

# **Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

*The Island University*

6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78412 (361) 825-2420 FAX (361) 825-2620

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: August 25, 2009**

**CONTACT: J. Don Luna, 361.825.5988 or 361.537.8633 (cell); or Cassandra Hinojosa, 361.825.2337**

## **Tony Award-Winning Play ‘Children of a Lesser God’ Features University Students and Community Actors Proceeds will help provide theatre scholarships to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi**

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The University Theatre at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will present the award-winning play “Children of Lesser God” from Friday, Sept. 11, through Sunday, Sept. 13, in the Wilson Theatre in the Center for the Arts.

Performances are at 8 p.m. with a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee.

“Children of a Lesser God” by playwright Mark Medoff portrays a tearful, but hopeful story that centers around James, a new speech teacher who begins working at a school for the deaf, where he falls in love with Sarah, a troubled, deaf woman who also works at the school.

J. Don Luna, professor of Theatre and chair of the Department of Communications and Theatre, will direct the play and perform the role of James. The role of Sarah will be played by Carla Gardner, a former New York actress currently living and working in the Coastal Bend.

Eventually, James and Sarah begin a relationship and marry. Soon their marriage, besieged by both the deaf and hearing communities, becomes a battleground between the worlds of sound and silence. Their love and compassion hold the hope of reconciliation and deeper, fuller understanding of differences which can unite and divide.

Medoff received a Tony Award in 1980 for “Children of a Lesser God,” which ran on Broadway from 1980-1982. The film version was released in 1986 starring William Hurt and Marlee Matlin, who earned an Academy Award for her performance as Sarah.

**-MORE-**

**Page 2, 'Children of a Lesser God'**

Written for Phyllis Frelich, one of the country's most noted deaf actresses, the play is significant since it includes a lead role for a deaf performer in a drama designed for the hearing theater audience. The cast will include members of the community, and present and past students.

General admission tickets are \$10 and can be picked up one hour before the performance at the Wilson Theatre box office in the Center for the Arts. All proceeds benefit University Theatre Scholarship Funds. Seating is limited. For more information or to order tickets, call 361.825.5800.

**-A&M-CC-**