



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Cathy Taylor; (773) 564-9564 / cathy@cathytaylorpr.com

**Steppenwolf Theatre Company opens 2007/08 season of American plays with
Arthur Miller's *The Crucible***

Chicago— Steppenwolf Theatre Company opens its 32nd season with *The Crucible* by **Arthur Miller**, directed by ensemble member **Anna D. Shapiro**, featuring ensemble members **Alana Arenas, Ian Barford, Francis Guinan, Tim Hopper, Ora Jones, James Vincent Meredith, Sally Murphy** and **Alan Wilder** with **Lucy Carapetyan, Maury Cooper, Justin James Farley, Chiké Johnson, Leonard J. Kraft, Mildred Marie Langford, John Lister, Ginger Lee McDermott, Kelly O'Sullivan, Tim Edward Rhoze, Mary Seibel** and **Lee Stark**. The production runs September 13- November 11, 2007, in the Steppenwolf Downstairs Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St. **The press performance is Saturday, September 22, 2007, at 3:00 p.m.**

When teenage girls are discovered trying to conjure spirits, the 17th century town of Salem explodes with accusations of witchcraft. The vicious trials that follow expose a community paralyzed by fear, religious extremism and greed. Ensemble member Anna D. Shapiro directs this timeless tale by one of the greatest American playwrights of all time.

"Arthur Miller is a playwright whose artistic life has been, in the main, an inquiry into the American character and the socio-political culture that shapes us as Americans," comments Artistic Director **Martha Lavey**. "His voice is eloquent, searing, and passionate. And *The Crucible* is, like *Death of a Salesman*, one of Miller's signature plays: a play that has come to define the playwright and has come to serve as a touchstone in the canon of contemporary American drama."

The Chicago Public Library has chosen *The Crucible* as the Fall 2007 selection for the **One Book, One Chicago** citywide book club. Steppenwolf is thrilled that this partnership encourages Chicagoans to not only read Miller's much-admired work, but to see it on the stage. The Library is pleased to be partnering with Steppenwolf Theatre on a series of public programs taking place at a number of CPL locations throughout the city in September and October. **For information on these, as well as all the special events, film screenings and book discussions taking place for One Book, One Chicago, visit chicagopubliclibrary.org or call (312) 747-8191.**

The designers of *The Crucible* are **Todd Rosenthal** (set), **Don Holder** (lights), **Virgil Johnson** (costumes), **Rob Milburn** and **Michael Bodeen** (sound). **Michelle Medvin** is the stage manager and **Lauren V. Hickman** is the assistant stage manager.

Title: *The Crucible*
Playwright: **Arthur Miller**
Directed by: ensemble member **Anna D. Shapiro**
Featuring: ensemble members **Alana Arenas, Ian Barford, Francis Guinan, Tim Hopper, Ora Jones, James Vincent Meredith, Sally Murphy** and **Alan Wilder** with **Lucy Carapetyan, Maury Cooper, Justin James Farley, Chike Johnson, Leonard Kraft,**

Mildred Marie Langford, John Lister, Ginger Lee McDermott, Kelly O'Sullivan,
Tim Edward Rhoze, Mary Seibel and Lee Stark

Location: **Steppenwolf Downstairs Theatre**, 1650 N. Halsted

Dates: **Previews:** September 13- 22, 2007

Press preview: September 22, 2007, at 3:00 p.m.

Opening: September 23, 2007, at 6:00 p.m.

Regular run: September 25- November 11, 2007

Curtain Times: Tuesday through Sunday at 7:30 p.m.,

Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday matinees on October 24, 31 and November 7, 2007, at 2:00 p.m.

There will be no Sunday evening performances on October 28,

November 4 and 11, 2007.

Ticket price: **Previews: \$20- \$45**

Regular Run: \$20- \$68

Twenty \$20 tickets are available at Audience Services beginning at 11:00 a.m.
on the day of each performance.

Audience Services: 1650 N. Halsted, 312-335-1650

Online ticketing available at www.steppenwolf.org

Free post-show discussions, sponsored by AT&T, are offered after every performance.

Production Sponsors of *The Crucible* are JPMorganChase & Foley and Lardner LLP.

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, playwrighting, filmmaking and textual adaptation.

Biographies

Arthur Miller (Playwright) was a prominent figure in American literature for over 61 years, writing a wide variety of plays, including *The Crucible*, *All My Sons*, and *Death of a Salesman*. Miller was the recipient of the New York Drama Critics Circle award, multiple Tony awards and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

Anna D. Shapiro (Director) joined the ensemble in 2005 and has directed *August: Osage County* by Tracy Letts, *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.

Alana Arenas (Mary Warren) joined the ensemble in 2007 and created the role of Pecola Breedlove for the Steppenwolf for Young Adults production of *The Bluest Eye*, which also played at the New Victory Theater Off-Broadway. Other Steppenwolf credits include *Spare Change* and *The Sparrow Project*, both for First Look Repertory of New York. She is originally from Miami where she began her training at the New World School of the Arts. Alana holds a BFA from the Theatre School at DePaul.

