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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Theatre In The Park Announces 2009 – 2010 Season**  
*Season Opens with Master Class - August 14, 2009*

**Raleigh, N.C., July 21, 2009** – Theatre In The Park (TIP) kicks off its 2009 – 2010 season with the opening of ***Master Class***, the 1996 Tony Award® winning play, by Terrence McNally on August 14.

***Master Class***, features local actor, Lynda Clark as Maria Callas, a New York-born Greek soprano and one of the most renowned opera singers of the twentieth century. Maria's remarkable musical and dramatic talents led to her being hailed as *La Divina*. Though adored by many opera enthusiasts, Callas was a controversial artist. While Callas was the great singer often dismissed simply as an actress she considered herself first and foremost "a musician, that is, the first instrument of the orchestra," states Maestro Victor de Sabata. This is a story, not about opera, but about life and sacrifices made in the name of art. Lynda Clark brings to the stage over 20 years of experience, mastering roles for theatre's throughout the region. Lynda most recently shared the stage at Theatre In The Park alongside Ira David Wood III in Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and *Romeo and Juliet*. "The role of Maria Callas is one of the biggest challenges of my career to date. The line load alone, as Maria talks, teaches and tirades, is absolutely incredible – a monstrous undertaking," said Lynda Clark. This brilliant performance also features Katherine Anderson, Antonio Delgadillo and Rozlyn Sorrell.

As one of North Carolina's most innovative and exciting theatre arts centers, Theatre In The Park has put together an extraordinary season that offers all that ... and *more!* For instance, this year's selection of plays includes *TWO* Tony Award® Winning shows, and *TWO* regional premieres – featuring some of the finest performers in the area.

***Master Class*** by Terrence McNally

August 14-16 & 20-23, 2009

***Don't Cry for Me, Margaret Mitchell*** by Duke Ernsberger & Virginia Cate

February 12-14 & 18-21, 2010

***Doubt*** by John Patrick Shanley

April 9-11 & 15-18, 2010

***November*** by David Mamet

June 4-6 & 10-13, 2010

Additionally, the upcoming season includes some significant announcements. First, due to popular demand, an extra performance is being added to the local production run of ***A Christmas Carol*** in Raleigh's Memorial Auditorium. The additional performance is scheduled for Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM.

Memberships and tickets for ***Master Class*** and all other shows in the season can be purchased online at [www.theatreinthepark.com](http://www.theatreinthepark.com) or from the TIP Box Office at 919-831-6058. Additionally, Theatre In The Park offers Season Members advance ticketing to Ira David Wood III's ***A Christmas Carol***. Membership and ticket order forms can be downloaded from the TIP website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit [www.theatreinthepark.com](http://www.theatreinthepark.com) or call (919) 831-6058

**About Theatre In The Park** Theatre In The Park, currently celebrating its 61<sup>st</sup> season, is located in the northern end of Raleigh's scenic Pullen Park adjacent to North Carolina State University. The theatre is acclaimed for its many outstanding theatrical achievements. Each season Theatre In The Park presents an exceptional series of productions including the very best in comedy, original musicals, Shakespeare, and contemporary drama. Theatre In The Park is North Carolina's largest non-profit performing Arts organizations and is second in the region only to the celebrated Actor's Theatre of Louisville in original works premiered. Theatre In The Park truly offers something for everyone.

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