



Contact: Cathy Taylor
(773) 564-9564
cathy@cathytaylorpr.com

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Artistic Director
Michael Halberstam

Executive Director
Kathryn M. Lipuma

**ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICES**

376 Park Avenue
Glencoe, IL 60022

**PERFORMANCE
VENUES**

325 Tudor Court
Glencoe, IL 60022

664 Vernon Avenue
Glencoe, IL 60022

BOX OFFICE
847-242-6000

ADMINISTRATION
847-242-6001

FAX
847-242-6011

www.writerstheatre.org

Writers' Theatre announces casting for 2009/10 Season

**Season to feature works by Tom Stoppard, Noël Coward,
Tennessee Williams and John Henry Redwood
with directors Michael Halberstam, David Cromer,
Ron OJ Parson and Jim Corti**

Glencoe, IL—Writers' Theatre Artistic Director Michael Halberstam and Executive Director Kathryn M. Lipuma announce the company's 18th season, which includes Tom Stoppard's comedic masterpiece *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, directed by Michael Halberstam; Noël Coward's musical revue, *Oh Coward!* to be performed in Writers' most intimate venue; *The Old Settler* by John Henry Redwood, directed by Ron OJ Parson; and Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, directed by David Cromer.

"Classic Stoppard, the best of Noël Coward, Tennessee Williams at the peak of his achievement and a contemporary American play which delivers a highly unconventional message in the folds of a most conventional story are the driving forces behind the 2009/10 Season," said Artistic Director Michael Halberstam. "I am exhilarated to welcome David Cromer back to Writers' Theatre. It will be his fifth production with us and certainly one of his most exciting projects to date. Ron OJ Parson brings the power of his emerging directorial prowess to Glencoe. Jim Corti, who is a veteran musical champion both in Chicago and New York, will helm the effervescent Coward revue in the bookstore. This is a season that celebrates the sophistication, breadth and diversity of our artistic landscape here in Chicago."

Writers' Theatre performs in two performance spaces in Glencoe – its 50-seat venue at Books on Vernon, 664 Vernon Ave, and its 108-seat theatre at 325 Tudor Court in the Woman's Library Club. Subscriptions and Memberships are available at the Box Office, 376 Park Avenue, Glencoe, 847-242-6000 and www.writerstheatre.org.

THE 2009/10 WRITERS' THEATRE SEASON IS:

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead

By Tom Stoppard

Directed by Artistic Director Michael Halberstam

Performed at 325 Tudor Court

Run dates: September 29 – December 6, 2009

Press Opening: October 8, 2009

Featuring **Laura Coover** (Ophelia), **Sean Fortunato** (Rosencrantz), **Allen Gilmore** (The Player), **Gregory Isaac** (Tragedian 1), **Timothy Edward Kane** (Guildenstern), **Joey Steakley** (Alfred) and **Karen Janes Woditsch** (Gertrude). Additional casting to be announced.

Hamlet, Shakespeare's greatest drama, is retold from the perspective of his schoolmates, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, in Tom Stoppard's comedic masterpiece. Equal parts
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Laurel and Hardy, *Waiting for Godot* and classic Shakespeare, Stoppard's scintillating wit, far-reaching imagination and astonishing skill with words traces the journey of these fascinating characters as they struggle to avoid the inevitability of the Bard's tragic conclusion.

Oh Coward!

A Musical Comedy Revue

Words and Music by Noël Coward

Devised by Roderick Cook

Directed by Jim Corti

Musical Direction by Doug Peck

Performed at 664 Vernon Avenue

Run dates: November 17, 2009 – March 21, 2010

Press Openings: December 2 & 3, 2009

Featuring **Rob Lindley** and **John Sanders**. Additional casting to be announced.

You're invited to a marvelous party! Weaving together songs and literary delights, *Oh Coward!* celebrates one of the theater's greatest entertainers— Noël Coward—who gave us the beloved works *Blithe Spirit*, *Private Lives* and *Hay Fever*. His effervescent music and charming quips combine for an unforgettable evening of the most memorable tunes of the 20th century.

