



Sprecher and Forlenza's Global Company Will Produce *Little House, Rebecca* and *Havana* Musicals

By Andrew Gans
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Producers Ben Sprecher and Louise Forlenza have joined forces to create Global Broadway Productions Inc., a new company to develop and produce new musicals for Broadway and around the world.

Three Broadway-aimed productions are currently on the company's plate: *Little House on the Prairie*, *Rebecca* and *Havanna*. A select group of investors will provide capital for the trio of musicals. The day-to-day operations of Global Broadway will be overseen by Sprecher and Forlenza.

Details about the three musicals follow.

● *Little House on the Prairie*

Book by Rachel Sheinken, music by Rachel Portman, lyrics by Donna DiNovelli and direction by Francesca Zambello.

The musical will premiere Aug. 15 at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis.

A Broadway bow is planned for the 2008-2009 season, with a subsequent national tour.

● *Rebecca*

Based on the classic Daphne Du Maurier novel.

Book and lyrics by Michael Kunze, music by Sylvester Levay, direction by Francesca Zambello.

Rebecca made its world premiere in 2006 in Vienna, where it continues to play to sold-out houses. The musical is also currently playing in Tokyo and is scheduled to open in Berlin and Helsinki.

Global Broadway is aiming for a Broadway bow in spring 2010.

● *Havana*

Music by Frank Wildhorn, lyrics by Jack Murphy and book by Pulitzer Prize winner Nilo Cruz.

An original musical set in the days leading up to Castro's takeover of Cuba.

Kathleen Raitt, William Franzblau and Jerry Frankel will co-produce this project.

Havana is aiming for a fall 2010 Broadway bow.

Ben Sprecher founded the Sprecher Organization in 1997, an independent theatrical production and general management company. He has produced *Moon for the Misbegotten*, *Legends!*, *The Odd Couple*, *Fortune's Fool*, *Sly Fox* and *Mark Twain Tonight*, among others. His shows have received two Tony Awards, two Pulitzer Prizes, 11 New York Drama Critics Awards, 14 Outer Critic Circle Awards, five Lucille Lortel Awards and numerous Obie Awards.

Louise Forlenza most recently produced the revival of *A Moon for the Misbegotten* and the musical *Lennon*. Next season she will be represented on Broadway with the revivals of David Mamet's *American Buffalo* and *Stalag 17*.

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