

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Media Advisory

Contact: Anne Brooks Pfister  
w) 510.642.0448 / c) 510.688.8376  
annepf@msri.org - [www.msri.org](http://www.msri.org)

### From M\*A\*S\*H to M\*A\*T\*H: Alan Alda in person

#### How the versatile actor went from the O.R. to the frontlines of science

- **WHAT** – “M\*A\*T\*H: Alan Alda in conversation with Bob Osserman.” Alan Alda, Emmy award-winning actor and author of bestselling memoirs, will talk with mathematician Bob Osserman about Alda’s lifelong interest in science. Alda has also sought to promote a greater understanding of science by the public, which led him to host the PBS series *Scientific American Frontiers* for eleven years. For more information, see: [www.msri.org/calendar/specialevents/SpecialEventInfo/314/show\\_specialevent](http://www.msri.org/calendar/specialevents/SpecialEventInfo/314/show_specialevent)
  - **WHEN** – **THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2008 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**
  - **WHERE** – **The Roda Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre**, located at 2015 Addison Street (near the Downtown Berkeley BART station on Shattuck Avenue) in Berkeley.
  - **WHO** – **ALAN ALDA** has acted in many starring roles on stage, screen, and television, including that of Hawkeye Pierce on the classic TV series *M\*A\*S\*H* and, more recently, he appeared as Senator Arnold Vinick on *The West Wing*. Alda has had the distinction of being nominated for an Oscar, a Tony, and an Emmy all in the same year. And, also in that year (2005) his memoir, entitled *Never Have Your Dog Stuffed, and Other Things I've Learned*, became a national bestseller. His second book, [Things I Overheard While Talking to Myself](#), is currently a best seller as well. He has appeared often on the Broadway stage, where he received three Tony nominations. Altogether, Alda has been nominated for the Emmy 32 times and has won six – as actor, writer and director. In 1994 he was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame. In 2006, for his efforts in helping to broaden the public’s understanding of science, he was presented with the National Science Board’s Public Service Award. In the spring of 2008 Alda will be working with physicist Brian Greene in presenting the first annual World Science Festival in New York City.
- BOB OSSERMAN** is Special Projects Director at MSRI and Professor Emeritus at Stanford. Before joining MSRI in 1990, he was Mellon Professor for Interdisciplinary Studies at Stanford. He has been involved with outreach activities to the general public that are related to mathematics, including the *Fermat Fest* in 1993. He has engaged in lively conversations with such luminaries as playwrights Tom Stoppard on “Mathematics in *Arcadia*,” and Michael Frayn (*Copenhagen*), biographer Sylvia Nasar (*A Beautiful Mind*), playwright David Auburn (*Proof*), comedians Steve Martin and Robin Williams in the 2002 event *Funny Numbers*, and composer Philip Glass in 2006. He is the author of the book, *Poetry of the Universe: A Mathematical Exploration of the Cosmos*, which provides a non-technical audience with an introduction to cosmology.
- **HOW** – **Tickets are \$22 and \$14.** Tickets can be purchased from the Box Office at **510.647.2949** or **1.888.427.8849**, or online at [www.berkeleyrep.org/ticketing/calendar/index.aspx](http://www.berkeleyrep.org/ticketing/calendar/index.aspx)
  - **SPONSOR** – **THE MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE (MSRI)**. MSRI recently reached its 25-year anniversary as an independent institute dedicated to mathematical research. The Institute, based in Berkeley, sponsors math-related public events as part of a longstanding tradition of serving the community.
  - **PHOTOS** – High resolution photograph of Alan Alda available by request. Please contact Anne Pfister at [annepf@msri.org](mailto:annepf@msri.org) or call 510.642.0448.

The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI, [www.msri.org](http://www.msri.org)) is one of the world’s premiere centers for research in the mathematical sciences, and has been advancing mathematical research through workshops and conferences since its founding as an independent institute in 1982. More than 1,700 mathematical scientists visit MSRI each year in Berkeley, CA, many for stays of up to one academic year. MSRI actively works to enhance mathematics education in the Bay Area by supporting math circles for middle- and high-school students and teachers. The Institute has been funded primarily by the National Science Foundation with additional support from other government agencies, private foundations, academic and corporate sponsors, and individual donors.