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Dynamic play from Texas debunks Bonnie and Clyde myths

BONNIE PARKER

Written and performed by Dixie Lee Sedgwick

Directed by Joseph Black

Performances begin Wednesday, April 6th @ 8PM

Press Previews April 7& 8

Opening Scheduled for Saturday, April 9th @ 8PM

At The John Houseman Studio Theatre, 450 West 42nd Street

March 17, 2005

Dixie Lee Sedgwick will perform her award-winning one-woman show, *BONNIE PARKER*, at the John Houseman Studio Theatre, 450 West 42nd Street (between 9th & 10th Avenues). Previews begin Wednesday, April 6th; opening night is set for Saturday, April 9th. Joe Black produces and directs.

BONNIE PARKER is a historically accurate and intimate study of the love-struck young actress, "A" student, accomplished speaker - and the "better half" of the world's most infamous crime team. The "tiny poet" was a favorite of prominent Dallas officials and attorneys prior to the Depression and membership in the notorious Barrow Gang.

BONNIE PARKER took several years to evolve, and was first performed at the Circle Theatre in Fort Worth's Sundance Square. This production received excellent notices from The Dallas Morning News, Fort Worth Star-Telegram and The Dallas Observer, which prompted a transfer to the Door Theatre in Dallas. Perry Stewart wrote in the Star Telegram that *BONNIE PARKER* was "Powerful, poignant, auspicious, detailed," awarding it 3 ½ stars. Jimmy Fowler gave Ms. Sedgwick the Observer's award for Best Actress, with Best Director to Mr. Black.

"People have an idea who Clyde was," says Ms. Sedgwick, "and we straighten that out; but less is known about Bonnie. What grabbed me was the real story of her downward spiral: People make concessions for love, but how far are you willing to go, and for how long? Bonnie struggled with tough hardships before meeting Clyde," she explains, "and plenty more thereafter." Early films portrayed Bonnie as an evil temptress. Historical accuracy is very important to Ms. Sedgwick. The detailed facts are more interesting than the various fictions about the outlaws. The play uses Bonnie's poems, some diary entries and letters.

Current interest in these icons is strong: 25 books and 11 documentaries about the Barrow Gang have appeared in the last 10 years, in several languages. "Dixie dug deep, searching for insight," says Mr. Black. "Audiences are surprised at the events and character that emerges, because the truth is extraordinary. *BONNIE PARKER* is about love through devastating events, crime and what it does to the mind, and final anticipation of doom," concludes Black. Bonnie's writings, plus family, friends, relatives and historians show she was talented, but combative.

Ms. Sedgwick has worked as a lead/principal/day player in feature films, TV, commercials, corporate video, radio, and as a print model. She starred in a film titled "Loretta's Last Letter," which is currently on the film festival circuit. Ms. Sedgwick recently wrapped shooting two documentaries, in Colorado and California, in which she portrays Bonnie.

Director Joe Black began producing theatre in 1971, and has served as Producer and President of Bicentennial Theatre Corporation, Lone Star Studios and Video Reader Company. Mr. Black created and co-produced "Bluegrass Sundae" with Post-Newsweek TV of Florida, and wrote and directed *Kris Kindl*, a new musical. In the late 1990s, he also served the Dallas-Ft. Worth Regional Film Commission, assisting many network TV shows and feature films. There he met Ms. Sedgwick and encouraged her to create *BONNIE*.

BONNIE PARKER begins performances on Wednesday, April 6th and will continue through Sunday, May 15th. The schedule is Monday and Wednesday through Saturday evenings at 8:00pm, with history Q & A matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 3:30pm. Tickets are \$49.95 (previews \$39.95) and may be purchased by calling Smarttix at (212) 868-4444, or online at www.bonnieparkeronstage.com. Photos will be available for download at www.brettsinger.com/clients/bonnieparker.html.

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SCHEDULE: Monday, Wednesday through Saturday at 8pm, Saturdays and Sundays at 3:30pm

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