



**For Immediate Release: July 10, 2010**

Contact: Brian Becker, Producing Artistic Director/CEO  
813-784-0536 (phone) 813-237-2301 (fax)  
brian.becker@newamericantheater.org

## **New American Theater moves in to BayWalk**

Tampa Bay Area's new professional musical theater company, New American Theater, through a partnership with CW Capital and Ciminelli Real Estate Services and will be opening their doors at BayWalk. The theater will occupy the former Ann Taylor store and will use the space for their educational workshops and classes, rehearsals and company offices.

NAT will host an open house at the BayWalk location on August 14, 2010 from 3-6pm. The public is invited to come and meet the instructors and staff, and learn about the classes NAT Academy will be offering. Classes are available throughout the year, and include acting, improvisation, vocal training, musical theater, dance, and stage management – available for ages 2 thru adult. “Our goal with the Academy is to grow the talent pool in our area,” said Brian Becker, NAT’s Founder and Producing Artistic Director. “We want to use our local talent as much as possible and these classes will help the actors move to the professional level.” The Academy’s signature class is called “act up!!!”, and it is structured for high school students. In the class, students have the opportunity to write their own musical from start to finish, while learning advanced techniques in all related disciplines. “act up!!!” recently performed their original musical “Remembering Putca” in the Shimberg Playhouse at the Straz Center. NAT’s instructors include Alison Burns, Nancy Garma, David O’Hara, Karol Desort and Karla Hartley.

In addition to classes, NAT will be performing their inaugural season of professional musical theater at the Palladium starting October 1. The inaugural season showcases a variety of styles in musical theater, including the classic “*Pump Boys and Dinettes*,” the Tampa/St. Petersburg Area Premier of “*A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline*,” the uniquely abstract *Songs for a New World*,” and the Tony-Award winning audience favorite, “*The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.”

NAT, which is a non-profit company, is currently in the midst of a membership drive to get the funds needed for their first production. “Professional musical theater is very costly to produce. We are hopeful the community and local businesses will support us,” said Becker. The production budget for their first show is \$57,000, of which they still need about \$30,000. The NAT Founders Club is a special incentive program for memberships sold prior to their first production.

Additional information on memberships, corporate sponsorships, classes and shows is available on their website – [www.newamericantheater.org](http://www.newamericantheater.org)

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