

Lincoln Center Festival 08

Date: April 1, 2008

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**NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND
PRODUCTION OF EURIPIDES' *THE BACCHAE*,
DIRECTED BY JOHN TIFFANY AND STARRING ALAN CUMMING,
OPENS *LINCOLN CENTER FESTIVAL 08* ON JULY 2**

Lincoln Center Festival 08 opens on July 2 with a preview performance (opening night is July 3) of the National Theatre of Scotland production of *The Bacchae*, a new version of Euripides' classic play by David Greig from Ian Ruffell's translation, directed by John Tiffany (*Black Watch*) and starring Tony Award-winner Alan Cumming as the seductive, androgynous god Dionysus, son of Zeus and the mortal Semele. There will be 13 performances of this **North American production premiere** in the Rose Theater, Frederick P. Rose Hall, Home of Jazz at Lincoln Center, through July 13.

One of New York's favorite stage actors, Alan Cumming, plays the hedonistic god Dionysius. A Tony award-winner for *Cabaret*, Cumming most recently starred as Trigorin in Chekhov's *The Seagull* with Dianne Wiest at Classic Stage Company. *The Bacchae* is directed by John Tiffany, whose staging of another National Theatre of Scotland production, *Black Watch*, played to great acclaim last fall at St. Ann's Warehouse in Brooklyn. The production is returning to St. Ann's Warehouse in October 2008.

In this extraordinary play first performed in 405 BC after his death, Euripides achieved an unforgettable mix of comedy and tragedy. *The Bacchae* begins playfully as the god Dionysius (son of Zeus and Semele, a mortal who died after giving birth to him) returns home to Thebes like a triumphant rock star, demanding recognition as a god. But when King Pentheus, his cousin, refuses, Dionysus unleashes his fury in the form of the Bacchae, his cult of female worshippers who are joined by the women of Thebes. Disguised as a priest, Dionysius convinces Pentheus to dress in female clothing and witness the women's wild worshipping. As a result, the king is dismembered by the women, led by his own mother, who disbelieved Semele's claim that she had been impregnated by Zeus. What begins in laughter ends in devastation and grief.

In this vibrant National Theatre of Scotland production, director John Tiffany makes song and movement the core of the play, as Dionysius' cult is portrayed by a "Greek chorus" of R&B soul divas who comment on the unfolding tragic events. Joining Cumming onstage are John Bett (Tiresias), Paola Dionisotti (Agave), Ewan Hooper (Cadmus) and Cal MacAninch (Pentheus). The Bacchae are played by Sally Amaka Okafor, Sharon Duncan-Brewster, Hazel Holder, Melissa Keyes, Lisa Davina Phillip, Sarah Quist, Ann-Marie Roberts, Jessika Williams and Emi Wokoma.

John Bett (Tiresias) has appeared in *Translations* (Citizens' Theatre, Glasgow), *Love's Labours Lost* and *Antony and Cleopatra* (Shakespeare's Globe), and *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh/Nottingham Playhouse), and has directed *Oh! What A Lovely War* and *The Silver Darlings* (Citizens' Theatre, Glasgow). Onscreen, he has been in *My Life So Far*, *Shallow Grave*, and *Gregory's Girl*.

Alan Cumming (Dionysus), who trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, has performed on Broadway (Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics' Circle awards for *Cabaret*, *Design For Living*, *The Threepenny Opera*), off-Broadway (*The Seagull*, *Elle*), on television (*The L Word*, *Sex and the City*, *Frasier*, *3rd Rock from the Sun*), and in many films (*Goldeneye*, *Eyes Wide Shut*, *Titus*, *Spy Kids* trilogy, *Emma*, *Circle of Friends*, *X2:X Men United*, and *The Anniversary Party*, which he wrote, produced and directed). Alan's activism and charity work for various civil rights and sex education causes has earned him several humanitarian awards including two Human Rights Campaign awards and GLAAD's Vito Russo media award. He is also the author of a book, *Tommy's Tale*, and has recently launched a successful fragrance and body line called—what else?—CUMMING. Alan recently starred in the Sci-Fi Channel miniseries *Tin Man*, an adaptation of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* in which he played Glitch, a character based on the Scarecrow. *Tin Man* debuted to a huge audience, making it the most watched mini-series on cable in 2007. He won an Independent Spirit Award last year for the film *Sweet Land*, in which he produced and starred. Cumming's latest film as director and star is *Suffering Man's Charity*.

Paola Dionisotti's (Agave) many theater credits include *Further Than the Furthest Thing* (Tron Theatre/National Theatre (UK), Best Actress, Evening Standard Awards and Stage Award for Best Actress, 2000 Edinburgh Festival), *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Iceman Cometh*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Measure for Measure*, *Antony and Cleopatra* and *The Canterbury Tales* (Royal Shakespeare Company).

Ewan Hooper (Cadmus) has been seen onscreen in *Personal Services*, *Kinky Boots*, *Julius Caesar* and *How I Won the War*. Onstage, he has appeared in *Roots* and *Stuff Happens* (National Theatre (UK)), and *Coriolanus*, *Henry V* and *The Caretaker* (Royal Shakespeare Company).

Cal MacAninch (Pentheus) has acted in *A Whistle In The Dark*, *Hamlet*, *Oedipus Rex*, *Enrico Four*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Frankenstein*, and *'Tis Pity She's A Whore* (Citizens' Theatre, Glasgow), *Under The Black Flag* (Shakespeare's Globe), and *The Cherry Orchard* (Dundee Rep Theatre).

