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The Unusual Suspects Honors L.A. County Supervisor and *Nip/Tuck* Star
May 19, 2011 – Downtown Los Angeles

Los Angeles, February 3, 2011- The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company is proud to announce Los Angeles County Supervisor **Zev Yaroslavsky** and *Nip/Tuck* Star **Roma Maffia** will be honored for their work and advocacy with underserved youth at The Unusual Suspects Third Annual Benefit on Thursday, May 19, 2011 in Downtown Los Angeles.

“As a volunteer for over ten years, I've seen firsthand how The Unusual Suspects opens up a world of possibilities for youth in troubled communities, encouraging them to find their voice and empowering them to reach their dreams.” -- Roma Maffia, Actor and Honoree

Proceeds from the event will support the ongoing efforts of The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company, an award-winning, model mentoring program that uses theatre arts to reach underserved youth in the juvenile justice system, foster care, gangs, treatment centers and violence plagued neighborhoods.

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky has long been a staunch advocate for theatre arts in Los Angeles County and for their demonstrated benefits in reaching at-risk youth. He has consistently supported efforts by The Unusual Suspects to educate the public on the plight of troubled youth in foster care and the juvenile justice system. Yaroslavsky began his political career in 1975 at the age of 26, serving 19 years on the Los Angeles City Council before he was elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1994, representing the Third District. Throughout his career, Supervisor Yaroslavsky has been a leader on issues of fiscal management, planning and transportation, environmental protection, arts and culture, health care and social services.

Actor Roma Maffia has been supporting The Unusual Suspects as a volunteer and patron for over ten years. Ms. Maffia began her acting career on the New York stage in Off-Broadway productions. Her numerous television credits include *Chicago Hope*, *Profiler*, *Criminal Minds*, *Dexter*, *Boston Legal*, *Ghost Whisperer*, and *Law & Order*. Film appearances include *Disclosure* and most recently *Kingshighway*. Ms. Maffia is best known for her portrayal of Dr. Liz Cruz on the hit FX series *Nip/Tuck*.

Past honorees have included celebrated actor Bruce Greenwood and his wife Susan Devlin, Philanthropist Paula Litt, and Pulitzer Prize-Nominated Playwright, David Henry Hwang.

Born out of the ashes of the 1992 L.A. Riots, The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company has grown into an award winning, model mentoring program using theatre arts to reach youth in underserved and at-risk environments, including kids in foster care, violence-plagued neighborhoods, gangs and juvenile corrections facilities. The Unusual Suspects offers two consecutive 10-week (60-80 hours) playwriting and performance workshops where youth develop self-esteem, tolerance, and the communication and coping skills needed to make positive life choices. For more information, visit The Unusual Suspects website at www.TheUnusualSuspects.org.

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