The Old Settler

By John Henry Redwood

Directed by Ron OJ Parson

Performed at 325 Tudor Court

Run dates: February 2 – March 28, 2010

Press Opening: February 11, 2010

Featuring **Cheryl Lynn Bruce** (Elizabeth), **Alexis J. Rogers** (Lou Bessie), **Kelvin Roston, Jr.** (Husband) and **Jacqueline Williams** (Quilly).

It's Harlem in the Spring of 1943. Elizabeth and Quilly are sisters of a certain age sharing their quiet lives together, but when they take in Husband Witherspoon, a handsome young boarder, their entire world changes abruptly. Husband, fresh from the country and adjusting to live in the big city, is on a desperate search for his missing fiancée, but ends up finding love in the most unlikely of places. Told with heartwarming sincerity, humor and a touch of poetry, *The Old Settler* paints a poignant picture of two women testing the bonds of sisterhood and finding the strength and forgiveness only family can offer.

A Streetcar Named Desire

By Tennessee Williams

Directed by David Cromer

Performed at 325 Tudor Court

Run dates: May 4 – July 11, 2010

Press Opening: May 13, 2010

Cast to be announced.

One of Chicago's foremost directors takes on one of the country's greatest plays. After staging last season's nationally acclaimed production of *Picnic*, David Cromer returns to Writers' Theatre. Hailed a "genius" by *The Wall Street Journal* and fresh from his Broadway debut, Cromer directs Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer Prize winning drama, *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Blanche DuBois, an aging southern belle, arrives unexpectedly on the doorstep of her sister Stella and her explosive brother-in-law Stanley. Over the course of one hot and steamy New Orleans summer, Blanche's fragile façade slowly crumbles, wreaking havoc on Stella and Stanley's already turbulent relationship. Embodying the turmoil and drama of a changing nation, *A Streetcar Named Desire* strips Williams' tortured characters of their illusions, leaving a wake of destruction in their path.

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Writers' Theatre season ticket packages provide a convenient theatergoing experience to accommodate busy lives. The Writers' Theatre Membership is **\$185** and provides ultimate flexibility. The Subscription is **\$200** and offers patrons a preset schedule with the guarantee of the same seat for all of their originally scheduled performances.

Members and Subscribers are given the opportunity to make up a missed performance at no cost with Writers' **Rain Checks** benefit. Members and Subscribers also receive free ticket exchanges by phone, mail and fax, show reminders by email before each scheduled performance and a one-year subscription to *The Brief Chronicle* newsmagazine.

Subscriptions and Memberships are available at the Box Office, 376 Park Avenue, Glencoe, 847-242-6000 and www.writerstheatre.org.

SPECIAL SERIES:

Pre-Show Lecture

Writers' Theatre guest artists will guide patrons through the inner-workings of each production. By providing details that enhance the Writers' Theatre experience, each lecture will increase audience appreciation for the production to follow. The pre-show lectures begin at 5:00 p.m. on select Sunday evening performances. Pre-show lectures are offered free of charge and open to the public..

Post-Show Discussions

Writers' Theatre artistic staff and cast members will host lively post-show discussions. Audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions about the process, the characters and the production. Post-show discussions are offered at no additional cost after select Tuesday and Wednesday evening performances.

About Writers' Theatre

Writers' Theatre is a professional company focusing on the Word and the Artist. Remaining true to the intention of the playwright and nurturing the artist stand at the center of the mission. Now in its 17th season, the company both revives classic scripts and cultivates new works and adaptations while invigorating them with fresh energy in the intimacy of its venues. Founded in 1992, Writers' Theatre performed exclusively at Books on Vernon, 664 Vernon Avenue for the first 12 years. In the fall of 2003, the organization opened a new 108 seat performance venue at 325 Tudor Court. Today, Writers' Theatre continues to produce in both spaces, maintaining an intimate theatrical experience for audiences. Since 2000, the subscriber base has grown almost 250%, from 1,500 to more than 5,400 today. With an operating budget of \$3.4 million, Writers' Theatre is supported by a staff of 18 full-time employees and a 31-member Board of Trustees.

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