



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Get in the Mood for “The Mystery of Edwin Drood!” Y-NOT Student Productions’ performance of unfinished Dickens novel to benefit Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc.**

**July 10, 2007, Santa Barbara, CA** – Unfinished mystery, suspense and a surprise ending that’s different every time. This year, Y-NOT Student Productions’ much anticipated staging of “The Mystery of Edwin Drood” will bring all of this excitement and more to the Santa Barbara community from August 8 through 11 at the Marjorie Luke Theatre. With a cast and crew composed entirely of local students, “The Mystery of Edwin Drood” will benefit the free professional and volunteer services of Hospice of Santa Barbara.

*The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (or ‘Drood’ for short) is a murder-mystery written by Charles Dickens and adapted for the stage by Rupert Holmes. Because Dickens died before he was able to finish the novel, the true identity of the murderer was never revealed. In the stage adaptation of ‘Drood’, the audience gets to vote for whom they think the murderer is, among other things. ‘Drood’ was first produced in 1985 by Joseph Papp with the New York Shakespeare Festival and ran for 608 performances, winning 5 Tony Awards including Best Musical and Best Actor. The Y-NOT production of “Drood” is being produced in special arrangement with Tams-Witmark Music Library.

Y-NOT Student Productions was formed in the summer of 2004 by a group of friends who wanted to perform but didn’t have the opportunity to do so. The founders of Y-NOT saw that there were plenty of opportunities for very young thespians in the community but those for high school and college students were extremely limited. What began as a few meetings around a kitchen table has turned into a thriving production company that allows for 50 plus students age 16-24 to be involved in all aspects of a musical theater production.

For the past two years, Y-NOT has brought together some of Santa Barbara’s finest student performers for productions of “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” and “Into the Woods.” “Drood” marks Y-NOT Student Productions’ third annual performance and largest production to date.

**‘The Mystery of Edwin Drood’ will be performed from August 8 through 10 at 7 p.m. and on August 11 at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for seniors, children and students. To purchase tickets, please call (805) 895-1769 or send a request via email to [tickets@ynotstudentproductions.com](mailto:tickets@ynotstudentproductions.com).**

Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc is a volunteer hospice providing cost-free services to meet the emotional, social and spiritual needs of people facing the end of life or grieving the death of a loved one. Licensed and experienced counselors provide one-on-one counseling, and counseling groups including those for children, widow and widowers, young widows and widowers, survivors of suicide and more. For more information, please call 563-8820 or visit [www.hospiceofsantabarbara.org](http://www.hospiceofsantabarbara.org).

Y-NOT Student Productions was formed in the summer of 2004 to provide a venue for local students aged 16 to 24 to perform and be involved in all aspects of a musical theatre production. Supported in part by the Marjorie Luke Theatre’s Dreier Rent Subsidy Fund, all aspects of Y-NOT, from directing to performing to fundraising, are run by local students. All net proceeds from Y-NOT plays are donated to a different non-profit in Santa Barbara. Since its inception in 2004, Y-NOT has given over 60 students the opportunity to participate in a musical theater production and has donated over \$10,000 to local non-profits.

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