

news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicago Shakespeare Theater Inaugurates New Program
SHARING THE WORLD'S STAGE
A Series of Collaborative Interactions
Bridging the Work of Chicago Theater Artists
With Their International Peers

2007/08 World's Stage Series Opens with American Premiere
FAREWELL UMBRELLA (AU REVOIR PARAPLUIE)

Chicago—October 30, 2007—Chicago Shakespeare Theater (CST) announced today the inauguration of **Sharing the World's Stage**, a new program designed to connect Chicago artists with international guests brought to Chicago under the auspices of the **World's Stage Series**, Chicago Shakespeare's international programming initiative. The first event of Sharing the World Stage will be offered in conjunction with ***Farewell Umbrella (Au Revoir Parapluie)***, sponsored by **The Boeing Company**. Marking the triumphant return of **James Thiérrée**, known for his stunning physical spectacles, ***Farewell Umbrella (Au Revoir Parapluie)*** will be staged at Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier for nine performances, November 21 through December 1, 2007 in the Courtyard Theater.

"Boeing's idea behind supporting this work was to think beyond the performance and provide an opportunity for local artists to experience this physical and magical theater form," said **Nora Moreno Cargie**, **Director of Global Corporate Citizenship** for The Boeing Company in Chicago. "This type of innovation will certainly grow audiences and strengthen the theater community."

The Boeing Company's support of innovative international programming at Chicago Shakespeare Theater not only brings the creative talent of James Thiérrée back to Chicago with the American premiere of ***Farewell Umbrella (Au Revoir Parapluie)***, but also inaugurates a new series of opportunities for Chicago artists to engage with the international innovators presented in the World's Stage Series. The first event is an **Experts' Panel** moderated by director **David H. Bell**, to discuss the growing physical theater movement in Chicago with artistic directors from **500 Clown, The Actors Gymnasium, The Building Stage, The House Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Plasticene, Redmoon Theater** and others on the leading edge of the movement. The event will be held at Lookingglass Theatre Company on Monday, November 19, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. A second event, ***Behind the Art of James Thiérrée***, features screenings of Thiérrée's production, ***Bright Abyss***, and the documentary "The Making of ***Bright Abyss***." A Q&A session with award-winning French director Robinson Savary will follow. The free event will be held at Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Sunday, November 25 at 12:00 p.m. prior to the 3 p.m. matinee of ***Farewell Umbrella (Au Revoir Parapluie)***. Chicago Shakespeare will also host an intimate workshop, by invitation, for Chicago theater professionals: **Circus and the Human Form** with James Thiérrée. Artists attending any of the events will be offered complimentary tickets to ***Farewell Umbrella (Au Revoir Parapluie)***, thanks to the generous support of The Boeing Company.

Farewell Umbrella (Au Revoir Parapluie) has already received standing ovations and critical acclaim in France.

“Although Thiérrée is weary of being compared to Charlie Chaplin, his grandfather, you can’t help noticing how closely he resembles the little tramp” (*Bloomberg*). Evoking the breathtaking artistry of *Bright Abyss*, Thiérrée’s 2005 production that played to sold-out CST houses, *Farewell Umbrella (Au Revoir Parapluie)* dazzles audiences with what *L’Express* declares “has made the world magical again!” *Farewell Umbrella (Au Revoir Parapluie)* is performed by some of the world’s finest acrobats, dancers and musicians: **Kaori Ito, Magnus Jakobsson, Satchie Noro, Maria Sendow and James Thiérrée** and begins its limited engagement on November 21, with performances scheduled through December 1, 2007 in Chicago Shakespeare’s Courtyard Theater. Tickets are \$46 (\$42, ages 25 and under) Tuesday through Thursday and \$56 (\$52, ages 25 and under) Friday through Sunday. For further information and to purchase tickets, call the Chicago Shakespeare Theater Box Office at 312.595.5600 or visit the Theater’s website at www.chicagoshakes.com.

Sharing the World’s Stage continues in 2008 with **An Afternoon with Shaw and Shakespeare** in conjunction with **Shaw Festival of Canada’s** production of ***Saint Joan***. The program will feature Shaw Chicago’s one-act, “Shaw vs. Shakespeare: A Meeting of the Minds” and a spirited debate between CST Artistic Director Barbara Gaines and Shaw Chicago Artistic Director Robert Scogin at Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Saturday, January 12, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. Chicago Shakespeare will also host **Acting Shaw** with members of the Shaw Festival Company, by invitation. Performances of *Saint Joan* are scheduled January 8 through 20, 2008 and tickets are \$54–70. In connection with ***Fragments***, directed by the world-renowned **Peter Brook** and based on texts by **Samuel Beckett**, visiting artists **Jos Houben, Kathryn Hunter** and **Marcello Magni** join in conversation for **Acting Modern Theatre** at the Theatre School at DePaul University on Friday, February 1, 2008, at 12:00 p.m. CST will also host **Acting Beckett** with Kathryn Hunter, by invitation, for Chicago theater professionals. Performances of *Fragments* are scheduled January 30 through February 9, 2008, and tickets are \$46–57.

Chicago Shakespeare Theater is proud to be among Chicago’s foremost arts institutions that place a priority on forging global connections by cultivating international cultural events in Chicago. Through the World’s Stage Series, CST has brought to its stage 18 international productions, and has shared its uniquely American brand of Shakespeare performance with the world. For Chicago artists and audiences, the World’s Stage Series is a passport to experiencing exceptional stage work.

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Farewell Umbrella Presenting Sponsor: The Boeing Company

Additional project funding for *Farewell Umbrella* provided by Dick and Lou Hurckes, with grant support from the Julius Frankel Foundation, The Rhoades Foundation, and Étant donné: The French-American Fund for the Performing Arts, a program of FACE.

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