

April 1, 2008

**American Repertory Theatre
in association with The Joseph Papp Public Theater
presents
the world premiere of
Cardenio
by Stephen Greenblatt and Charles L. Mee
directed by Les Waters
May 10 — June 8
Loeb Drama Center**

Cambridge, Mass. — The American Repertory Theatre (A.R.T.) is pleased to present the world premiere of *Cardenio*, written by Shakespeare scholar Stephen Greenblatt and playwright Charles L. Mee — inspired by Shakespeare's play *Cardenio*, which was lost soon after its first performance. The production is directed by Les Waters, and runs at the Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge from Saturday, May 10 through Sunday, June 8; it will be available for press viewing beginning Wednesday, May 14.

For their wedding Anselmo and Camila retreat with their closest friends to a villa in Umbria. Between the ceremony and the celebration, Anselmo begs Will, his best man, to flirt with his new wife to test her faithfulness. While Will struggles between appeasing his friend and probing his feelings for Camila, Anselmo's parents, both aging actors, crash the party. They bring with them two surprises — a lost play by Shakespeare and Anselmo's ravishing former classmate, Susana, to star in the play.

Using Shakespeare's comedies as inspiration, Stephen Greenblatt and Charles L. Mee have woven a contemporary version of the story, now set at a wedding party on the terrace of a villa in the Umbrian hills, and brimming with familiar Shakespearean flourishes. Along with the traditional criss-crossing of suspicious lovers and a cunning Iago-like meddler, the play cleverly updates other classic conventions. They pitch us into a world where love is easy to find but hard to attain, where maids double as opera divas, and where handymen build great Shakespearian performances. This midsummer comedy explores the surprising ways people find love amidst chaos. Together, Mee and Greenblatt have invented what Shakespeare might have written if he lived in the twenty-first century.

The cast includes A.R.T. Company members *Remo Airaldi* as Rudi, *Thomas Derrah* as Melchior, *Will LeBow* as Alfred, and *Karen MacDonald* as Luisa. They are joined by returning actors *Nathan Keepers* as Edmund and *Mickey Solis* as Anselmo, and incoming actors *Rebecca Luttio* as Simonetta, *Maria Elena Ramirez* as Doris, and *Leenya Rideout* as Susanna. The cast also includes A.R.T. Institute actors *Sarah Baskin* as Camila, *Thomas Kelley* as Will, and *Elizabeth Wilson* as Sally. Set design is by *Annie Smart*, costume design by *Christal Weatherly*, lighting design by *James Ingalls*, sound design by *David Remedios*, and movement by *Doug Elkins*.

About the Creative Staff:

Stephen Greenblatt is Cogan University Professor of the Humanities at Harvard University. Founder of the "new historicism," Greenblatt is a specialist in Shakespeare, sixteenth- and seventeenth-century English literature, the literature of travel and exploration, and literary theory. Former president of the Modern Language Association, he is also a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society and a permanent fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin. Greenblatt is the author and editor of numerous books, including *Will in the World* (2004; a *New York Times* Best Seller), *Hamlet in Purgatory* (2001), *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* (general editor, 2006), *Practicing New Historicism* (with Catherine Gallagher, 2000); *Norton Shakespeare* (general editor, 1997), *New World Encounters* (editor, 1993), *Marvelous Possessions* (1991), *Learning to Curse* (1990), *Shakespearean Negotiations* (1988; winner of the MLA's James Russell Lowell Prize), and *Renaissance Self-Fashioning* (1980), among others; he is the founding editor of the journal *Representations*. He is a recipient of the Mellon Distinguished Humanist Award, his research has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Guggenheim and Fulbright Foundations, the American Council of Learned Societies, and other funding agencies.

Playwright **Charles L. Mee**'s work at the A.R.T. includes *Full Circle*, *Snow in June*, and *bobrauschenbergamerica*; and at the A.R.T. Institute *Trojan Women A Love Story* and *Orestes*. He is the only

playwright member of the SITI Company, for whom he has written *Orestes 2.0*, *bobrauschenbergamerica*, *Hotel Cassiopeia*, *soot and spit* (the musical), and *Under Construction*. He has also written *Vienna: Lusthaus*, *A Perfect Wedding*, and a number of other plays in addition to his work inspired by Greek plays: *Big Love*, *True Love*, *Trojan Women A Love Story* and others. His plays have been performed at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York Theatre Workshop, the Public Theatre, Lincoln Center, the Humana Festival, Steppenwolf, and elsewhere in the US, as well as in Berlin, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Vienna, and Istanbul. Among other awards, he is the recipient of the lifetime achievement award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His complete works are available on the internet at www.charlesmee.org. His work is made possible by the support of Jeanne Donovan Fisher and Richard B. Fisher.

