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Bruce Greenwood Accepts Role Cast By At-Risk Youth

**In the Staged Reading Performance of an Original Play
Written by Teens at San Fernando High School**

Tuesday, April 20th at 6:30pm

April 2, 2010, Los Angeles, CA- Celebrated actor **Bruce Greenwood** of “Star Trek” fame will perform in a staged reading of an original play written by underserved youth at San Fernando High School on Tuesday, April 20th at 6:30pm in the San Fernando High School Auditorium. Joining the cast of professional actors will be **Emmy Award Winning actress Maile Flanagan** who is currently the voice of the title character in the worldwide hit cartoon “Naruto.”

The reading is a part of The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company’s new after-school program at San Fernando High School (supported by City Council Member Richard Alarcón 7th District, Educare-Beyond the Bell, and LA Education Partnership). The Unusual Suspects, an award-winning mentorship program, is filling a gap in arts education at the high school as well as serving an important gang prevention function in the San Fernando and Pacoima community.

- San Fernando High is a federally designated Title 1 School—indicating a majority of low-income students—with average test scores well below district and state averages.
- Youth are often subject to gang intimidation, coercion into joining gangs, or being the victim or witness of a violent crime. The crime rate in Pacoima is 30% higher than the LA County average.
- Children exposed to violence, either as victims or witnesses, are more likely to become juvenile and adult offenders.

This original play follows the story of Bella, a love sick teenager caught between caring for her ailing mother and her puzzling relationship with two boys, Robert and Todd. Traveling from an ice cream parlor to Paris to outer space, this coming of age story examines the peculiar ways people escape their personal problems and how they finally choose to confront them.

Bruce Greenwood has found time within his busy acting career to support the Unusual Suspects for more than seventeen years and will be honored at the organization’s upcoming benefit, *The Future is Now* on May 20, 2010. Bruce was last seen in the Paramount Pictures blockbuster “Star Trek” as Captain Christopher Pike opposite Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto, and Eric Bana for director J.J. Abrams. He is well known for his outstanding portrayal of President John F. Kennedy in the drama “Thirteen Days” which earned him a Golden Satellite Award for Best Supporting Actor. In July he will appear opposite Steve Carell and Paul Rudd in the comedy “Dinner for Schmucks” for director Jay Roach of “Meet the Parents” fame. Three movies to come in the fall are “Barney’s Version”, “Meek’s Cutoff” and “Mao’s Last Dancer”.

The staged reading will take place Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 6:30pm in the San Fernando High School Auditorium located at 11133 O'Melveny Avenue, San Fernando, CA 91340. Admission is free. To make a reservation or for more information call 213-488-8488 x201 or email RSVP@theunusualsuspects.org.

*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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