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**Cape May Stage Presents the World Premiere
of New Jersey-Native Charles Evered's *Class***

Cape May Stage
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Class

**Written by Charles Evered
Directed by Roy Steinberg**

Cape May, NJ – Cape May Stage, South Jersey's premier professional Equity theatre, is proud to announce the world premiere of New Jersey playwright Charles Evered's *Class*. Directed by Emmy nominee Roy Steinberg and starring Heather Matarazzo (*The Princess Diaries*, *Welcome to the Dollhouse*, *The Women*) and Emmy nominee Thaa Penghlis (*Days of our Lives*, *Mission Impossible*), *Class* will open Saturday, May 15 at 8:00pm at the Robert Shackleton Playhouse on Bank and Lafayette Streets.

Born in Passaic, New Jersey, and raised in Rutherford, Evered is thrilled that *Class* is receiving its world premiere in his home state. “*Class* is really sort of my love letter to some amazing and accomplished theatre professionals I've had the pleasure of working with and studying under. Some of those teachers and teaching artists have become mentors to me – and I'm proud to say I've learned more about life in general from them than just about theatre and writing and acting.” Evered considers his “real education” lay in watching Olympia Dukakis and Louis Zorich at the Whole Theatre in Montclair, with Austin Pendelton and Joanne Woodward at the Williamstown (MA) Theatre Festival, and George Roy Hill at Yale University, where Evered completed his MFA. “In a way, all of those types of relationships are reflected in this play.”

The love Evered has for these mentors shines through every line of *Class*. In it, he crafts a fascinating study of the relationship between Sarah (Matarazzo) and Elliot (Penghlis) – two show business professionals at divergent points in their careers. After Sarah approaches Elliot to become her acting teacher, both learn valuable lessons about life, friendship, and the strength of character necessary to call oneself an actor. As the plot unfolds, the audience discovers the risks that each has taken to get where they are and the sacrifices they've made in pursuit of the unattainable. Says Evered, “The play deals within the world of ‘show business’ of course, but really, it's about two very different people – who in a very short amount of time, discover they have more in common than anyone – including themselves, might have ever imagined.... *Class* is a play for everyone who has ever had a teacher or a mentor that has made a difference in their lives.”

Cape May Stage will continue its commitment to quality programming with *Class* by offering two special events. On May 17 at 8:00pm, Cape May Stage will offer an exclusive screening of Evered's film *Adopt a Sailor*, starring Bebe Neuwirth, Peter Coyote, and Ethan Peck. Written and directed by Evered, this widely-recognized independent film has been screened at the Williamstown Film Festival, the Women's International Film and Television Festival, and the Palm Springs International Film Festival. Also, Thaa Penghlis will present *Journeys* on May 24 at 8:00pm, detailing his adventures around the world. Penghlis has travelled the globe from Machu Picchu to Mt. Sinai, investigating some of the planet's most sacred sites.

Class will run from Saturday, May 15 to Saturday, June 12, 2010 at the Robert Shackleton Playhouse at the corner of Bank & Lafayette Streets in downtown Cape May. Performances throughout May are Thursday through Saturday at 8:00pm, with 3:00pm Saturday and Sunday matinee performances May 16 through May 30. Performances in June are Wednesday through Sunday at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$35 adults, \$25 seniors, and \$12.50 students. Through the generous support of PNC Arts Alive, Friday, May 14 is a half-price preview, and the Sunday, May 30 matinee will be half-price for senior citizens. Following the May 15 opening, all ticket holders are invited to join the opening night after-party at 10:00pm, with the chance to mingle with the cast and crew. Assisted listening devices are also available upon request for the hearing impaired. Call (609) 884-1341 for reservations and information or visit the theatre's website, www.capemaystage.com.

Class is presented through the gracious support of Harry's Bar and Grille at the Montreal Inn and the Capri Motor Lodge. This season's sponsors include 410 Bank Street/Frescos, Exit Zero, The Washington Inn, Cape May Winery, and Lucky Bones.