



PITTSBURGH IRISH & CLASSICAL THEATRE

Professional Theater in Residence at the University of Pittsburgh

Single tickets on sale now for stellar PICT 2010 season

Local, national and internationally-acclaimed artists bring “Dreams and Nightmares” season to life, with world premiere musical, Shakespearean tragedy, and six-play celebration of the late, great playwright Harold Pinter

Media Contact: Melissa Hill Grande
Marketing Director and Artistic Associate
Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre
mgrande@picttheatre.org
412-561-6000 x203

FOR RELEASE on MARCH 15, 2010

Pittsburgh, PA – March 9, 2010. Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre has assembled a team of more than 100 world-class artists, including Canadian legends Richard McMillan, Michael Hanrahan, Simon Bradbury and Michael Ball, and Irish legend Alan Stanford. Top-notch local favorites gracing the PICT stage this season include Martin Giles, Larry John Meyers, Joel Ripka, David Whalen, Daina Michelle Griffith, and making his PICT debut, Daniel Krell.

Leading off the 2010 season is the world premiere of *Beautiful Dreamers*, a new music drama set to the songs of Pittsburgh’s hometown hero Stephen Foster, written and directed by Martin Giles with arrangements and musical direction by Douglas Levine. The project is a co-production with Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, in conjunction with the Stephen Foster Museum and the Center for American Music. Joel Ripka, who starred in PICT’s acclaimed 2009 production of *Crime and Punishment*, is featured as Moses Walker, a young New Yorker who sets off on a journey across America after his heart is broken. Joining him are Stephanie Riso, playing the young widow woman Susannah Milsap, and Kevin Brown as escaped slave Caleb Jefferson. Riso is the founding managing director of PICT, and currently serves as operations director. She was last seen on the PICT stage as Rita/Young Julia in the 2004 blockbuster production of *James Joyce’s The Dead*. Brown makes his PICT debut, but has been featured in numerous Opera Theater of Pittsburgh productions, including the recent *Beggar’s Holiday*. The production also showcases PICT newcomers Daniel Krell (City Theatre’s *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Pittsburgh Public Theater’s *Midsummer Night’s Dream*) and Allison Moody, along with Michael Fuller (*Pride & Prejudice*) and Daina Michelle Griffith (*James Joyce’s The Dead*), playing numerous roles.

Scenic design is by Tony Ferrieri, lighting by Cindy Limauro, costumes by Kelly LeVine (assisted by Peter Doukas), sound by Dave Bjornson, and properties by Cory F. Goddard. *Beautiful Dreamers* plays April 15 – May 1 in the Charity Randall Theatre.

PICT 2010 season showcases fantastic actors

In conjunction with *Beautiful Dreamers*, the University of Pittsburgh will be hosting a first-ever Stephen Foster symposium April 23 and 24 entitled “Stephen Foster in American Cultural History.” Foster scholars from all over the world will be in attendance and scheduled speakers include renowned baritone Thomas Hampson on “Foster’s songs as part of America’s classic vocal repertory” and Japanese professor Kazuko Miyashita on “America as understood through Foster’s songs in foreign cultures.”

Javon Johnson stars as Shakespeare’s most powerful tragic hero, Othello. Johnson is an award-winning actor and playwright and a founding ensemble member of Congo Square Theatre Company in Chicago. He received an MFA in acting from the University of Pittsburgh, and his previous Pittsburgh credits include Pittsburgh Public Theater (*Measure for Measure*) and Kuntu Repertory Theatre (*Blues for an Alabama Sky*). A playwright and protégé of August Wilson, Johnson has performed in many Wilson plays. He comes to *Othello* on the heels of performing in *Two Trains Running* at Geva Theatre in Rochester, directed by Ron O.J. Parsons. Other recent theater credits include *Joe Turner’s Come and Gone* (Congo Square Theater, CENTERSTAGE), and *Gem of the Ocean* (Goodman Theater and Mark Taper Forum). He had a recurring role on the Fox TV series “Prison Break”, as well as roles in the films “Barbershop 2”, and “Tyler Perry’s Daddy’s Little Girls.”

Michael Hanrahan makes his PICT debut as Iago. Hanrahan is a founding member of Toronto’s Soulpepper Theatre Company, where he has recently been seen in *Loot*, *Awake and Sing* and *Oh What a Lovely War*. He is also a recipient of the Dora Mavor Moore Award for his performance as Solyony in The Banff School of Fine Arts production of *Three Sisters*. Other credits include productions with the Stratford Festival, Canadian Stage Company and Tarragon Theatre. Hanrahan will also be featured in the Pinter Celebration.

