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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Monday, December 16, 2013**



**THE LVUSD BEACON FOR THE ARTS FUND  
AND THE PERFORMING ARTS EDUCATION CENTERS OF LAS VIRGENES  
ANNOUNCE FIRST ANNUAL BEACON FOR THE ARTS FUND GALA**

Agoura Hills and Calabasas, CA – The LVUSD Beacon for the Arts Fund is proud to present its First Annual *Beacon for the Arts Fund Gala*, a fun-filled, family-friendly day featuring a Screening of Universal Studio's *DESPICABLE ME 2* followed by a Q&A with film's writers, Ken Daurio and Cinco Paul, and some surprise guests from the cast; a catered Donor Reception in the A-PAEC's Black Box Theater; a silent auction; the unveiling of two new art pieces to be donated to the Performing Arts Education Center Lobby Art Collection by the artists; and a sneak-peak, staged reading of Cinco Paul's new musical, *BUBBLE BOY*, based on his iconic 2001 film of the same name and featuring an amazing cast of current and alumni LVUSD performers.

All Gala Events will be held at the newly completed, state-of-the-art Performing Arts Education Center on the campus of Agoura High School on Saturday, January 25, 2014, and will feature three different events, a screening of *DESPICABLE ME II*, a gala reception, and a staged reading the new musical *BUBBLE BOY*.

"We are very excited to share these beautiful theatres with the community," said Dr. Dan Stepenosky, LVUSD Superintendent. "We will forever be grateful to our community for passing the bond that allowed these professional-quality theatres to be built. It's so exciting now to see that vision realized as they become, more and more, creative, welcoming spaces for both students and the broader community. The Gala is our way of expanding our family of patrons and donors and students and parents who all benefit from this wonderful community resource."

All proceeds from the Gala will go to support the LVUSD Beacon for the Arts Fund, which was established in 2012 to ensure that the performing arts programs in Las Virgenes continue to inspire, teach and motivate students for generations to come, and that the Performing Arts Education Centers continue to shine as true Beacons for the Arts in our community. The purpose of the fund is two-fold – to be used to support and expand the performing arts programs for students, ensuring that the robust performing arts programs in Las Virgenes continue to thrive, and to provide for ongoing operation and maintenance of the theaters, protecting these tremendous community assets.

Tickets are available online at [www.thePAECs.org](http://www.thePAECs.org) and on the PAEC FaceBook page.

**The LVUSD Beacon for the Arts Fund presents:**

**“Beacon for the Arts Fund Gala”**

**This first ever *Beacon for the Arts Fund Gala* will be held in the Performing Arts Education Center on the campus of Agoura High School (A-PAEC)**

**And feature a Screening of Universal’s *DESPICABLE ME 2*  
followed by a Q&A with film’s writers, Ken Daurio and Cinco Paul  
as well as actors from the cast,**

**A Donor Reception, and  
A staged reading of Cinco Paul & Ken Daurio’s new musical, *BUBBLE BOY*,  
All on Saturday, January 25, 2014.**

Tickets for these once-in-a-lifetime events go on sale Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

**ABOUT THE FIRST ANNUAL BEACON FOR THE ARTS FUND GALA:**

The LVUSD Beacon for the Arts Fund will, for the first time ever, present its Annual Gala in celebration of Donors who make the Fund possible and whose generosity ensures that the Performing Arts disciplines will continue to thrive throughout LVUSD for generations to come. The Gala’s three events will take place at the A-PAEC, the Performing Arts Education Center on the campus of Agoura High School.

The Gala has been created to acknowledge the commitment of our donors and the community at large to make the vision of these two inspirational facilities a reality, and of their desire for the performing arts in our community to thrive.

This historic first gala shines a light on the expanded performing arts and educational opportunities LVUSD offers students and community members throughout the area.

**Gala Highlights:**

**DESPICABLE ME 2 Screening**

“This is one of those rarities, an animated sequel that improves on the original.”

*Bruce Diones, The New Yorker*

Join us for a screening of Universal Studio’s *DESPICABLE ME 2* on the big screen, the amazing, family-friendly, PG-rated sequel starring Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Benjamin Bratt, Miranda Cosgrove, and Russell Brand, where Gru is recruited by the Anti-Villain League to help deal with a powerful new super criminal.

“The minions are back and better than ever.”

