

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Stephanie Kulke / Ph: 773-244-8119
skulke@remybumpo.org

REMY BUMPPO PRESENTS THE CHICAGO PREMIERE OF TOM STOPPARD'S AWARD-WINNING COMEDY *HEROES*

CHICAGO – Remy Bumpo Theatre Company presents the Chicago premiere of *Heroes*, winner of the 2006 Olivier Award for Best New Comedy, written by **Gerard Sibleyras** and translated by **Tom Stoppard**. *Heroes* runs Oct. 14 through Nov. 29 in the Downstairs Mainstage of the Greenhouse Theater at 2257 N. Lincoln Avenue. Preview performances begin Thursday, Oct. 14 with opening night Sunday, Oct. 18 at 7:00 p.m. The *Heroes* cast features guest artist **Mike Nussbaum** making his Remy Bumpo debut, Artistic Associate **David Darlow** and guest artist **Roderick Peeples**. *Heroes* is directed by Remy Bumpo Artistic Director **James Bohnen**, with set design by **Tim Morrison**, costume design by **Samantha C. Jones**, lighting design by **Rich Norwood**, sound design by **Jason Knox** and properties design by **Nick Heggestad**.

"I say we go...up that hill, where the poplars are. There where the wind blows...it's not a bad halfway house between Indochina and a picnic." - *Heroes*

It's 1959 and Philippe, Gustave and Henri, three veterans from WWI keep each other company on the back terrace of a retired soldiers' home. Through a series of witty scenes, the men goad one another into new adventures. The men's cantankerous camaraderie becomes strained as they plot an expedition to Indochina, or at least as far as the poplar trees on the distant hill. *Heroes* is a funny and bittersweet play about memory and "not going gently into that good night."

The 2009-2010 Season is made possible by Prince Charitable Trusts, The Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, The Illinois Arts Council and by a City Arts Program 3 grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs.

Listing Information

Heroes

By Gerard Sibleyras and translated by Tom Stoppard

Directed by James Bohnen

Cast features: Mike Nussbaum, David Darlow and Roderick Peeples

Oct. 14 - Nov. 29, 2009

Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday matinee performances at 2:00 p.m. on Oct. 28 and Nov. 11 (Veteran's Day).

Opening Night is Sunday, Oct. 18 at 7:00 p.m.

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The Greenhouse Theater
Downstairs Mainstage
2257 N Lincoln Ave., Chicago
Box Office: 773-404-7336 (773-40-GREEN)
www.remybumppo.org

Single tickets are on sale now.

Previews: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday \$25 - \$35; Saturday and Sunday \$30 - \$40

Regular run: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday \$35 - \$45; Saturday and Sunday \$40 - \$50

Opening Night: \$50

Student and group discounts are available.

Groups (6 or more): 773-244-8119

Special Events:

Sunday, Oct. 18 at 7:00 p.m. - Heroes Opening Night. Tickets are \$50 and include post-show artist reception in the lobby.

Saturday, Oct. 24 at 1:30 p.m. - Between the Lines program with Newberry Library expert on 20th century literature **Todd Bauer**, who will share insights into the themes of the play with a 30 minute pre-show conversation. Tickets are \$50 and include a ticket for the 2:30 p.m. performance of *Heroes* and a post-show discussion.

Sunday, Nov. 22 at 5:30 p.m. - poetry reading co-sponsored by the Vet Art Project titled, *Warrior Poetry*. Veterans and actors will perform poetic works. This event will take place at the Greenhouse Theater.

Weekly post-show discussions with cast members are held after Sunday matinee performances (excluding Oct. 18 preview and closing performance Nov. 29).

Playwright **Gerard Sibleyras** was born in 1961 in Paris. His most notable work is the 2003 *Le Vent des Peupliers*, which has been translated and produced in countries worldwide including the United Kingdom, Germany, Uruguay and now the United States. The play premiered in Paris at the Théâtre Montparnasse, and received four Molières nominations including Meilleur Auteur (Best Author). Tom Stoppard translated the play into English (*Heroes*) and it received its London debut at the Wyndham Theater under the direction of Thea Sharrock. The production won the 2006 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Comedy. His next play *L'Inscription* was produced in 2004 in Paris and later in Poland. In 2003 *Un Petit Jeu Sans Conséquence* was awarded five Molières Awards. Gérard Sibleyras adapted William Nicholson's *The Retreat From Moscow* which was produced in Paris in January 2007. He is currently adapting his play *La Danse de L'Albatros* for the screen.

