



# steppenwolf

## PRESS RELEASE

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**Steppenwolf presents *August: Osage County*  
Shapiro directs Letts' world premiere featuring 8 ensemble members**

Chicago—Steppenwolf Theatre Company presents *August: Osage County* by ensemble member Tracy Letts. Ensemble member Anna D. Shapiro directs a cast of 13, including ensemble members Ian Barford, Francis Guinan, Mariann Mayberry, Amy Morton, Sally Murphy, Jeff Perry, Rondi Reed and Rick Snyder, with Deanna Dunagan, Kimberly Guerrero, Fawn Johnstin, Dennis Letts and Troy West. The production runs June 28 - August 26, 2007, in the Steppenwolf Downstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted. The press performance is Saturday, July 7, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.

When their patriarch vanishes, the Weston clan must return to their three-story home in rural Oklahoma to get to the heart of the matter. With rich insight and brilliant humor, Letts paints a vivid portrait of a Midwestern family at a turning point.

“*August: Osage County* is a play that not many theaters would undertake: a new play with 13 characters, a play rigorous in its thought, vigorous in its language, a play that delves deeply into our human challenges and heartbreaks, and a play that brings to vivid life the complex tumult of the humor, wit and sorrow of our most intimate connections,” comments Artistic Director Martha Lavey.

The designers of *August: Osage County* are Todd Rosenthal (set), Ann Wrightson (lights), Ana Kuzmanic (costumes), Richard Woodbury (sound) and David Singer (original music). Cecilie O'Reilly is the dialect coach. Deb Styer is the stage manager and Michelle Medvin is the assistant stage manager.

<b>Title:</b>	<i>August: Osage County</i>
<b>Playwright:</b>	ensemble member Tracy Letts
<b>Director:</b>	ensemble member Anna D. Shapiro
<b>Location:</b>	Steppenwolf Downstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted
<b>Dates:</b>	<b>Previews:</b> June 28- July 7, 2007 <b>Opening:</b> July 8, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. <b>Regular Run:</b> July 10- August 26, 2007
<b>Curtain Times:</b>	Tuesday through Sunday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday matinees on August 8, 15 and 22, 2007, at 2:00 p.m.

There will be no performance on Wednesday, July 4, 2007. There will be no Sunday evening performances on August 12, 19 and 26, 2007.

**Ticket price:**

**Previews: \$20-\$40**

**Regular Run: \$20-\$65**

**Twenty \$20 tickets**, exclusively sponsored by Jones Day, are available at Audience Services beginning at 11:00 a.m. on the day of each performance (limit 2 per person).

Half-price rush tickets are available one hour before each show.

**Audience Services:**

1650 N. Halsted, 312-335-1650

Online ticketing available at [www.steppenwolf.org](http://www.steppenwolf.org)

**Special events:**

**Free post-show discussions** are offered after every performance.

**Piece Beer Tasting Night:** Tuesday, July 10, begins in the lobby at 5:30 p.m.; \$50

**Vinci Wine Tasting Night:** Wednesday, July 18, begins in the lobby at 5:30 p.m.; \$60

**Theater Thursday:** Thursday, July 19, begins at 6:00 p.m., \$35

Steppenwolf is located near all forms of public transportation and is wheelchair accessible. Street and lot parking are available. Assistive listening devices are available for every performance.

Committed to the principle of ensemble performance through the collaboration of a company of actors, directors and playwrights, Steppenwolf Theatre Company's mission is to advance the vitality and diversity of American theater by nurturing artists, encouraging repeatable creative relationships and contributing new works to the national canon. The company, formed in 1976 by a collective of actors, is dedicated to perpetuating an ethic of mutual respect and the development of artists through on-going group work. Steppenwolf has grown into an internationally renowned company of forty-one artists whose talents include acting, directing, playwriting, filmmaking and textual adaptation.

(more/bios)

## **Biographies, August: Osage County**

**Tracy Letts** (Playwright) became an ensemble member in 2002 and has appeared at Steppenwolf in *Betrayal*, *The Pillowman*, *Last of the Boys*, *The Pain and the Itch*, *The Dresser*, *Homebody/Kabul*, *The Dazzle*, *Glengarry Glen Ross* (also Dublin and Toronto), *Three Days of Rain*, *Road to Nirvana*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and the Steppenwolf for Young Adults production of *The Glass Menagerie*. He appeared in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Alliance Theatre Company) directed by ensemble member Amy Morton. Previous Chicago stage credits include *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial* (A Red Orchid Theatre), *Conquest of the South Pole* (Famous Door), *Bouncers* (the Next Lab) and his directorial debut at the Lookingglass Theatre with *Great Men of Science Nos. 21 and 22*. He is the author of *Man from Nebraska*, which was produced at Steppenwolf in 2003 and was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize; *Killer Joe*, which has been produced in Chicago, London and New York; and *Bug*, which has played in New York, Chicago and London. He has appeared on television in *The District*, *Profiler*, *Prison Break*, *The Drew Carey Show*, *Seinfeld* and *Home Improvement*. Film appearances include *Guinevere*, *U.S. Marshals* and *Chicago Cab*.

