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THE ELEPHANT MAN
Drama by Bernard Pomerance
September 11 – October 4, 2009

(Eustis, FL)... *The Elephant Man* opens Friday, September 11, 2009 and runs four weekends closing October 4, 2009 at the historic State theatre in downtown Eustis. The Tony Award winning play by Bernard Pomerance launches Bay Street Players into its 35th Season.

This drama chronicles the profound and touching true story of **John Merrick**, a man hideously deformed since birth, who became known as the Elephant Man during the Victorian era in England. Laced with intelligent humor, the play follows Merrick as he finds hope for a more dignified life after a youth spent as a freak show attraction. Under the care of a brilliant and ambitious young doctor, Merrick transforms from a sensational object of pity to a sensitive and intelligent man.

Artistic Director **David Clevinger**, who also directed and designed the show, stays true to the playwright's intentions in which the actor playing Merrick conveys his physical deformity using only his voice and body language rather than any makeup or prosthetics. The production team includes: **William Dumas** as Lighting Designer, and **Bonnie Swanson** as Costume Designer. *The Elephant Man* stars **Nathan Raley** as John Merrick, **Jeff Lindberg** as Dr. Frederick Treves, and **Marty Stonerock** as Mrs. Kendal. Other featured performers include: **Rick Breese**, **Rachael Cain**, **Christopher Downs**, **Paula Keenan**, **Adrian Lepeltier**, **Bob Mullins**, **Chasteen Mullins**, and **Brendon Rogers**.

The Elephant Man runs September 11-October 4, 2009. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evening performances begin at 8:00 p.m. Sunday matinee performances begin at 2:30 p.m. Also, there is one Wednesday performance on September 23 at 8:00p.m., and one Saturday matinee performance on October 3 at 2:30 p.m. Patrons attending the opening night production on September 11 are invited to a champagne reception with the cast following the performance compliments of **Olivia's Coffeehouse**.

Tickets are \$19.00 except on Wednesday or Thursday when they are \$16.00. Call the Box Office at 352.357.7777 or visit www.baystreetplayers.org to purchase tickets online. Group discounts, season tickets and gift certificates are available. The Box Office is located at the historic State Theatre, 109 N. Bay Street, Eustis and it is open from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Elephant Man is sponsored in part by **United Arts of Central Florida**.

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