



Press Release

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For Immediate Release...

Gipsy Kings Create Music for Zorro Musical

Berkeley, CA. January 15, 2005 - The partnership between Zorro Productions, Inc. and AKA Productions proudly announces an exciting new addition to their production of a Zorro musical for London's West End. In addition to the talented team previously assembled, the internationally acclaimed Gipsy Kings will create exciting original new music and rhythms for the Zorro show.

The Gipsy Kings – who hail from the gypsy settlements in Arles and Montpellier in the south of France – include singers and guitarists from the Reyes (Canut, Nicolas, Pablo and Patchai) and Baliardo families (Diego, Paco and Tonino). Lead singer Nicolas Reyes is the son of famed Flamenco singer José Reyes, who with his cousin, guitarist Manitas de Plata, sold millions of records in the 60's and 70's. The band's vigorous guitar work and passionate vocals are the trademark of an indigenous musical tradition known as *rumba flamenca*. The rumba – which originated in Africa – traveled from Zaire via the slave trade to Cuba and the New World, then back to Barcelona, where it was adopted by the Gypsies. Chris Renshaw continues to hold the reins as director. His show, *Taboo*, written with Boy George, has been a phenomenal success in London and on Broadway. The Queen musical, *We Will Rock You*, directed by Chris, broke box office records and defied critics by its success.

Writer Helen Edmundson, author of *The Clearing* and most recently, *Mother Theresa Is Dead* garnered rave reviews as a writer who tackles big themes. Her recent opening of *Mother Theresa Is Dead* at the Royal Court, along with her acclaimed play, *The Clearing*, have set her at the forefront of British playwrights. Her work has been described as enormous, muscular, rich, and poetic. She combines the personal with the political, creating a deep historical landscape. Her reputation soared after adapting epic novels like *Anna Karenina* and *War and Peace*.

Lyricist Stephen Clark's play, *Stripped*, won a Jefferson Award for best new play in Chicago 2003 (Circle Theatre) and an Olivier award for his lyrics for the re-worked version of Martin Guerre for Cameron Mackintosh, which then toured Britain and North America. He is currently writing the book and lyrics for *The Far Pavilions* which opens April 2005 in the West End.

For more information on Zorro projects, visit our website at **www.zorro.com**.