**Anna D. Shapiro** (Director) is an ensemble member at Steppenwolf, where her directing credits include *The Unmentionables* by Bruce Norris (also at Yale Rep), the world premiere of Bruce Norris' *The Pain and the Itch* (also in New York), Robert Anderson's *I Never Sang for My Father*, the world premiere of Tracy Letts' *Man from Nebraska*, *Until We Find Each Other* by Brooke Berman, *Purple Heart* by Bruce Norris (also in Galway, Ireland), *The Drawer Boy* by Michael Healey, the world premiere of *The Ordinary Yearning of Miriam Buddwing* by Alexandra Gersten-Vassilaros, Warren Leight's *Side Man* (also in Ireland, Australia and Vail, Colorado), Richard Greenberg's *Three Days of Rain* and the world premiere of Bruce Norris' *The Infidel*. Other credits include *A Number* at American Conservatory Theatre, *The Drawer Boy* with ensemble member John Mahoney at the Paper Mill Playhouse, *Iron* at Manhattan Theatre Club, *A Fair Country* by Jon Robin Baitz at the Huntington Theatre Company, *The Infidel* at Philadelphia Theatre Company and Edwin Sanchez' *Trafficking in Broken Hearts* for the Atlantic Theatre Company. Shapiro is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama and the recipient of a 1996 Princess Grace Award. She joined the faculty of Northwestern University as head of the Graduate Directing Program in Theatre in the fall of 2002.

**Ian Barford** (Little Charles) is a Steppenwolf ensemble member and appeared most recently in *Betrayal*. He was the recipient of the National Theatre Conference/Steppenwolf Theatre 'most promising artist' award in 1996. Work with Steppenwolf includes *Love Song*, *Lost Land*, *The Libertine*, *Three Days of Rain*, *The Berlin Circle*, *As I Lay Dying*, *Time of My Life* and *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, which also played on Broadway (Outer Circle Critics award nomination). Other Chicago credits include *All the Rage* and *Design for Living* at the Goodman; *Othello* at Chicago Shakespeare and *Mad Forest* at Remains. In Los Angeles, Mr. Barford has appeared in *Dead End* (Ahmanson Theatre) and *The Weir*, *God's Man in Texas* and *Take Me Out* at the Geffen Playhouse. Film Credits include *13 Going on 30*, *Road to Perdition*, *Catch Me if You Can* and *Tick-Tock*. TV credits include *Medium*, *Jake in Progress*, *Numbers*, *Without a Trace*, *Zoey 101*, *Strong Medicine*, *Turks and Days of Our Lives*.

**Deanna Dunagan** (Violet Weston) returns to Steppenwolf for the first time since her Jeff Award-winning performance in *I Never Sang for My Father*, also directed by Anna Shapiro. Other Steppenwolf appearances include *Wedding Band*, *Slaughterhouse-Five*, *The Song of Jacob Zulu*, *Inspecting Carol* and *Stepping Out*. Other Chicago credits include: *The Best Man* and *A Delicate Balance* (Remy Bumppo); *Ten Little Indians* (Drury Lane Oakbrook); *The Chalk Garden* (Northlight); *Bounce* (Goodman); James Joyce's *The Dead* (Court Theatre); *Was* (American Music Theatre Project at Northwestern); *The Glamour House* (Victory Gardens); *A Lie of the Mind* (ATC); *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Apple Tree) and *Butley* (Writers' Theatre). She is the recipient of two Jeff Awards and three After Dark Awards.

**Kimberly Guerrero** (Johnna Longwell) is a native of Oklahoma and graduate of UCLA. Kimberly is an award-winning actress having appeared in numerous film and television projects including *Hidalgo*, *Dreamkeeper*, *The Sopranos*, *Charmed*, *Escanaba in Da Moonlight*, *Northern Exposure* and her immortalizing turn as Jerry's

girlfriend “Winona” in the popular *Seinfeld* episode “The Cigar Store Indian.” Though most of her work happens in front of the camera, Kimberly remains grounded in her theatre roots — most recently she played “Shelby” in *Steel Magnolias* at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville. In addition to her career, Kimberly works extensively on Native American reservations and in inner-city communities across North America presenting motivational speeches, wellness workshops and acting/filmmaking classes to youth. Kimberly and her husband, music producer Johnny Guerrero, are residents of Southern California.