Ian Barford (Reverend Parris) joined the ensemble in 2007 and most recently appeared in *August: Osage County*. He was the recipient of the National Theatre Conference/Steppenwolf Theatre "most promising artist" award in 1996. Work with Steppenwolf includes *Betrayal*, *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, Barford 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*.

Lucy Carapetyan (Mercy Lewis), making her Steppenwolf debut, graduated from Northwestern in 2006 and has performed at The Actors Gym and the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire. She has studied in Prague, Switzerland, and Bali, and has taught theatre and circus at the National High School Institute (Cherub program), the Chicago Waldorf School, and the Actors Gym.

Maury Cooper (Giles Corey) was most recently seen at Steppenwolf in the Steppenwolf for Young Adults production *Fahrenheit 451*. Chicago credits include performances in *Duck Variations* and the *Visit* at the Goodman Theater. At the Court Theater, he played in *Heartbreak House*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Hamlet*, *Mary Stuart*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *End Game* and *The Invention of Love*. He also performed in *Entertaining Mr. Sloan* at the Next Theater and in *The Road To Mecca* at Northlight. In 2003 Mr. Cooper received the Jeff Award for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in *Judgment at Nuremberg* at the Shattered Globe Theater.

Justin James Farley (Hopkins) is making his Steppenwolf debut. A native of the south suburbs, Justin attended Thornridge H.S. and later went on to study Theater at Illinois State University. His credits include *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Normal Heart*. He was last seen as Ronny in *Welcome to the Moon* presented by Goodluck Macbeth Theatre Company in Chicago, where he is the Development Director.

Francis Guinan (Deputy Governor Danforth) joined the ensemble in 1979 and most recently appeared in *August: Osage Count*, and *The Diary of Anne Frank* at Steppenwolf and *Inherit the Wind* at Northlight Theatre. He appeared at Steppenwolf 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 some movies and lots and lots of TV shows.

Tim Hopper (Rev. Hale) joined the ensemble in 1989 and most recently appeared in *The Violet Hour*. Other Steppenwolf appearances include *Hedda Gabler*, *The Glass Menagerie* and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. In New York, he received an Obie Award for his performance in *More Stately Mansions* at New York Theatre Workshop. Films include the upcoming *Tenderness*, and *Gardener of Eden*, as well as *School of Rock*, *Personal Velocity*, *Pipe Dream* and *To Die For*. Television includes *Grey's Anatomy*, *Medium* and *Law and Order: SVU*, among others.

Chike Johnson (Marshal Herrick) most recently appeared in Steppenwolf for Young Adults

production of *Huck Finn* and in *The Unmentionables* at Steppenwolf and Yale Rep. Other shows include "MASTER HAROLD"...and the boys (Next Act Theatre), *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (Cedar Creek Repertory Theatre), *Smoldering Fires* (First Stage Children's Theatre) and *Take Me Out* (The Milwaukee Chamber Theatre). In 2000, Chike graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Professional Theater Training Program and later moved to Spain where he lived for 3 years. For the past couple of summers Chike has been a part of bringing theatre to children by teaching at First Stage Children's Theater Academy, also located in Milwaukee, where he was the contemporary scene study teacher.

Ora Jones (Tituba) joined the ensemble in 2007 and has appeared at Steppenwolf in *The Unmentionables*, *The Violet Hour* (Jeff nomination) and *Morning Star*. She received an After Dark award for her role of Stage Manager in *Our Town* for Writers' Theatre. Jones has performed at Chicago Shakespeare Theater in *A Flea in Her Ear*, Goodman Theatre in *Seeking the Genesis* (Black Theater Alliance Award), Court and Rivendell Theaters, Victory Gardens and sailed on the maiden voyage of Chicago Children's Theatre with *A Year With Frog and Toad*

Leonard J. Kraft (Francis Nurse) returned to the Chicago theatre scene in 1999 and has appeared in more than twenty productions with the Shattered Globe, Eclipse, TimeLine, Mary Arrchie, Circle, Apple Tree, New Leaf and Chicago Children's Theatre companies, among others. *The Crucible* marks Leonard's fourth appearance with Steppenwolf, having worked previously in *The Cherry Orchard*, *Mother Courage* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

Mildred Marie Langford (Susanna Wolcott) is a native of Virginia and a graduate of George Mason University. In 2006 she completed the School at Steppenwolf and is making her Steppenwolf debut in *The Crucible*. Recent Chicago credits include; *SARAFINA! The Music of Liberation* (Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre), *The Deadline Workshop* (Chicago Dramatist) and *The Girl in the Iron Mask* (Babes with Blades).

