anywhere in the world—that experience having been described as being “like a fly on the wall, witnessing real life happening before my eyes.” *Yes, Virginia, There Is A Santa Claus* will play for only four performances, and the limited seating means early reservations are a must.

Yes, Virginia, There Is A Santa Clause will play Saturday evenings, December 2 & 9, at 8:00 PM, and Sunday afternoons, December 3 & 10 at 2:30 PM. **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.

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