**Francis Guinan** (Charlie Aiken) is a member of the Steppenwolf ensemble and most recently appeared in *The Diary of Anne Frank* at Steppenwolf and *Inherit the Wind* at Northlight Theatre. Also with Steppenwolf, he’s appeared in *Love Song*, *Cherry Orchard*, *Mizlansky/Zilinsky or Schmucks*, *Skylight*, *The Libertine*, *The Grapes of Wrath* (Broadway) and many others. He and his family recently relocated to the Chicago area after 16 years in Los Angeles where he appeared in numerous movies television shows.

**Fawn Johnstin** (Jean Fordham) is making her Chicago theater debut. She recently completed her freshmen year at Loyola Academy in Wilmette and is thankful for this huge opportunity.

**Dennis Letts** (Beverly Weston) makes his Steppenwolf debut. Born in Oklahoma, Dennis taught English writing and literature in various colleges and universities before he began acting professionally at age 50 with a small role in a television mini-series. Since then, he has appeared in over forty films and television shows as a character actor, including *Little Boy Blue*, *Infamous*, *Secondhand Lions*, *Cast Away*, *Perfect World*, *Bloodsuckers from Outer Space* and *Where the Heart Is*. Recent theater work includes two original plays performed in Austin, Texas: *Dead Presidents’ Club* by Larry L. King and *Sonny’s Last Shot* by Lawrence Wright. Dennis is a steak and potato lover who spent four years in the Air Force, received bachelors and masters degrees from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah and the University of Tulsa, earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, lectured in Denmark on a Fulbright grant and contends that the most interesting part of his life is his family—sons Dana, Shawn and Tracy and wife, Billie Letts, award-winning author of *Where the Heart Is*.

**Amy Morton** (Barbara Fordham) most recently appeared in *Betrayal* at Steppenwolf. She has been an ensemble member since 1997 and has appeared in over 30 Steppenwolf productions. Steppenwolf directing credits include *The Pillowman*, *Love-Lies-Bleeding* (which traveled to the Kennedy Center’s Terrace Theater), *Men of Tortuga*, *Topdog/Underdog* (which traveled to the Alley Theatre in Houston, Dallas Theater Center and Hartford Stage Company), *We All Went Down to Amsterdam*, *Glengarry Glen Ross* (which appeared at the 2002 Dublin International Theatre Festival and at the 2003 du Maurier World Stage Festival in Toronto), *The Weir* and *Mizlansky/Zilinsky*. Other directing credits: *Dublin Carol* at Trinity Rep and *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* at The Alliance Theatre. Before joining Steppenwolf, she was a member of the Remains Theatre Ensemble for 15 years. She can be seen in the films *8MM*, *Rookie of the Year* and *Falling Down*.

**Mariann Mayberry** (Karen Weston) has been a Steppenwolf ensemble member since 1993, most recently appearing in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Past Steppenwolf productions include *Love Song*, *Last of the Boys*, *The Pain and the Itch*, *Hysteria* and *The Libertine*, among others. She appeared in *Argonautika* and *The Master and Margarita* at Lookingglass, *Hamlet* and *As You Like It* at Chicago Shakespeare and *How I Learned to Drive* at Northlight. At the Goodman Theatre she has appeared in *The Odyssey*, *Mirror of the Invisible World* and *The Notebooks of Leonardo DaVinci* which later went on to an Off-Broadway production. On Broadway she has appeared in *One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest* and *Metamorphoses*. Her television credits include *Law & Order* (*SVU*, *Trial by Jury* and *Criminal Intent*), *The Dave Chappelle Show*, *Dillinger* and *The Quecreek Miner’s Story*. She has also appeared in such films as *The Company*, *Since You’ve Been Gone* and *War of the Worlds*.

**Sally Murphy** (Ivy Weston) joined the ensemble in 1993 and most recently appeared in Steppenwolf’s production of *The Royal Family*. Other Steppenwolf credits include *Mother Courage*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Skylight*, *Earthly Possessions*, *Harvey* and *The Common Pursuit*. Broadway credits include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Wild Party*, *Carousel* and *The Grapes of Wrath* (also London and LaJolla). Sally originated roles in *Bernarda Alba* and *A Man of No Importance* at Lincoln Center and appeared at City Center Encores in *A Tree Grows in*

*Brooklyn*. Recently she played Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* at Signature Theatre in Washington D.C. Other theater credits include Vineyard, Goodman, Seattle Rep and Bay Street. Concert work includes *The Romeo and Juliet Project* at Ravinia with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and *Will the Circle Be Unbroken?* at Millennium Park. Film: *Pollock, Fearless, Scent of a Woman, Charming Billy*. Television: *Law and Order, If These Walls Could Talk, Chicago Hope, Victim of Love, Great Performances, American Playhouse*. Cast recordings: *Bernarda Alba, Fiddler on the Roof, A Man of No Importance, The Wild Party, Carousel*.

