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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Roebling: The Story of the Brooklyn Bridge

October 15,16,17 and October 22,23,24

Theater to Go has been invited by the **Roebling Museum in Roebling NJ** to perform a new production of Mark L.Violi's play *Roebling: The Story of the Brooklyn Bridge*. This historical drama will have its New Jersey premier at the newly restored **Roebling Theater** in the historic village of Roebling,NJ

Based on a true story, *Roebling: The Story of the Brooklyn Bridge* brings to the stage the human drama surrounding the herculean construction effort to complete one of the most endearing and enduring engineering icons in the world. The play examines the beginnings of the project to build the Brooklyn Bridge in 1869 through its completion in 1883. John Roebling set out to build the most ambitious engineering project of the Industrial Revolution-The Brooklyn Bridge. But the project was beset with obstacles and tragedies that left the Roebling family and the bridge project in crisis and which required several dramatic reversals to achieve the goal of completing this massive engineering undertaking. Unexpected events continued to confront the Roebblings, who rallied together to complete this project, and in support of her father in law's vision, Emily Roebling provided an unusual response which challenged all 19th century assumptions about the abilities and traditional roles of women.

The legacy of the Roebling family is significant to all those who came to America in search of greater opportunity and to all those who have overcome incredible odds in pursuit of their dream. *Roebling: The Story of the Brooklyn Bridge* invites audiences to begin to get to know the Roebling family and their most magnificent accomplishment, as well as their undying dedication to each other. This is a play about a forward thinking family on the cutting edge of the Industrial Revolution. The play shows how this project foreshadowed the 20th century, in the huge ambition of the project itself, the revolutionary construction techniques, and in the recognition of the valuable role that a woman, Emily Roebling, played in the implementation of this enormous project.

This play focuses on the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City, but the Roebling family and Roebling Steel Company have roots that reach across America. Aside from the Brooklyn Bridge, Roebling Steel has built bridges across the country most notably in Ohio and Pittsburgh, and provided the steel cables for the Golden Gate Bridge. John Roebling was a German immigrant who settled in rural Pennsylvania in 1831 and soon after began producing wire rope. In 1848 he moved his steel business to Trenton, NJ. His sons eventually moved further south to found the industrial town of Roebling, NJ in 1905. Roebling NJ was a model company town, providing housing, medical care, retail services and entertainment for the workers. Although the plant closed in 1974, the homes remained and the town retains its original character.

The play will be performed in the historic, newly restored, **Roebing Theater** which was built in 1915 to provide a place of entertainment for the workers who lived in the factory town. The theater was the center of entertainment such as vaudeville and minstrel shows, boxing matches, silent movies, and later sound movies. This was also one of the first air conditioned buildings in America. Newly restored, the theater will hold the grand opening Gala and ribbon cutting on the opening night

About the Cast

Roebing: The Story of the Brooklyn Bridge (www.roebingplay.com), a drama by **Mark L. Violi** (www.markvioli.com), is directed by Ruth Markoe of **Theater to Go** (www.theatertogo.com) and features Beau Chemin as John Roebing, Derek Capre as Washington Roebing, Sarah McIlhenny as Emily Roebing, and a talented cast from New Jersey and Pennsylvania. *Roebing, the story of the Brooklyn Bridge* runs weekends from October 15- October 24. Audiences will be able to tour the museum as well as the town to get a flavor of the important contributions of this family and can participate in several special events:

- Friday October 15** **Special Opening Night Pre-Show Gala & Ribbon Cutting** for the Grand Re-Opening of the Newly Restored Historic Roebing Theater. Scheduled to begin at 5:30 pm
All seats for this special event featuring wine and cheese reception and special guests will be \$25.00
- Saturday October 23** **Audience and Cast "Meet & Greet" Session**
Join us following the performance for a special opportunity to meet the cast, director and playwright as they share their thoughts on the play and characters. This is your chance to ask them your questions in an informal and informational setting. No additional charge.
- Sunday October 17 & Sunday October 24** **Tour the Roebing Museum for Free**
Stop by the Roebing Museum prior to the 2:00 curtain, show your ticket reservation or purchase one and tour the museum for free!

Performance dates and ticket sales

Friday, October 15th - 8:00 pm (Gala to begin at 5:30pm)
Saturday, October 16th - 8:00 pm
Sunday, October 17th - 2:00 pm
Friday, October 22nd - 8:00 pm
Saturday, October 23rd - 8:00 pm
Sunday, October 24th - 2:00 pm

Performances to be held at the

Roebing Auditorium, 7th and Main Street, Roebing, NJ 08554

\$20.00 per ticket \$18.00-per ticket seniors (62+) and students with ID

Advance reservations payable by credit card. For reservations call **609-499-7200** or visit the Roebing Museum 100 Second Avenue, Roebing, NJ 08554

For more information:
www.RoebingPlay.com