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Translator **Tom Stoppard** is a British playwright born in Zlin, Czechoslovakia in 1937. His plays include *Rock 'N Roll*, *Arcadia* (Remy Bumpo 2004), *Night and Day* (Remy Bumpo, 1996), *Rosencranz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *The Coast of Utopia* and the Tony Award-winning Best Play, *The Real Thing* (Remy Bumpo 2006). Stoppard co-wrote the screenplays for *Brazil*, which was nominated for an Academy Award in 1985 and *Shakespeare in Love*, which won the Academy Award for Best Screenplay in 1999.

Mike Nussbaum is an actor and director. He received a Jeff Award in 1997 for his work in David Hare's *Racing Demon*. He originated roles in many of David Mamet's plays including Richard in *A Life in the Theatre*, John in *The Shawl* and Aaronow in *Glengarry Glen Ross*. He also originated the roles of Marcus in Claudia Allen's *Winter* and Shlomo in Charles L. Mee's *Time to Burn*. Chicago Shakespeare Theater stage credits include *Macbeth*, *Passion*, *Hamlet*, *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Richard II*, and *Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Northlight Theatre credits include *Visiting Mr. Green*, *Better Late*, *Tuesdays with Morrie* and director for *The Belmont Avenue Social Club*. Film credits include *Field of Dreams* and *Men in Black*.

David Darlow is an Artistic Associate at Remy Bumpo Theatre, where he has been seen in *The Voyage Inheritance*, *The Best Man*, *Power*, *Humble Boy*, *Hidden Laughter*, *No Man's Land*, *Hapgood*, *Road to Mecca*, *Man and Superman*, *Money*, and *Major Barbara* (After Dark Award). He directed *Mrs. Warren's Profession* for Remy Bumpo and *As You Like it* at the Utah Shakespearean Festival. Other Chicago stage credits include *A Life in the Theatre*, *As You Like it*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Passion* and *The Misanthrope* at Goodman Theatre; *Othello*, *Timon of Athens* and *As You Like it* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater; *The Real Thing* and *Betrayal* at Northlight Theatre; *Nathan the Wise* at Chicago Festival of the Arts; and Stephen Sondheim's *Passion* with Patty Lupone and Audra McDonald at Ravinia Festival. He won a Joseph Jefferson Award for his performance in *Endgame* at American Theater Company (with Mike Nussbaum). Film credits include *Were the World Mine*, *The Weatherman*, *Road to Perdition*, *The Fugitive*, *Miller's Crossing*, and *Ride with the Devil*.

Roderick Peebles appeared last season in Remy Bumpo's production of *The Voyage Inheritance*. Chicago work includes *Oedipus Complex* at Goodman Theatre; *Morning Star* at Steppenwolf Theatre Company; *Hamlet*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and *Richard III* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater; *Berlin 45* at Victory Gardens Theater; *The God of Hell* at Next Theatre; *Fräulein Else* and *Gross Indecency* at Court Theatre. He won a Jeff Award for *Dealer's Choice* at Roadworks Theatre and was a company member at Famous Door Theater where he appeared in *Lonesome West*, *The Homecoming* and *Ghetto*. Regional credits include *Henry V* and *As You Like It* (directed by David Darlow) at Utah Shakespearean Festival; *Death of a Salesman*, *The Price* and *Moon for the Misbegotten* at Madison Repertory Theatre; and *King Lear*, *Merchant of Venice* and *Henry VIII* at Illinois Shakespeare Festival in Bloomington, IL. Film work includes Robert Altman's *The Company*, *Road to Perdition* and *The Hudsucker Proxy*.

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James Bohnen (Director) is the artistic director and co-founder of Remy Bumppo Theatre Company where he has directed over two dozen productions. In 2008 he co-adapted and directed *Henry IV: The Making of a King* for American Players Theatre in Spring Green and adapted and directed *Henry V* this summer. James will direct *The Island* for Remy Bumppo this winter. Bohnen is a Meier Achievement Award Recipient, which recognizes gifted artists in mid-career.

Remy Bumppo Theatre Company's 2009/10 Season features three plays exploring the theme of **Friendships Tested**. The plays include the Chicago premiere of *Heroes* by Gerard Sibleyras and adapted by Tom Stoppard, *The Island* by Athol Fugard, and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* by Choderlos De Laclos and adapted by Christopher Hampton. Subscriptions range from \$56 for previews to \$145 for opening nights. Subscriptions may be ordered online at www.remybumppo.org or by calling 773-244-8119.

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REMY BUMPPPO THEATRE COMPANY delights and engages audiences with the emotional and ethical complexities of society through the provocative power of great theatrical language.