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PRESS RELEASE

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***BYE BYE BIRDIE* SET TO OPEN THE 2010 SUMMER SEASON AT THE
WASHINGTON CROSSING OPEN AIR THEATRE**

Get ready to “Put on a Happy Face” when the hit musical, *Bye Bye Birdie* opens the 2010 Summer Theatre season at the historic Washington Crossing Open Air Theatre. Set to run for two consecutive weekends, performances of *Bye Bye Birdie* are set for Friday May 28, Saturday, May 29 and Sunday, May 30 at 7:30 pm. The musical comedy continues for a second weekend of performances on Friday, June 4, Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6 at 7:30 pm.

With book by Michael Stewart, music by Charles Strouse and lyrics by Lee Adams, *Bye Bye Birdie* is the perfect musical for the entire family. Singing sensation Conrad Birdie has been drafted into the army. Birdie’s agent/songwriter Albert Peterson, along with his girlfriend Rose, come up with one last publicity stunt – to have Conrad sing his newest song and kiss a girl on Ed Sullivan’s live television show. They travel to Sweet Apple, Ohio where the contest winner lives and the visit turns the small town and its inhabitant upside down. The musical score of *Bye Bye Birdie* includes such notable tunes as “Put on a Happy Face,” “Kids” and “A Lot of Livin’ to Do.”

The Open Air Theatre production of *Bye Bye Birdie* is directed by Louis Palena who also appears in the role of Albert Peterson. Area audiences have seen Louis in numerous musical

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roles from his many years at New Hope, PA's Bucks County Playhouse. Some of his leading roles include Bobby Child in *Crazy for You*, Billy Lawlor in *42nd Street* and Sr. Mary Amnesia in *Nunsense*. . .*A-Men!* to name just a few. Choreography is by Jordan Brennan. Also a regular face to area theatregoers, Jordan just recently returned from performing for Holland America Cruise Lines as a featured performer. The *Bye Bye Birdie* cast features Christie Lee Williams as Rose Alvarez, Erin Rose of Hamilton, NJ as Mrs. MacAfee, Toni Thompson of Morristown, NJ as Mrs. Peterson and Jill Palena of New Hope, PA as Kim MacAfee. The cast will also include a number of teenage actors and actresses from Hunterdon County in New Jersey and Bucks County in Pennsylvania.

The Washington Crossing Open Air Theatre production of *Bye Bye Birdie* runs on Friday, Saturday and Sunday on May 28, 29 and 30 and June 4, 5 and 6, 2010. Performance times are 7:30 each evening. Ticket prices are \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children (12 years old and under.) Tickets may be purchased on the day of the performance at the Open Air Theatre Box Office located at Washington Crossing State Park in Titusville, New Jersey. Group rates and multi-ticket packages are available in advance. Visit www.DPACatOAT.com for details.

The Washington Crossing Open Air Theatre is located at in the Washington Crossing State Park at 355 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road in Titusville, New Jersey. For a complete list of 2010 shows, discounts, directions and more, visit www.DPACatOAT.com or call (267) 885-9857.