**Jeff Perry** (Bill Fordham) is a co-founder of Steppenwolf, The School at Steppenwolf and Steppenwolf Films. As an actor and occasional director, he has been involved in over thirty Steppenwolf productions, most recently *The Time of Your Life*. Some favorites include *Balm in Gilead, The Grapes of Wrath* and *Uncle Vanya*. Film and Television credits include: *My So Called Life, Wild Things, The Human Stain, Nash Bridges, Grey's Anatomy* and *Prison Break*. Jeff plays Thatcher Grey on ABC's *Grey's Anatomy*.

**Rondi Reed** (Mattie Fay Aiken), an ensemble member since 1979, last appeared at Steppenwolf in *Cherry Orchard*. Other Steppenwolf credits include *The Fall to Earth, Man from Nebraska, The Royal Family, Uncle Vanya, David Copperfield, The Ballad of Little Jo, Valparaiso, Side Man, The Beauty Queen of Leenane, The Rise and Fall of Little Voice, Another Time* and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, among others. Other credits include *Wicked* at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, *The Retreat from Moscow* at Northlight, *Romeo and Juliet* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, *The Infinite Regress of Human Vanity* at Cleveland Playhouse and *The Vagina Monologues* at the Apollo Theater.

**Rick Snyder** (Steve Heidebrecht) is an ensemble member at Steppenwolf, where he last appeared in *The Unmentionables*. Other Chicago roles include *I Never Sang for My Father, Man from Nebraska, Wedding Band, The Time of Your Life, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Side Man, David Copperfield, The Beauty Queen of Leenane, Slaughterhouse-Five, Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *The Grapes of Wrath* (Steppenwolf); *A Christmas Carol* (Goodman); *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and *The Rear Column* (Northlight). Film: *U.S. Marshals, The Tuskegee Airmen, The Net, Whiteboys, Soul Survivors* and *The Human Stain*. His directing projects at Steppenwolf include *Betrayal, Last of the Boys, Orange Flower Water, The Fall to Earth* and *Things Being What They Are*. He recently directed *St. Scarlet* at American Theatre Company; *Bus Stop* at Writers' Theatre in Glencoe; and *Jolly* and *Disappearance of the Jews* (both part of the Mamet Festival) at Goodman.

**Troy West** (Sheriff Deon Gilbeau) has appeared at Steppenwolf in *The Berlin Circle, David Copperfield, Ten Percent of Molly Snyder, Terry Won't Talk, Tennessee, Bite the Hand* and the original production of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* which transferred to the Geffen Theatre in Los Angeles. Mr. West is a company member of Lookingglass Theatre where he has appeared in *The Wooden Brecks, The Old Curiosity Shop, The Great Fire, The Idiot, George, Great Men of Science* and *Hard Times* which was remounted at the Arden Theatre in Philadelphia. Other Chicago credits include: *Bug, The Physicists, The Grey Zone* and *The Hothouse* at A Red Orchid Theatre; *Custer, The Long Christmas Ride Home* and *The God of Hell* at the Next Theatre and *By the Music of the Spheres* at Goodman. Regional credits include: Off-Broadway *Bug* at the Barrow Street Theatre, *Art* at Indiana Rep, *O Lovely Glowworm* at Portland Center Stage and *The House of Mirth* at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
24 JUNE	25	26	27	28	29	30
				7:30	7:30	3:00/7:30
1 JULY	2	3	4	5	6	7 PRESS
3:00/7:30		7:30	4TH OF JULY	7:30	7:30	3:00/7:30
8 OPENING	9	10	11	12	13	14
6:00		7:30	7:30	7:30	7:30	3:00/7:30
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
3:00/7:30		7:30	7:30	7:30	7:30	3:00/7:30
22	23	24	25 SIGN	26 AUDIO	27	28
3:00/7:30		7:30	7:30	7:30	7:30	3:00/7:30
29	30	31	1 AUGUST	2	3	4
3:00/7:30		7:30	7:30	7:30	7:30	3:00/7:30
5	6	7	8	9	10	11