

# NON PROFIT MEDIA ALERT

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**PR CONTACT: Marci Bracco**

**Tel: (831) 747-7455 / Email: [marcibracco@yahoo.com](mailto:marcibracco@yahoo.com)**

## **Acclaimed Writer and Director Bring *New Pastures of Heaven* to Salinas for Steinbeck Festival**

### **Staged Reading and Talkback Give Audience Access to Actors and Creators**

**WHAT:** Pastures of Heaven: A Staged Reading and Talkback of the New Play  
Adapted from John Steinbeck's work by Octavio Solis  
Directed by Jonathan Moscone  
Performed by California Shakespeare Theater Company, in collaboration with Word for Word Performing Arts Company

**WHEN:** Two days:  
SATURDAY, August 7, at 7:30 pm and  
SUNDAY, August 8, at 2:30 pm

**WHERE:** National Steinbeck Center, One Main Street , Salinas .

**PRICE:** \$18/\$10 Members of the National Steinbeck Center

**DETAILS:** The Steinbeck Festival will present two staged readings of scenes of the new play, *Pastures of Heaven*, followed by a discussion and talkback with the actors and acclaimed creators Octavio Solis and Jonathan Moscone. Premiered in June, this brand-new, richly theatrical play was developed in collaboration with Word for Word Performing Arts Company. The play celebrates the art of storytelling as it depicts comic and heartbreaking characters in search of happiness in the seemingly idyllic landscape of Steinbeck's own Salinas Valley , known around the world as the "Pastures of Heaven." For tickets to the performance in Salinas , visit [steinbeckfestival.org](http://steinbeckfestival.org). For more information on CalShakes and the Pastures of Heaven production, see [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

*"One of the most adventurous theatrical undertakings of the year."*  
- The San Francisco Chronicle

#### **ABOUT THE 2010 STEINBECK FESTIVAL**

The National Steinbeck Center presents the 30th annual Steinbeck Festival—Journeys: Steinbeck Around the World, from August 5–8, 2010 . This summer, set out for the open road. Your destination: the world, today and at key moments in history, with John Steinbeck as your guide. The 2010 Steinbeck Festival will explore journeys of all kinds, throughout America and the wide world, through the eyes of John Steinbeck and others. Each year, hundreds of people from all walks of life attend the annual four-day festival, which includes talks, tours, film and the visual and performing arts. This year, for the first time, the Steinbeck Festival will be celebrated not only in Salinas , City of Letters , but in literary locales throughout the wide world, from Berlin to Hanoi to Paris to Mexico City , through the first Steinbeck Festival International Fringe Fest. More information is available on the 2010 Steinbeck Festival at [www.steinbeck.org](http://www.steinbeck.org).

#### **BACKGROUND ON THE THEME OF THE 30TH ANNUAL STEINBECK FESTIVAL**

While John Steinbeck was most famous for his books set in California , much of Steinbeck's work was written in or about places far from his home state. Steinbeck traveled regularly to Mexico , and over one third of his works are either set in

Mexico or feature characters of Mexican descent. He spent time in Europe , and during WW II Steinbeck served as a war correspondent for the New York Herald Tribune in Great Britain and the Mediterranean area. A Russian Journal (1948) was an account of the author's unique journey to the Soviet Union with the photographer Robert Capa. In 1959 Steinbeck spent nearly a year at Discove Cottage in England , working with Morte d'Arthur, one of his favorite books from his childhood. After returning to the United States , he, along with his wife's poodle, Charley, became reacquainted with his own country and in 1962 the national trek was published as Travels with Charley in Search of America. In later years he also provided special reports abroad, including in and about Vietnam , and divided his time between New York City , Sag Harbor and California .

Today, John Steinbeck's literature is translated throughout the world. Its popularity has never wavered in Europe and Steinbeck has a vibrant following in the Pacific Rim . His enduring and universal themes continue to touch people of all backgrounds.

## **BACKGROUND ON THE NATIONAL STEINBECK CENTER**

The National Steinbeck Center is located in Salinas , California , the birthplace of John Steinbeck. The National Steinbeck Center is a museum and cultural institution whose mission is "to tell the story of John Steinbeck's rich legacy, and to present, create and explore stories of the human condition." The Center offers three visitor experiences: the John Steinbeck Exhibition Hall, which houses seven themed theaters with film clips and interactive exhibits from the Nobel prize-winning author's works, the Rabobank Agriculture Museum, which explores the stories of the Salinas Valley "from field to fork," and changing art and cultural exhibits and a variety of educational and public programs. For more information about the National Steinbeck Center or past festivals, please visit the National Steinbeck Center 's website at [www.steinbeck.org](http://www.steinbeck.org).

For more information on upcoming events or purchase tickets call (831) 775-4721 .