Allison McLemore (*Jane Eyre*) returns to play Desdemona, and her husband Jay Stratton (Oedipus in the Pittsburgh Public Theater production of *Oedipus the King*) plays Cassio. Other PICT alums in the cast include Joel Ripka (also 2010 *Beautiful Dreamers*; *Crime and Punishment*, *Jane Eyre*, *Pride & Prejudice*) as Roderigo; Shelley Delaney (*Jane Eyre*) as Emilia; Larry John Meyers (*Crime and Punishment*, *Dublin Carol*, *Endgame/BeckettFest*) as Brabantio; Martin Giles (2010 Pinter Festival; *What the Butler Saw*, *The History Boys*, *Rock ‘n’ Roll*, *Synge Cycle*, *BeckettFest*) as the Duke of Venice; and Ben Blazer (*Salome*, *Synge Cycle*) as ensemble. PICT newcomers Georgia Guy (Bianca) and Rich Venezia (ensemble) round out the cast. PICT Producing Artistic Director Andrew S. Paul directs *Othello*, with sets by Gianni Downs, lights by Jim French, sound by Joe Pino, and costumes by Joan Markert (assisted by Kathleen Crocker-Perry). *Othello* plays May 20 through June 12 in the intimate Henry Heymann Theatre.

In conjunction with *Othello*, PICT will hold the free panel discussion “*Othello* for a 21st Century Audience” on June 6th, following the 2 p.m. performance. Panelists will include Javon Johnson, Dr. Kristen Olson, and Andrew S. Paul.

PICT 2010 season showcases fantastic actors

Richard McMillan, Alan Stanford, Matthew Gray, Bernadette Quigley and Sam Tsoutsouvas lead the outstanding repertory company assembled for “Hearing Noise in the Silence: A Celebration of the Life and Theatre of Harold Pinter”. The Pinter Celebration follows the unprecedented successes of PICT’s BeckettFest and Synge Cycle, tracing the development of drama in the 20th Century. Pinter Celebration gives audiences the opportunity to experience six very different Pinter plays (most rarely performed) in festival format.

The five-time Dora Award-winning Canadian actor Richard McMillan (*Henry*, *Stuff Happens*, *Julius Caesar*) returns to the PICT stage for *No Man’s Land* and *Celebration*. McMillan’s career encompasses a wide range of works, including the Stratford and Broadway productions of *The Mikado*. He originated the role of Sarumon for *Lord of the Rings: The Musical*, and was the villainous Scar in the long-running Toronto production of *The Lion King*. He also spent many seasons with Pittsburgh’s Three Rivers Shakespeare Festival, the Stratford Festival and the Shaw Festival.

Irish director, actor and playwright Alan Stanford returns to PICT after his stunning 2007 production of *Salome*. Stanford is the artistic director of Second Age Theatre Company, and his extensive career includes directing Harold Pinter in a production of Pinter’s play *The Collection* at the Gate Theatre in Dublin. He will direct *Betrayal* and *Celebration*.

Matthew Gray directed PICT’s hugely successful 2009 production of *Crime and Punishment*, and returns to direct *The Hothouse*. An Assistant Professor of Acting at Carnegie Mellon University, Gray was recently seen on-stage in the Quantum Theatre production of *36 Views*. His many credits include productions in Canada and the UK.

Bernadette Quigley makes her Pittsburgh debut in Pinter Festival, playing Prue in *Celebration* and Rose in *The Room*. Quigley has been seen on Broadway and in the national tour of Brian Friel’s *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Other credits include productions at Abingdon Theatre, Actors Studio, and regionally at Repertory Theatre of St. Louis (*Bug*, *The Crucible*), Virginia Stage (*Beauty Queen of Leenane*), as well as Williamstown Theatre Festival, Long Wharf Theatre, and Milwaukee Repertory Theatre.

PICT alum Sam Tsoutsouvas returns to perform in *No Man’s Land* and *The Hothouse*. His previous PICT credits include *Rock ‘n’ Roll*, *Heartbreak House* and *Henry IV*. He was also seen locally in the recent Pittsburgh Public Theatre production of Caryl Churchill’s *A Number*.

Pinter Celebration also marks a return to the stage for PICT Artistic Director Andrew S. Paul. In his first acting role since 2003, Paul will portray the verbose, comical waiter in *Celebration*. Paul also directs *No Man’s Land*.