Director **Les Waters** directed Chris Durang's *Media Amok* at the A.R.T. He is the Associate Artistic Director of Berkeley Repertory Theatre; his directing credits include Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice* (also performed at Yale Repertory Theatre and Second Stage in New York City, voted one of the Top 10 Plays of 2006 by the *New York Times*), Charles L. Mee's *Fêtes de la Nuit* and *Big Love* (also at Actors Theatre of Louisville's Humana Festival, Long Wharf Theatre, the Goodman Theatre, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival; winning a 2001 Obie Award for Direction), *Finn in the Underworld*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, *The Pillowman*, *Suddenly Last Summer*, *To the Lighthouse*, and *Yellowman*. Other credits: *Apparition*, Connelly Theatre (voted one of the Best 5 Plays of 2005 by *Time Out New York*), *Hot 'N' Throbbing*, Signature Theatre; *Fen* and *Ice Cream with Hot Fudge, Rum and Coke, Romeo and Juliet*, New York Shakespeare Festival; *Life During Wartime*, Manhattan Theatre Club; *Savannah Bay*, Classic Stage Company. Waters' work has been seen at theatres across the United Kingdom and the United States, including American Conservatory Theater, Goodman Theatre, The Guthrie Theater, La Jolla Playhouse, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, and Yale Repertory Theatre. Waters is an associate artist of The Civilians, a New York-based theatre group, and former head of the M.F.A. directing program at U.C. San Diego. His many honors include a Drama-Logue Award, an Edinburgh Fringe First Award, a KPBS Patte, and several awards from critics' circles in the Bay Area, Connecticut, and Tokyo.

About the Professional Acting Company:

Remo Airdi has appeared in fifty-four productions at the A.R.T. Performed at Hartford Stage, La Jolla Playhouse, Geffen Playhouse, American Conservatory Theatre, Walnut St. Theatre, Prince Music Theater, Actors' Theatre of Louisville, Serious Fun Festival, Moscow Art Theatre, Taipei International Arts Festival, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company.

Thomas Derrah has appeared in over 100 roles at the A.R.T. over 27 years receiving a number of awards, has toured with the Company across the U.S., and throughout Europe, Canada, Israel, Taiwan, Japan, and Moscow. He was seen on Broadway in twenty-seven roles in *Jackie: An American Life*, as well as off-Broadway, in regional theatres and local companies. He is the recipient of a number of awards from local critics and the Los Angeles DramaLogue Award (for title role in *Shlemiel the First*).

Nathan Keepers was seen at the A.R.T. as Karl in *Amerika* and La Flèche in *The Miser*. He has spent ten seasons with Theatre de la Jeune Lune in Minneapolis, including *The Deception*, *The Miser*, *The Little Prince*, *The Ballroom*, *Tartuffe*, *Medea*, *Gulliver*, *The Seagull*, *The Government Inspector*, *The Magic Flute*. He also appeared in *The Comedy of Errors* at The Guthrie Theater, and *The Swan* and *Fully Committed* at The Jungle Theatre, among others.

Will LeBow appeared at the A.R.T. in fifty productions. Other credits include The Huntington Theatre, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Gloucester Stage Company, and the Boston Pops premiere of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (narrator). He appears on television in the Cable Ace Award-winning animated series *Dr. Katz, Professional Therapist* as the voice of Stanley.

Karen MacDonald is a founding member of the A.R.T., has appeared in sixty-two productions, and received a number of Elliot Norton and IRNE Awards for her work. She directed *Dressed Up! Wiggled Out!*, for Boston Playwrights Theatre, played in numerous productions in local theatres, and nationwide at the Alley Theatre (Company member), the Goodman Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, Syracuse Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse, Hartford Stage, and Philadelphia Festival of New Plays.

Maria Elena Ramirez was seen in *The Skin of Our Teeth* at the New York Shakespeare Festival; *Living Out* at Second Stage; *The Thugs* at Soho Rep; Regional: *Princess Turandot* at Westport County Playhouse; *Fêtes*

de la Nuit, at Berkeley Repertory Theatre; *Anna in the Tropics* and *Living Out* at Seattle Repertory Theatre; *Blood Wedding* at The Guthrie Theatre and Missouri Repertory Theatre; among others. Films include *Personal Velocity*, *The War Within*, *The Women*, and television roles in *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *The Sopranos*, *Now and Again*, *Third Watch*, *Guiding Light*.