*Jolene Mendez, Entertainment Spectrum*

## **DESPICABLE ME 2 Talk-back**

Meet Ken Daurio and Cinco Paul, the writers of DESPICABLE ME 2, along with some surprise guests from the cast, ask questions, and find out how it all came together, from the initial story all the way to the big screen.

## **Gala Reception**

Join your fellow PAEC donors and friends for some great food and lively conversation in the A-PAEC's Black Box Theater.

## **Silent Auction**

Take a few moments during the reception to bid on some great Silent Auction Items from DESPICABLE ME 2, as well as some other great, one-of-a-kind finds.

## **Donation of Two New Pieces to the PAEC Lobby Gallery**

During the reception, we'll unveil two pieces of art chosen as the first pieces in the PAEC's permanent Lobby Gallery Collection. The jury's still out on which two LVUSD students will have the honor of starting this collection. Join as we start what promises to become a storied annual tradition.

## **BUBBLE BOY Staged Reading**

"Bubble Boy is one of the cleverest, funniest, and most endearing musicals I've seen in a long time."

*Stephen Schwartz (Godspell, Pippin, Wicked)*

"Bubble Boy," written by Cinco Paul (book, music, lyrics) and Ken Daurio (book), is the fictional story of Jimmy Livingston, a boy who was born without an immune system. Based on the 2001 cult movie of the same name, also penned by Paul and Ken Daurio, Bubble Boy has already been well-received in staged readings at Carnegie Mellon University and Penn State University. The story centers around Jimmy Livingston, born without immunities and confined to a plastic bubble room since birth. Jimmy falls in love with Chloe, the girl next door. When she leaves town to get married, Jimmy breaks out of his room and travels cross-country in a homemade bubble suit in order to stop the wedding, embarking on an adventure involving cult members, a biker gang, an Indian ice cream man, and his controlling mother.

The Bubble Boy reading will be included in the 2014 calendar of events for the Festival of New American Musicals.

## **BUBBLE BOY Talk-back with the cast and creators**

Join writer-composer Cinco Paul and the cast for a hilarious and insightful round of Q&A immediately following the performance.

Festival of New American Musicals Executive Producer Bob Kline, will also participate in the talk-back, offering his perspective on the development of new musicals.

## **About Ken Daurio and Cinco Paul**

The films of Cinco Paul and Ken Daurio have made over \$1 billion in the U.S. alone, and their most recent movie, *Despicable Me 2*, is currently Universal Pictures' most successful film of all time. Other films they've written include *Bubble Boy*, *the Santa Clause 2*, *Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!*, *Despicable Me*, and *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax*.

In 2008 they turned *Bubble Boy* into a musical, which had its first production at the T.O. Civic Arts Plaza featuring a cast of Agoura High students. Since then it has been chosen for workshops at Carnegie Mellon University and Penn State University, and has been the recipient of both the ASCAP Sammy Cahn Award for lyric writing and the Harold Arlen Award for its score.

Cinco Paul grew up in Phoenix, Arizona dreaming of becoming a famous pop musician. He graduated summa cum laude from Yale University, then abandoned his dreams of pop stardom, got an M.F.A. in screenwriting from USC, and became a screenwriter instead. Life's funny that way. He currently lives in Agoura Hills with his family.

Ken Daurio spent his childhood in New Jersey, but got out of there as soon as he could. Straight out of high school he began directing music videos for up-and-coming bands like Blink 182, AFI and Jimmy Eat World. Over 100 music videos later, he teamed up with Cinco in 1998 to write his first feature script, and the rest is history. He lives in Westlake Village with his family.

## **About BUBBLE BOY THE MUSICAL**

Based on their 2001 cult movie starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Cinco Paul and Ken Daurio have created a musical that is wacky, whimsical, and ultimately heartwarming. *Bubble Boy* tells the story of a Jimmy Livingston, born without immunities and confined to a plastic bubble room since birth. Jimmy falls in love with Chloe, the girl next door. When she leaves town to get married, Jimmy breaks out of his room and travels cross-country in a homemade bubble suit in order to stop the wedding, embarking on an adventure involving cult members, a biker gang, an Indian ice cream man, and his controlling mother.

Stephen Schwartz (*Godspell*, *Pippin*, *Wicked*) has said of the show: "Bubble Boy is one of the cleverest, funniest, and most endearing musicals I've seen in a long time."

