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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Military Appreciation and Adoption Awareness Special Events
Michael A. Pollack Real Estate Investments Presents Copperstar Repertory Co.'s
Community-wide Production of *OLIVER!*
At Mesa Arts Center, Virginia Piper Theater, April 9 - 12, 2014

Audiences are raving about *Oliver!* at Mesa Arts Center. Only five performances remain and **Special Events** are abundant! They include a “**Food, Glorious Food Drive**” for United Food Bank – Patrons that bring non-perishable food items (list available on our website) will be entered into a drawing for prizes at each performance.

“**Military Appreciation Night**” is Wednesday, April 9: Dobson High School ROTC will present the colors at this celebration where we will welcome military personnel and veterans.

“Copperstar is dedicated to showing our continued support and appreciation to the men and women of the United States military.” said Copperstar Artistic Director, Mary-Jo Okawa. “Many members of our organization have very close ties to the military and personally recognize the sacrifice made by these brave men and women to guarantee our safety and protect our freedom.”

“**Military Appreciation Night**” (April 9 at 7:30pm) Discount Tickets are just \$16 for United States military, veterans and their families (Promo Code MILITARY14), who will also receive a 20% discount on Copperstar merchandise.

“**Adoption Awareness Night**” is Thursday, April 10: AASK and *Child Crisis Center* will be our special guests and will provide information in our lobby. **Forever Young Foundation** is the evening’s ticket sponsor as we welcome 100 children awaiting adoption at this special event. *Oliver* tells the story of children that are horribly mistreated. By contrast, we want to provide information on organizations that provide wonderful resources, foster care, emergency services and adoption services for the East Valley community.

About the Show: Fresh from its record-breaking run in London's West End comes a spectacular new production of one of the greatest musicals of all time – Lionel Bart’s legendary award winning *OLIVER!* This well-crafted tale brings vividly to life Dickens' timeless characters with its ever-popular story of the boy who asked for more. The production's magical score is full of Lionel Bart's irresistible songs including "Food, Glorious Food", "Consider Yourself", "You've Got to Pick-a-Pocket or Two", "I'd Do Anything", "Oom Pah Pah", "As Long As He Needs Me", "Where is Love" and many more. Featuring a stunning set, costumes and an epic cast over 70, starring the very best performers in the Greater Phoenix Area, *OLIVER!* is playing live at Mesa Arts Center for 5 remaining glorious performances in the Virginia Piper Theater.

The original Broadway production of *OLIVER!* won three Tony Awards and the 1968 film version won six Academy Awards, including Best Picture. The perfect family musical, based on Charles Dickens’ classic *Oliver Twist*, *OLIVER!* is the story of a young orphan boy who wanted “more.” From the orphanage to the mean streets of London, the ever-optimistic Oliver strives to survive through thick and thin meeting such memorable characters as Nancy, Fagin, Bill Sikes and the Artful Dodger

along the way. Dramatic, engagingly powerful and ultimately uplifting, OLIVER! is an unforgettable, feel good story of a remarkable boy looking for a place to call home.

This enormous community-wide production has a cast of 65 talented performers and over 100 artists and volunteers behind the scenes. Some of the leading roles in Copperstar's production of *OLIVER!* have been double cast to allow more amazing performers the opportunity. Three gifted young performers will share the role of "Oliver Twist": Bryson Holl (9 yrs., Mesa) and Jackson Clark (9 yrs., Gilbert) and Riley Thornton (10 yrs. Gilbert). Two beautiful and talented ladies will play "Nancy": Jen Holl (Mesa) and Shanti Okawa (Tempe) and "Artful Dodger" will be played by the brilliant Jake Bonar (13 yrs., Gilbert), "Fagin" will be played by the talented Robert Altizer (Mesa) and Harmon Swartz (Tempe). Directed by Mary-Jo Okawa, Choreographed by Laura Christian and Music Directed by Andrew Briggs, this Broadway favorite is sure to delight families in the Valley-wide.