John Lister (Thomas Putnam) is making his Steppenwolf debut with *The Crucible*. Chicago and Regional Theater credits include *She Stoops To Conquer*, *Inherit The Wind*, *Red Herring*, and *Lady Windermere's Fan* at Northlight Theatre; *A Christmas Carol* at The Goodman Theatre; *Henry IV Parts One & Two*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *The Tempest*, *Richard II*, *The Winter's Tale*, *The Herbal Bed* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater; *The Lark* at Eclipse Theatre; *Enter The Poet* at Collaboraction; numerous productions with Peninsula Players and Notre Dame Summer Shakespeare. Television credits include the series *Prison Break*. John is most proud of his role as husband to long-time Steppenwolf stage manager Laura D. Glenn.

Ginger Lee McDermott (Ann Putnam and Sarah Good), making her Steppenwolf debut, was most recently seen in Chicago in *A Dream Play* with the Mill Theatre and *To Save Him* with Hatch Theatre. Other regional theater credits include *Proof* with Orlando Theatre Project, *A Doll's House* with Pendragon Theatre and *Romeo and Juliet* with National Shakespeare Company.

James Vincent Meredith (John Proctor) joined the ensemble in 2007 and has appeared in *The Bluest Eye* (also Off-Broadway at the New Victory Theater), *The Pain and the Itch*, and in the About Face Theatre production of *Take Me Out*. He is also an ensemble member at Piven Theater Workshop where he appeared in *King Lear*, *American Voices* and *Our Country's Good*. He is currently appearing in *The King and I* at Drury Lane Oakbrook. He recently played the title role in *Othello* at Writers' Theatre.

Sally Murphy (Elizabeth Proctor) joined the ensemble in 1993 and most recently appeared in Steppenwolf's production of *August: Osage County*. Other Steppenwolf credits include *The Royal Family*, *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 theatre 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*.

Kelly O'Sullivan (Abigail Williams) is thrilled to be returning to Steppenwolf after appearing in *100 Saints You Should Know* as part of last summer's *First Look Repertory of New Work*.

Chicago credits include *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs* (American Theater Co.), *Mr. Marmalade* (Dog & Pony Theatre), *Sketchbook 07* (Collaboraction), *Hot 'n Throbbing* (Pine Box Theatre), *The Giver* (Apple Tree Theatre), and *The Glory of Living* (Profiles Theatre). Kelly is a graduate of Northwestern University and The School at Steppenwolf. This winter, she can be seen in Steppenwolf's production of *Good Boys and True*.

Tim Edward Rhoze (Judge Hawthorne) was last seen at Steppenwolf in *Wendall Green*. Other Chicago Theatre credits include *The Gift Horse, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and *All the Rage* at the Goodman Theatre, and *Northstar, Eden* and *Freefall* at Victory Gardens.

Mary Seibel (Rebecca Nurse) appeared at the Goodman Theater in *The Sandbox, Moonlight and Magnolias* and *Galileo*; at Northlight Theater in *A Skull In Connemara; The Cripple Of Inishmaan; A Perfect Ganesh* and *Over The Tavern*. At the Royal George and Apollo Theaters in *Lend Me A Tenor* and *Steel Magnolias*; at Victory Gardens in *The Family Gold* and *Whales Of August*. Film credits include *With Honors, Major League, Raising Arizona, A Wedding*, and the TV movie, *Normal*.

Lee Stark (Betty Parris), making her Steppenwolf debut, graduated in June from Northwestern University, where she appeared in Caryl Churchill's *Cloud 9, Cymbeline, Madame Bovary, The Bald Soprano, The Maids, Fifth of July, The Royal Family*, and the original production of *Debbie and the Green Devil*. Lee was the president of Vertigo Productions, a company dedicated to student-written work, for which she directed *The War Hall*; she also performed with Titanic Players long-form improvisation. Last summer she appeared in *Cut-to-the-Chase* at The Artistic Home, where she studies Meisner.

Alan Wilder (Ezekial Cheever) joined the ensemble in 1976 and has appeared in over fifty-five productions with the company including *I Never Sang For My Father, Glengarry Glen Ross, The Man Who Came to Dinner, The Libertine, The Grapes of Wrath* in Chicago, LaJolla and London, *Aunt Dan and Lemon, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Streamers* at the AT&T Performing Arts Festival at the Kennedy Center, *The Caretaker* in Chicago and New York, *Of Mice and Men, Balm in Gilead* and *Death of a Salesman*. Outside Steppenwolf, Wilder has performed in the Los Angeles production of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, the Guthrie Theatre's U.S. premiere of *Pravda*, the Remains Theatre production of *Highest Standard of Living*, Wisdom Bridge Theatre's *Travesties* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* and the Lyric Opera's *The Merry Widow*. His film credits include *A Civil Action, Childsplay, Home Alone, A League of Their Own, Sour Grapes, Straight Talk* and the HBO movies *Always Out Numbered* and *Socrates* with Laurie Metcalf and Laurence Fishburne.

###