John Tiffany (director) is Associate Director of New Work for The National Theatre of Scotland. His productions include *Black Watch* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Scottish Tour, international tour including St. Ann's Warehouse and UCLA Live, Radio 3 adaptation and BBC Scotland broadcast), *Elizabeth Gordon Quinn* (Dundee Rep and Scottish tour), *Home Glasgow*, and *The Bacchae*. Among his many awards, *Black Watch* won Best Director, Best Production, Best Ensemble, and Best Technical Presentation at the Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland. The production also won the South Bank Show Theatre Award and Tiffany won the Critics Circle Best Director Award. His international theater work includes touring productions to Argentina, Mexico, Portugal, Norway, Sweden and the United States.

Since its launch in February 2006, the **National Theatre of Scotland** has been involved in creating 59 productions

in 101 different locations and has attracted an audience of over 230,000 people. With no building of its own, the company takes theater all over Scotland and beyond, working to create theater of the highest quality that takes place in the great buildings of Scotland and also in site-specific locations, airports and tower blocks, community halls and drill halls, ferries and forests. The company made its U.S. and New York debut last year with *The Wolves in the Walls*, directed by Vicky Featherstone at The New Victory Theater.

The Bacchae will be the National Theatre of Scotland's *Lincoln Center Festival* debut. The original production of *The Bacchae* was a co-production between the Edinburgh International Festival and the National Theatre of Scotland, in association with Lyric Hammersmith.

MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM

***The Bacchae* (North American Production Premiere)**

By Euripides

A new version by David Greig from a literal translation by Ian Ruffell

National Theatre of Scotland

Directed by John Tiffany

Designed by Miriam Buether

Lighting Design by Colin Grenfell

Sound Design by Chris Shutt

Associate Direction/Choreography by Steven Hoggett

Music Composition and Direction by Tim Sutton

With: John Bett, Alan Cumming, Paola Dionisotti, Ewan Hooper, and Cal MacAninch

The Bacchae: Sally Amaka Okafor, Sharon Duncan-Brewster, Hazel Holder, Melissa Keyes, Lisa Davina Phillip, Sarah Quist, Ann-Marie Roberts, Jessika Williams and Emi Wokoma

Thirteen performances:

Preview--July 2 at 8 p.m.

July 3, 5, 8-13 at 8 p.m.

July 5 and 12 at 2 p.m.

July 6 and 13 at 3 p.m.

Running time: 1 hour, 50 minutes, no intermission

The Rose Theater, Frederick P. Rose Hall, Home of Jazz at Lincoln Center, 60th St and Broadway

Tickets: \$35, 45, 60, 75, 90

Tuesday, July 8 at 6 PM

Pre-Performance Symposium

The Bacchae

Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse, Lincoln Center's Rose Building, 165 West 65th Street, 10th Floor

No tickets required. FREE

SYMPOSIA

As it has done since its inception to enhance the performance experience, *Lincoln Center Festival* will present symposia and special events with various *Festival* artists and performers. Most events last approximately one hour, are free of charge, and take place at 6 p.m. in the Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse in the Rose Building at Lincoln Center. For more information, visit LincolnCenter.org in April.

TICKETS

Tickets for *Festival 08* are on sale via CenterCharge 212-721-6500, online at www.LincolnCenter.org and at the Avery Fisher Hall Box Office, 65th Street and Broadway. Priority seating is available to *Gate / Beckett* with the purchase of all three plays; remaining single tickets for individual plays go on sale April 28.

INFORMATION AND UPDATES

For more information visit www.LincolnCenter.org and register for "My Lincoln Center" to receive a *Festival* brochure, updates, and special offers. You may also call Lincoln Center Customer Service at 212-875-5456.

Programs and artists subject to change.

PHONE NUMBERS/CONTACT INFORMATION

CenterCharge: 212-721-6500

Lincoln Center's website: www.LincolnCenter.org

Lincoln Center Customer Service: 212-875-5456

Lincoln Center Information Line: 212-875-5766

VENUE LOCATIONS

Avery Fisher Hall, 65th Street and Broadway

Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse, the Rose Building, 165 W. 65th Street, 10th floor

Gerald W. Lynch Theater, John Jay College, Amsterdam Avenue between 58th and 59th Streets

Park Avenue Armory, 643 Park Avenue, between 66th and 67th Streets

The Rose Theater, Frederick P. Rose Hall, 60th Street and Broadway

Walter Reade Theater, 165 West 65th Street

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Lincoln Center Festival 2008 is also made possible by Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Alice Tully Foundation, Nancy A. Marks, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Susan and Elihu Rose, The Starr Foundation, LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, Jennie and Richard DeScherer, The Skirball Foundation, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, The Katzenberger Foundation, Inc., The Shubert Foundation, The Geoffrey C. Hughes Foundation, Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc., The Harold & Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, The Norman & Rosita Winston Foundation, Solomon and Blanche De Jonge Foundation, The Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies, The Mortimer Levitt Foundation, Inc., One Anonymous, Great Performers Circle, Chairman's Council, and Friends of Lincoln Center.

Public support for Festival 2008 is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Additional corporate support is provided by Sumitomo Corporation of America Foundation.

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Lincoln Center is committed to providing and improving accessibility for people with disabilities. For information, call the Department of Programs and Services for People with Disabilities at (212) 875-5375.