## **About the LVUSD Beacon for the Arts Fund**

The LVUSD Beacon for the Arts Fund is a segregated, secure fund, which is held and managed by the California Community Foundation, one of the oldest and largest charitable fund administrators in southern California. The Fund can be used only for supporting LVUSD performing arts programs and operation and maintenance of the Performing Arts Education Centers. Expenditures from the Fund will be directed solely by The LVUSD Performing Arts Education Centers Advisory Committee, comprised of community members, performing arts teachers, principals, school Board members and LVUSD business officials, all of whom have a deep commitment to the role of the arts in a complete education and as a meaningful part of community life.

Donors have the opportunity to be recognized for their generosity in front of an audience of affluent and influential people. Naming opportunities are currently available, each with a prominent placement on our Donor Wall. Other benefits include invitations to exclusive events, special access to performances, printed recognition and listing on our website donor roll.

The Fund's current goal is \$5 million. Join us by making a gift today! For more information, visit [www.thePAECs.org](http://www.thePAECs.org).

### **About the Performing Arts Education Centers**

Thanks to a significant community investment, the dream of having state-of-the-art performance venues in the Las Virgenes community has been realized. By passing the Measure G construction bond in 2006, the community enabled the Las Virgenes Unified School District to build two professionally-equipped theatres designed to enhance the educational opportunities for all students as well as bring top-quality arts programming to the community as a whole.

Each PAEC features a 650-seat Main Stage Theatre and a Black Box Theatre with a flexible seating configuration up to 100. In addition, each PAEC features advanced technology for classroom instruction and lectures, a full orchestra pit with hydraulic lift, professional acoustics, lighting and sound systems, high-quality dressing rooms, a scene shop, costume shop and green room, a full fly gallery and rear projection capability, as well as concessions and box offices in the lobbies. For more information, visit [www.thePAECs.org](http://www.thePAECs.org).

### **About the Las Virgenes Unified School District**

The Las Virgenes Unified School District, located in northern Los Angeles County and encompassing the cities of Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Hidden Hills and Westlake Village, is a destination public school district well known for its educational excellence, both in academics and the performing arts. For more information, visit [www.lvusd.org](http://www.lvusd.org).

### **About the Festival of New American Musicals**

The 7th edition of the FESTIVAL OF NEW AMERICAN MUSICALS continues to celebrate new musicals all over Southern California - big theaters, smaller theaters, high schools, colleges, youth theaters, community groups, TV and movies. The Festival's special emphasis this year is on SHOWSEARCH 2.0, its second nationwide search for new short musicals created by high school and college age youth. For more information, visit [www.lafestival.org](http://www.lafestival.org).

## Calendar Listing for

### The First Annual Beacon for the Arts Fund Gala

**Venue:** Performing Arts Education Center  
located on the campus of Agoura High School  
28545 W. Driver Avenue  
Agoura Hills, CA 9130

Agoura High School  
<http://maps.yahoo.com/#tt=&q=28545+Driver+Ave%2C+Agoura+Hills%2C+CA+91301-3335&conf=1&start=1&lat=34.149975&lon=-118.748825&zoom=16&mvt=m&trf=0>

#### Performance Schedule:

DESPICABLE ME Screening	2:30 pm
DESPICABLE ME 2 Talk-back	4:30 pm
Gala Reception / Silent Auction	5:00 pm
BUBBLE BOY Staged Reading	7:00 pm
BUBBLE BOY Talk-back	9:00 pm

**Tickets:** Tickets are available online at [www.thePAECs.org](http://www.thePAECs.org)  
or during Performing Arts Education Center Box Office hours  
A – PAEC Box Office – Thurs & Friday from 1 – 4pm  
C – PAEC Box Office – Mon thru Friday from 8 – 10am

Adult & Student tickets range from \$10 to \$20 depending on the event.

**Online:** Tickets for all *Beacon for the Arts Fund Gala* events are available online at:  
<https://www.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?t=tix&w=c421b7d4162b38e76de2c89584df1c60>

For More Information and a link to purchase tickets for all *Beacon for the Arts Fund Gala* events online, visit:

[www.thePAECs.org](http://www.thePAECs.org)

Find The Performing Arts Education Centers on FaceBook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/thePAECs>

Or check out our FaceBook *Beacon for the Arts Fund Gala* Event Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/497196677060971/>

**Phone:** C-PAEC Box Office, (818) 591-1207, ext. 1