The Pinter company also includes PICT newcomers Fredi Bernstein in *Celebration* and *The Room*;

PICT 2010 season showcases fantastic actors

Leo Marks in *The Hothouse*, *Betrayal* and *Celebration*; and Bernadette Quigley in *Celebration* and *The Room*. Returning to PICT are Jarrod DiGiorgi (*Rock 'n' Roll*, *Salome*) in *No Man's Land*, *The Room* and *The Dumb Waiter*; Tami Dixon (*Rock 'n' Roll*) in *The Hothouse* and *Celebration*; Nike Doukas (*An Ideal Husband*) in *Betrayal* and *Celebration*; Martin Giles (*The History Boys*, *What the Butler Saw*, *Synge Cycle*, *BeckettFest*) in *Celebration*, *The Hothouse* and *The Room*, as well as director of *The Dumb Waiter*; Michael Hanrahan (*Othello*) in *The Hothouse*, *The Dumb Waiter* and *Celebration*; Sheila McKenna (*Synge Cycle*, *BeckettFest*, *Wilde Tales*) as director of *The Room*; Larry John Meyers (*Crime and Punishment*, *Dublin Carol*, *Stuff Happens*) in *The Hothouse* and *The Room*; Doug Pona (*Salome*) in *The Hothouse* and *The Room*; and David Whalen (*Jane Eyre*, *Salome*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Julius Caesar*) in *No Man's Land* and *Betrayal*. The design team includes Gianni Downs (scenic design), Jim French (lighting), and Elizabeth Atkins (sound).

The festival runs July 22 through August 22 in the Charity Randall and Henry Heymann Theatres, and concludes with a special evening of Pinter sketches, poetry and prose on August 22nd, featuring the entire Pinter company.

Storytellers Series returns in conjunction with the Pinter Celebration. "Pinteresque" features four readings of contemporary plays inspired by Pinter: *Blue/Orange* by Joe Penhall on April 26th; *Parlour Song* by Jez Butterworth on May 24th; *Geography of a Horse Dreamer* by Sam Shepard on June 28th, and *The Ruffian on the Stair* by Joe Orton on July 12th. All readings begin at 7 p.m.

A free panel discussion, "Power, Politics and Preconceptions: A Discussion about the Controversial Works of Harold Pinter" will be held on August 14th at noon. Panelists include Alan Stanford, and Ann C. Hall, President of the International Harold Pinter Association.

The PICT 2010 season concludes with the delightful family-friendly Victorian comedy *Hobson's Choice*, by Harold Brighouse. Canadian legends Michael Ball and Simon Bradbury (*King Lear*, *The Shaughraun*, *Chaplin*) reprise their roles from the wildly popular production that played two seasons at the Shaw Festival, and Derris Ring (*Synge Cycle*, *Boston Marriage*, *James Joyce's The Dead*) returns to Pittsburgh to play the cantankerous daughter Maggie. It plays December 2 – 18 in the Charity Randall Theatre.

Single tickets are available now through ProArtsTickets at 412.394.3353. A range of options are available for money-saving season subscriptions, and can be purchased by contacting Eric Nelson at 412.561.6000 x206, emailing enelson@picttheatre.org, or on the PICT website at www.picttheatre.org.

PICT 2010 season showcases fantastic actors

FACT SHEET
Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre
Mainstage Productions

***Beautiful Dreamers* by Martin Giles**

(also dir.)
Arrangements and Musical Direction by Douglas
Levine
Music by Stephen Foster
The Charity Randall Theatre
April 15 – May 1
(a co-production with Opera Theater of
Pittsburgh)

***Othello* by William Shakespeare**

Directed by Andrew S. Paul
Henry Heymann Theatre
May 20 – June 12

Pinter Celebration

Hearing Noise in the Silence:
A celebration of the life
and theatre of Harold Pinter

The Hothouse

Directed by Matthew Gray
Henry Heymann Theatre
July 22 – August 22

No Man's Land

Directed by Andrew S. Paul
The Charity Randall Theatre
July 30 – August 21

Four One-Act Plays

The Dumb Waiter & Betrayal
Directed by Martin Giles and Alan Stanford
Henry Heymann Theatre
August 5 – 21

The Room & Celebration

Directed by Sheila McKenna and Alan Stanford
The Charity Randall Theatre
August 14 – 20

Pinter Celebration Finale

The Charity Randall Theatre
August 22

***Hobson's Choice* by Harold Brighouse**

Directed by Andrew S. Paul
The Charity Randall Theatre
December 2 – 18

Storytellers Series

Pinteresque: Four contemporary plays inspired by Harold Pinter
Mondays at 7 p.m.