Remaining Show Dates and Times at Mesa Arts Center in the Piper Theater:

April 9, 10, 11 and 12 at 7:30pm and matinee April 12 at 2pm

\$24 Adults, \$22 Students/Seniors/Military/Teachers with ID, \$18 Children 12 and Under

Special Discount for Military/Veterans and their guests April 9 at 7:30pm, tickets are just \$16 with code **MILITARY14**

Tickets & info available at: <http://www.mesaartscenter.com/index.php/shows/theater/oliver>

Mesa Arts Center Box Office: (480) 644-6500

Michael A. Pollack Real Estate Investments is the Title Partner of Copperstar Repertory Co. for *OLIVER!*

When it comes to supporting youth, the arts and some of the most important causes, Michael Pollack is one of the Valley's most generous entrepreneurs. And supporting Chandler's Copperstar Repertory Company is no exception.

About a year and half ago -- a fire destroyed the Repertory's offices, scene and costume shops and the company had to rebuild everything.

Pollack stepped in financially last October helping the theatre move into the beautiful Copperstar Studios at Pollack Plaza and Copperstar Scene Shops at Pollack Sunset Commerce Center. This spring the real estate mogul is back at it again – this time as the title sponsor of the community-wide production of *Oliver!*

"A lot of people are not aware that Copperstar Repertory is a non-profit, community theatre and every performance is put on by hard working volunteers," said Pollack. "The show must go on as we like to say, and I'm just honored to play a part in making sure these young actors have the support they need for one of their best performances yet."

Pollack's generosity couldn't come at a better time says Mary-Jo Okawa, Artistic Producing Director. "Being a nonprofit born during a downturned economy has been challenging. Last year we connected with Michael after we lost nearly everything in a fire and he has been an amazing supporter of ours ever since," said Okawa. "We could not have done what we have with Copperstar over the past year without the support of Michael Pollack."

About Michael A. Pollack Real Estate Investments

Michael A. Pollack Real Estate Investments specializes in commercial real estate and industrial property ownership and redevelopment throughout the Metropolitan Phoenix Market. They have been an institution in the commercial real estate market for over 40 years and have grown to become one of Arizona's largest privately held retail center owner and operator in the Southwest United States.

Michael A. Pollack Real Estate Investments has been voted “Best Owner/Operator for Commercial Properties in Arizona by Ranking Arizona Magazine for the past 10 years. Pollack Investments set their goals on putting pride back into run-down communities as a catalyst for many of their company’s real estate ventures with the goal of bringing occupancy rates to 100% on finished projects. The exceptional team of seasoned professionals at Michael A. Pollack Real Estate Investments has successfully acquired, re-positioned and managed over 10 million square feet of commercial projects in the Southwest United States.

For more information, visit pollackinvestments.com or follow Michael A. Pollack Real Estate Investments on **Twitter** and **Facebook**.

About Copperstar Repertory Co.

Founded in Chandler, Arizona by an entrepreneurial and spirited group of professionals in 2008, Copperstar Repertory Co. has built a reputation for artistic achievement that has attracted both local and national support. Copperstar prides itself on growing a highly recognizable brand that is becoming synonymous with quality, innovation, and dazzling musical theatre in the East Valley. Copperstar’s goal is to bring the joy of live performance to thousands of people each season through stunning performances and premiere education and outreach programs.

In the fall of 2013, Copperstar Studios opened at Pollack Plaza in Chandler with two beautiful state of the art dance studios. Copperstar Studios are buzzing with exciting activities with a wide variety of classes in singing, dancing and acting, performing arts camps, and rehearsals for their main stage productions. In addition, *Copperstar Celebrations*, custom parties for all occasions are now available at Copperstar Studios.

Copperstar is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing high quality enrichment, education and entertainment for community members of all ages. ***Bringing the Brilliance of Broadway to You!***

Press Contacts:

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To set-up an interview with Mary-Jo Okawa, please contact Mary at mjokawa@copperstarrep.org or call 480-250-2870