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'Rebecca' heads to Broadway

Musical adaptation set for 2010

By DAVID ROONEY

Under the new banner of Global Broadway, producers Ben Sprecher and Louise Forlenza have pacted to bring the musical adaptation of Daphne du Maurier's novel "Rebecca" to Broadway in 2010.

Francesca Zambello's production premiered in 2006 at Vienna's Vereinigte Bühnen Wien Theater, where it registered more than 406,000 admissions. It's playing in Tokyo before planned engagements in Berlin and Helsinki in the coming months. The show has a book and lyrics by Michael Kunze and music by Sylvester Levay, who previously teamed on Euro hit stage tuner "Elisabeth."

The German-language script will be adapted by Christopher Hampton, represented on Broadway this season with his new version of Chekhov's "The Seagull," opening Oct. 1.

Du Maurier's mystery story of a naive young woman haunted by the lingering shadow of her nobleman husband's late first wife became the basis for Alfred Hitchcock's first American film, starring Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine.

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