



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Adam Arkin to Host Unusual Suspects Benefit

Sunday, October 17, 2010 – Los Feliz

September 15, 2010, Los Angeles, CA- Emmy Award Nominated actor and director **Adam Arkin** will host a staged reading performance of *Hard Times*, an original play written by youth at L.A. County Probation Camp David Gonzales, to benefit The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company. Guest performers will include **Hector Elizondo** (Valentine's Day), **Bruce Greenwood** (Star Trek), **Sam Jaeger** (Parenthood), **Roma Maffia**, (Nip/Tuck), **Wayne Wilderson** and Unusual Suspects Youth Alumni. The reading will take place at Mount Hollywood Church in Los Feliz on Sunday, October 17, 2010 from 7:00-9:00pm.

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.

- Los Angeles County is the epicenter of gang activity and violence nationwide with more than 1,400 gangs.
- It costs taxpayers \$250,000 a year to incarcerate one youth in the Los Angeles County corrections system compared to only \$11,000 per year to educate one youth.
- Statistics show that nearly all youth that are mentored stay in school, avoid gang participation, and are less likely to use drugs.

"I love this program. The Unusual Suspects has taken kids with no visible future and led them to college, created friends out of enemies and turned gangbangers into teachers."

--Guest Performer & Celebrity Actor, Bruce Greenwood

The Fall Staged Reading Benefit of *Hard Times* will be held Sunday, October 17, 2010 from 7:00-9:00pm at Mount Hollywood Church, 4607 Prospect Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027. The staged reading will be followed by a reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres from local vendors. Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased online at BrownPaperTickets.com or by calling 1-800-838-3006. For additional information please visit The Unusual Suspects website at www.TheUnusualSuspects.org or contact Frances Carley at 213-488-8488, x205, francy@theunusalsuspects.org. Guest Performers are subject to change.

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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