***Blue/Orange* by**
Joe Penhall
April 26

***Parlour Song* by**
Jez Butterworth
May 24

Geography of a
Horse Dreamer
by Sam Shepard
June 28

The Ruffian on the
***Stair* by Joe Orton**
July 12

PICT Special Events (All Free of Charge)

Stephen Foster Symposium

“Stephen Foster in American Cultural History” – April 23rd and 24th
Sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh

Panel Discussion Series

“*Othello* for a 21st Century Audience” – June 6, following the 2 p.m. performance – Javon Johnson, star of
Othello; Dr. Kristen Olson, scholar and dramaturg; and Andrew S. Paul, director of *Othello* and PICT
artistic director

“Power, Politics and Preconceptions: A Discussion about the Controversial Works of Harold Pinter” –
August 14, noon – Alan Stanford, internationally-acclaimed actor and director; Ann C. Hall, President of
the International Harold Pinter Society

Tickets:

Subscriptions: \$215 - \$265 (10 packages and 4 Flex Plans available)

Single Tickets: \$34 - \$50 (\$20 under 25 with valid ID)

Pinter One-Act Evenings: \$32 (\$20 under 25 with valid ID)

Storytellers Series: \$15 (\$40 for series with subscription)

Call ProArtsTickets at 412.394.3353 or visit PICT online at www.picttheatre.org
Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre. Great Stories. Well Told.

PICT 2010 season showcases fantastic actors

PICT 2010 Cast Lists

Beautiful Dreamers

Moses Walker: **Joel Ripka**
Susannah Milsap: **Stephanie Riso**
Caleb Jefferson: **Kevin Brown**
Man 1: **Daniel Krell**
Man 2: **Michael Fuller**
Woman 1: **Daina Michelle Griffith**
Woman 2: **Allison Moody**

Othello

Othello: **Javon Johnson**
Brabantio/ Gratiano: **Larry John Meyers**
Cassio: **Jay Stratton**
Iago: **Michael Hanrahan**
Roderigo: **Joel Ripka**
Duke/Lodovico: **Martin Giles**
Montano: **Darryl Heysham**
Desdemona: **Allison McLemore**
Emilia: **Shelley Delaney**
Bianca: **Georgia Guy**
Ensemble: **Ben Blazer, Rich Venezia**

Pinter Celebration *The Company*

Fredi Bernstein: Sonia (*Celebration*); Mrs. Sands (*The Room*)

Jarrold DiGiorgi: Foster (*No Man's Land*); Gus (*The Dumb Waiter*); Mr. Sands (*The Room*)

Tami Dixon: Miss Cutts (*The Hothouse*); Suki (*Celebration*)

Nike Doukas: Emma (*Betrayal*); Julie (*Celebration*)

Martin Giles: Matt (*Celebration*); Lamb (*The Hothouse*); Bert Hudd (*The Room*); Director (*The Dumb Waiter*)

Matthew Gray: Director (*The Hothouse*)

Michael Hanrahan: Lush (*The Hothouse*); Ben (*The Dumb Waiter*); Lambert (*Celebration*)

Leo Marks: Gibbs (*The Hothouse*); Robert (*Betrayal*); Russell (*Celebration*)

Sheila McKenna: Director (*The Room*)

Richard McMillan: Spooner (*No Man's Land*); Richard (*Celebration*)

Larry John Meyers: Roote (*The Hothouse*); Mr. Kidd (*The Room*)

Andrew Paul: Waiter (*Celebration*); Director (*No Man's Land*)

Doug Pona: Tubb (*The Hothouse*); Riley (*The Room*)

Bernadette Quigley: Prue (*Celebration*); Rose (*The Room*)

Alan Stanford: Director (*Betrayal, Celebration*)

Sam Tsoutsouvas: Hirst (*No Man's Land*); Lobb (*The Hothouse*)

David Whalen: Briggs (*No Man's Land*); Jerry (*Betrayal*)

Hobson's Choice

Henry Horatio Hobson – **Michael Ball**
Willie Mossop – **Simon Bradbury**
Maggie – **Derdriu Ring**

(*Hobson's Choice* casting will be finalized later in the spring).

The *Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre* was founded in 1996 to diversify the region's theatrical offerings by providing Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania audiences with high-quality, text-driven, affordable productions of classical theatre and the works of classical and contemporary Irish playwrights and to significantly improve employment opportunities for local talent in all facets of theatrical presentation and production. PICT is a Small Professional Theatre (SPT) affiliated with Actors' Equity Association, and a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG) and the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council. PICT is the Professional Theatre in Residence at the University of Pittsburgh and PICT productions at the Charity Randall and Henry Heymann Theatres are presented in cooperation with the University of Pittsburgh – Department of Theatre Arts.