



1301 Hudson St., Hoboken, NJ 07030
www.hobokenmuseum.org :: 201-656-2240

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Frank Licato	Melissa Abernathy
Mile Square Theatre	Hoboken Historical Museum
frank.licato@milesquaretheatre.org	201-656-2240
	pr@hobokenmuseum.org

Sopranos Cast Members to Appear in Mile Square Theatre Reading of *Lamppost Reunion* at Hoboken Historical Museum, Friday & Saturday, May 18 – 19

Hoboken, NJ – April 30, 2007 – *Sopranos* stars Vincent Pastore, who played Salvatore “Big Pussy” Bonpensiero, and Robert Funaro, who played Eugene Pontecorvo on the HBO series, are appearing in Mile Square Theatre’s reading of Hoboken playwright Louis LaRusso’s 1975 Broadway hit, *Lamppost Reunion*. Also in the cast is Ricky Aiello, whose father Danny Aiello originated the role of “Biggie” in the Broadway production of *Lamppost Reunion*.

The reading, which will take place two nights only, Friday, May 18th, and Saturday, May 19th, at 7:30 p.m., at the Hoboken Historical Museum, 1301 Hudson Street in Hoboken, is a benefit for both Mile Square Theatre and the Hoboken Historical Museum. Tickets are \$25. Reservations are strongly recommended; please call 201-656-2240, ext. 6.

Directed by Frank Licato, who is Associate Artistic Director of Mile Square Theatre and who earned rave reviews for his recent production of Neil Labute’s *Fat Pig*, the Tony-nominated *Lamppost Reunion* asks the question, “What if Hoboken’s most famous son, Frank Sinatra, had come back to town at the height of his fame for a reunion with the guys he left behind in the singing group, Hoboken Four – how do you suppose that conversation would have gone?” Of course, the characters bear different names, but LaRusso had interviewed members of the Hoboken Four and he earned praise from the New York Times critic Clive Barnes for his realistic and raw dialogue.

The reading complements the Museum’s current exhibit, “From Another Time: Hoboken in the 1970s,” as the play is set in a gritty bar in the Mile Square City, some 30 years after Sinatra left his pals for the limelight. The exhibit and companion book feature more than 150 black and white images by three photographers who captured the spirit of the people living in Hoboken during the pivotal decade between its industrial heyday and reemergence as a real estate hotbed for urban professionals.

A lecture series hosted by the Museum features some of the colorful figures who helped shape and document Hoboken’s transformation: Dr. Martin Bierbaum, professor and executive director of the Municipal Land Use Center at the College of New Jersey, whose 1980 doctoral dissertation on Hoboken’s revitalization gave structure to the exhibit; developer Joseph Barry, whose company Applied Housing Associates helped salvage many historic buildings for thousands of units of low- and middle-income housing; and community activist Helen Manogue, whose Environment Committee helped beautify the city and blocked an oil tank farm on the abandoned waterfront. The series continues on June 10 at 4 p.m., with *New York Times* reporter Anthony DePalma, a born-and-raised Hobokenite, who will discuss his essay from the book which conveys the impact of urban revitalization. Michael Coleman and Robert Armstrong, who managed the Model Cities program that rescued much of Hoboken’s historic housing stock, will speak on June 24.

About the Mile Square Theatre

The mission of Mile Square Theatre is to promote the theatre arts in the community of Hoboken and Hudson County, New Jersey, by bringing together theatre artists and presenting works of quality that speak to a diverse audience and reflect the beauty and complexity of today’s world. We aim to achieve our goals through the production of new works and the classics, through community-based projects, school residencies, and classes. More information is available at www.milesquaretheatre.org.

About the Hoboken Historical Museum

Founded 1986, the Museum’s mission is to educate the public about Hoboken’s history, diverse culture, architecture and historic landmarks. In 2001, the Museum moved into one of the oldest buildings on the waterfront, in the former Bethlehem Steel shipyard, at 1301 Hudson St., Hoboken, where it maintains a series of rotating exhibits. The Museum is open six days a week, 2 – 9 pm on Tues. – Thurs., 1 – 5 pm on Fridays, and noon – 5 pm on weekends. It offers special exhibits, tours, events and lectures, as well as educational programs for adults and children on a weekly basis. An updated schedule of events and an online catalog of many items in its collections are available at www.hobokenmuseum.org. The Museum is a not-for-profit tax-exempt 501(c) entity.

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Note to editors: A digital image of the promotional poster for the play is available; photos from the exhibit are also available; please call 201-683-6935.