

Stages

June 2015

the Acting
Company

The Newsletter of The Acting Company

MARGOT HARLEY, Producer

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November 9 Gala
Our 6th year in Lumberton
Touring Circa 2017
Alumni News

A NEW TENNESSEE WILLIAMS PLAY



The Acting Company has commissioned Pulitzer Prize winners **John Guare** and **Beth Henley** along with noted playwrights **Elizabeth Egloff**, **Marcus Gardley**, **Rebecca Gilman** and **David Grimm** to adapt Tennessee Williams short stories. The result is *Desire*, a captivating play that promises to be an important contribution to the theater. Depicting love and innocence, isolation and loss, these unforgettable tales serve as a reminder that great stories have the power to change one's life. Directed by Broadway's **Michael Wilson**, *Desire* is currently in development at New York Stage and Film prior to its world premiere this September at Off-Broadway's 59East59 Theaters. September 2 – October 11. Tickets: 212.279.4200 or www.59e59.org.

GALA TO SALUTE PAUL AND TOM FONTANA AND MARGOT HARLEY

November 9th is the date and Capitale is the place to be as The Acting Company honors **PAUL** and **TOM FONTANA** with Joan Warburg Humanitarian Awards and salutes Acting Company Co-Founder and Producer **MARGOT HARLEY** who is stepping down after 43 years of leadership.

Tom Fontana is a multi-Emmy, Peabody and Humanitas Award winner for his TV writing and producing. Tom founded Stockings With Care, has been Vice President of the Writers Guild of America East is President of the WGAE Foundation and on the boards of Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Acting Company and The NY City Police Museum. **Paul Fontana** is our Pro-Bono Education director. He trains our teaching artists, runs our Shakespeare for Teachers program and writes our Teachers Guides. Paul also volunteers for Theater Development Fund's Open Door program for underprivileged students and is a high school teacher in the South Bronx where he initiated and runs an after-school theater program that performs classic plays.

VINCE GIORDANO and the **Nighthawks** return as the Gala's beloved orchestra. **ANGELA PIERCE** and **TIM SAUNDERS** will co-chair. For information and tickets contact: gcornez@theactingcompany.org.



A NEW APPROACH TO TOURING

The Acting Company has embarked on developing an exciting new approach to bringing theater to communities across the country by placing greater emphasis on developing sustained relationships in the communities where we perform.

Thus far, we have selected 24 universities, colleges, high schools and community-based organizations to take part in this new initiative. Planned activities for the initial three-year cycle align with our 2016-2017 repertory of *Julius Caesar* and a new play by emerging-playwright Marcus Gardley based on the assassination of Malcolm X.

By 2017, we will have 75 partner institutions offering nearly 400 educational offerings, allowing our young actors to perform 120 times a year across the country—extending our mission to build a discerning audience for the theater while developing the next generation of classical actors.

BRINGING THEATER TO THE NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Lumberton, New Mexico is home to St. Francis School, one of the neediest schools in America. The Acting Company first met St. Francis in 2010, when school leaders reached out to 20 theater companies for help bring classic theater to their students. We were the *only* theater willing to bring Shakespeare to this school because of need, regardless of the school's ability to cover costs.

We've returned every year since and expanded our programming to include Dulce High School, an underserved public 9-12 high school on a nearby Jicarilla Apache reservation where only 28% of the student body passed state standards for reading proficiency. Both schools have a student body comprised of over 70% English Language Learners whose native language is Spanish.

One teacher wrote, "*I have a student in 10th Grade English who dropped out last year. He returned this fall but refused to participate in any activities. When The Acting Company came, he jumped up on stage and performed. He memorized his scene and now is more active in all his other classes!*" We return to Lumberton late-August.

ALUMNI UPDATE

Michael Stewart Allen upcoming as Macbeth at Arkansas Rep ... **Megan Bartle, Liv Rooth, John Skelley, Derek Smith** and **Yaegel Welch** in The Acting Company's *Desire* ... **Keith David** narrates Ken Burns' *Jackie Robinson* ... **Stephen DeRosa** in *On the Town*, directed by **John Rando** ... **David Fuller's** Theater 2020 hit it big with *The Real Merry House Wives of Windsor, Connecticut* ... **Harriet Harris** in *It Shoulda Been You* ... **Tom Hewitt** in *Amazing Grace* ... **Patti LuPone** in Lincoln Center's *Shows for Days* until August 23 ... **David Manis** in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* ... **Dakin Matthews** in *The Audience* ... **Angela Pierce** in the Roundabout's *Consent* through June 28 ... **Grant Fletcher Prewitt** in *Stage Kiss* at the Guthrie ... **Tom Robbins** in *Man of La Mancha* at Barrington Stage through July 11 ... **Erika Rolfsrud** in *Good People* at TheaterWorks Hartford ... **Henry Stram** in *The Elephant Man* now in London ... **Michele Tauber** in *I Promised Myself to Live Faster* at Louisville's Humana Play Festival and Philadelphia's Fringe Arts Theater ... **Chris Thorn** in *World Builders* at The Contemporary American Theater Festival ... **Richard Topol** in Larry David's *Fish in the Dark* ... **Sonny Valicenti** taking his play, *Abacus*, to Edinburgh.

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