



For Release: IMMEDIATE

Contact: Pattie Lockard
415/263-9044
pattiel@magictheatre.org

Magic Theatre Partners with Laney College to Bring Free Community Performances to Oakland

**Theresa Rebeck's *What We're Up Against*
Saturday, February 19th, Laney College**

SAN FRANCISCO, February 4, 2011 – The Magic Theatre today announced the kick off of a new series of free community performances called Magic Oakland. The series will be produced in partnership with Oakland's Laney College.

The idea for the series came about last year when people filled the Laney Theatre to see Magic's free performance of Tarell Alvin Mc Craney's *Brothers Size*. "We knew we were on to something and wanted to share more," said Loretta Greco, Magic Theatre's Producing Artistic Director. "It was such a big hit and an incredibly rich experience for everyone involved that we decided it was something we should continue."

The next Magic Oakland performance will be the laugh-out-loud comedy, *What We're Up Against*, by popular playwright Theresa Rebeck, on Saturday, February 19th, at 2 p.m. In the play, a team of architects faces a tight deadline for designing a shopping mall. But they wrestle with a good deal more than a looming date. Tickets for Magic Oakland are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning 30 minutes prior to curtain.

Michael Torres, Chair of the Laney College Theatre Department, said, "Bringing the Magic to Oakland is just that – magic. The magical power of storytelling and how it informs an audience can actually aid in the healing of a community. Oakland is not often exposed to quality professional theatre. We believe our partnership with Magic Theatre will do just that."

Community Producer for the Magic Oakland series is Awele Makeba, an award-winning, internationally-recognized recording artist, storyteller, educator and community activist. She was instrumental in the success of Magic's Oakland performance of McCraney's *Brothers Size*. "Our hope is to bring quality professional theatre to Oakland that can transform Laney College Theatre into a cultural center for community engagement. This is a good start," she said.

“Beginning in the fall, we hope that Magic Oakland can bring most of our San Francisco productions to Laney for a free community performance,” said Greco.

NEWS RELEASE: MAGIC PARTNERS WITH LANEY COLLEGE

February 4, 2011

Page 2

For further details about this free performance or directions to Laney College call 510/601-0432 or visit www.laney.peralta.edu. Please note that this performance is not suitable for children or teens under the age of 18.

What We're Up Against opens at Magic Theatre in San Francisco on February 9th and runs through March 6th. For tickets and additional information about the San Francisco performances, visit www.magictheatre.org.

About Magic Theatre. Magic Theatre is one of the most prominent theatres in the nation solely dedicated to the development and production of new plays. The mission of Magic Theatre is to give voice to playwrights, both emerging and established, and to develop and promote the work of theatre artists. Magic Theatre engages audiences in intimate, professional productions that speak to contemporary issues with originality and wit, a sense of urgency and adventure. For 43 years, Magic has contributed to the inventiveness and relevance of the national canon while passionately ensuring the future vibrancy of the American theatre.

###