Leenya Rideout appeared on Broadway in *Cyrano de Bergerac Company*, and *Cabaret* (1998 revival, original cast). Off-Broadway and regional credits include *Yiddle with a Fiddle*, *The Portable Pioneer and Prairie Show*, and *Cowgirls*; *The Canterbury Tales* at The Guthrie Theater, *Guys and Dolls* at North Carolina Theatre; *Avenue X* at Cincinnati Playhouse & Merrimack Repertory Theatre; *Honky Tonk Highway* at Florida Studio Theatre, and the international Tour of *My Fair Lady* (Eliza Doolittle). Films include *Mona Lisa Smile*, *Loser*, *Bittersweet*, *The Singing Biologist*; and she was seen on television in *Company* (PBS); *My Favorite Broadway* (PBS); *Nashville Star* (USA Network), *Jerry Lewis Telethon*.

Mickey Solis played Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, Eben in *Desire Under the Elms*, and Oliver in *Olly's Prison* at the A.R.T. New York: Felipe Montoya in *Night Over Taos* at the Theater for the New City, *The Error of their Ways* at HERE Arts Center; *Hanjo* at The Japan Society; *Psyche* at The Ohio Theatre; *Beckett at 100* at the 92nd St Y and The New College Theatre at Harvard; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, among others. He holds an MFA from the ART/MXAT Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at Harvard University, and studied comparative religion and history at Western Michigan University.

Performance schedule is as follows: May 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31, June 6, 7 at 8:00pm; May 13, 14, 15, 18, 20, 21, 22, 25, 27, 28, 29, June 3, 4, 5 at 7:30pm; May 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31, June 1, 7, 8 at 2:00pm. Single ticket prices range from \$15-\$79 (including \$25 advance tickets for students and \$15 student rush with \$10 off for seniors. Group discounts are also available.

To learn more about this production and the A.R.T.'s upcoming season, log onto the A.R.T. website at www.amrep.org or call the A.R.T. InfoLine at (617) 547-8300. The InfoLine is also available 24 hours a day to provide directions to the theatre; to order brochures, calendars, and newsletters; and to allow direct access to the A.R.T. Box Office (hours are noon to curtain time on performance days, noon to 5 pm on non-performance days, closed on Mondays).

The American Repertory Theatre, located at the Loeb Drama Center in Harvard Square at 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge, is accessible to persons with special needs and to those requiring wheelchair seating or first-floor restrooms. Deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons can also reach the Theatre by calling the toll-free N.E. Telephone Relay Center at 1-800-439-2370.

Public transportation and discount parking are available nearby.

AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATRE FACT SHEET

WHAT:

CARDENIO

by Stephen Greenblatt and Charles L. Mee

Directed by Les Waters

Scenic Design by Annie Smart

Costume Design by Christal Weatherley

Lighting Design by James Ingalls

Sound Design by David Remedios

Movement by Doug Elkins

CAST:

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| Will | Thomas Kelley |
| Anselmo | Mickey Solis * |
| Camila | Sarah Baskin |
| Sally | Elizabeth Wilson |
| Edmund | Nathan Keepers* |
| Doris | Maria Elena Ramirez* |
| Susanna | Leenya Rideout* |
| Luisa | Karen MacDonald* |
| Alfred | Will LeBow* |
| Melchior | Thomas Derrah* |
| Simonetta | Rebecca Luttio |
| Rudi | Remo Airaldi* |

WHEN:

Sa May 10 8pm (preview)
 Su May 11 2pm (preview)

Tu May 13 7:30pm (preview)
 We May 14 7:30pm Press opening
 Th May 15 7:30pm
 Fri May 16 8:00pm
 Sa May 17 2pm & 8:00pm (Playback: post play discussion after matinee performance)
 Su May 18 2pm & 7:30pm

Tu May 20 7:30pm (preview)
 We May 21 7:30pm Press opening
 Th May 22 7:30pm
 Fri May 23 8:00pm
 Sa May 24 2pm & 8:00pm (Playback: post play discussion after matinee performance)
 Su May 25 2pm & 7:30pm

Tu May 27 7:30pm (preview)
 We May 28 7:30pm Press opening
 Th Jun 29 7:30pm
 Fri May 30 8:00pm
 Sa May 31 2pm & 8:00pm (Playback: post play discussion after matinee performance)
 Su Jun 1 2pm & 7:30pm

Tu Jun 3 7:30pm
 We Jun 4 7:30pm
 Th Jun 5 7:30pm
 Fri Jun 6 8:00 pm
 Sa Jun 7 2pm & 8:00pm (Playback: post play discussion after matinee performance)
 Sun Jun 8 2 pm

WHERE: Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge

TICKETS:

\$39-79; Students: \$25. Student rush: \$15

Seniors \$10 off ticket price.

Tickets may be charged to American Express, Visa, or MasterCard.

Group discounts are available.

Box Office Phone and A.R.T. InfoLine: (617) 547-8300 www.amrep.org

E-mail address: press@amrep.org

Web address: www.amrep.org

High resolution production photos of
Cardenio
 can be downloaded from
www.amrep.org/media beginning May 12, 2008.