



Presents

# The World Premier of What If. . . ?

A newly commissioned musical

New York, NY, February 17, 2006 – City Lights Youth Theatre is thrilled to present an original commissioned musical entitled *What if...?*, written by David Austin, who is currently starring in the Off-Broadway hit *I Love You Because*, and directed by City Lights Artistic Director Paula Meyer. Using pop culture references, soaring ballads, and raucous, high-energy production numbers, *What If. . . ?* puts a fresh spin on the classic fable of *The Little Mermaid*, Hans Christian Anderson's tragic tale of forbidden love. *What If. . . ?* chronicles the personal journeys of the students attending Atlantis High and the mermaids residing in the lost city of Atlantis. All of these colorful characters come together, seeking self-discovery, revenge, friendship, and love, by asking the question we all face: “What If...?”

David Austin has worked for City Lights for the past two years as a Teaching Artist and Musical Director. He is now starring as Jeff Bennet in *I Love You Because*, which marks his NYC debut. A recent Seattle transplant, he toured and performed with 5th Avenue and Village Theatre. Roles include Freddie (*Chess*), Jesus (*JCS*), Shawn (*The Wedding Banquet*, international tour), Charlie (*Brigadoon*), Kevin (*Tommy*), Jack (*Into the Woods*) and Marvin (*Falsettos*). He is an award-winning/commissioned composer/lyricist and member of the BMI Workshop.

Last year, Ms. Meyer directed Stephen Sondheim’s magical masterpiece, *Into the Woods*, whose twisting tales of interwoven fairytales greet the audience with hilarity, poignancy, and a few lessons in morality. In years past, Ms. Meyer has staged numerous dramatic performances, including *The Wiz*, *Rags*, *West Side Story*, and *Grease*. As a director/artist-in-residence, she has worked for The Arvada Festival Playhouse, The Sharon Playhouse (New Work Series), numerous industrials, school districts, and camps. For over seven years, Paula was the Producing Artistic Director for an educational touring theatre company, *The Storytellers*, which she co-founded in Denver. Most recently, she designed and implemented the Sharon Playhouse Youth Theatre Program in Connecticut where she directed the summer 2003 musical adaptation of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Last summer, she directed *Snoopy* for the professional touring youth program at Barrington Stage in Massachusetts.

City Lights Youth Theatre’s mission is to provide young people from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to participate in theatre experiences in order to develop confidence, responsibility, teamwork, and a greater sense of self and community. City Lights programs engage New York City youth ages 3-19 in the creation and performance of theatre through after-school and weekend classes, full-scale productions, and in-school residencies. Please call 212-262-0200 or visit our website at [www.citylightstheatre.org](http://www.citylightstheatre.org) for more information on our programs.

## Performance Information:

*What If. . . ?*

Book, music & lyrics written by David Austin

Directed by Paula Meyer

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Renee Dumouchel

Marketing Associate (212).262-0200

**Performance Location:**

**The McGinn/Cazale Theatre above the Promenade  
2162 Broadway between 76<sup>th</sup> and 77<sup>th</sup> Streets**

**Tickets:**

**\$12 Adults; \$8 Students; \$6 Groups if 10+**

**Performance Times:**

**Wednesday, 2/22/06 @7PM-Preview Performance**

**Thursday, 2/23/06 @7PM**

**Friday, 2/24/06 @7PM**

**Saturday, 2/25/06 @ 7PM**

**Sunday, 2/26/06 @ 7PM**

**Wednesday, 3/1/06 @ 7PM**

**Thursday, 3/2/06 @7PM**

**Friday, 3/3/06 @7PM**

**Saturday, 3/4/06 @ 7PM**

**Sunday, 3/5/06 @ 5: 30PM**

**For Reservations, please contact Alicia at 212-262-0200**