



REMY BUMPPPO THEATRE COMPANY
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REMY BUMPPPO THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES 09/10 SEASON

Three Plays Explore Friendships Tested

CHICAGO - Remy Bumpo Theatre Company is proud to announce its 2009-2010 season exploring the costs and profound joys of friendship. The season opens with Tom Stoppard's adaptation of Gérard Sibleyras' *Heroes*, Oct. 14 through Nov. 29, 2009, followed by Athol Fugard's daring drama *The Island*, Jan. 27 through March 7, 2010. Rounding out the season is Christopher Hampton's adaptation of Choderlos de Laclos's *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, March 17 through May 2, 2010. All performances will be presented at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.

Artistic Director **James Bohnen** explains the season theme of friendship: "In times when life is most challenging, we take the most comfort from our friendships. Our friends help us see ourselves, the good and the bad. In Gerard Sibleyras' *Heroes* (in a witty translation by Tom Stoppard), accidental friendships forged late in life become the force that holds three men in the world. In Athol Fugard's *The Island*, a friendship forged in a dank cell is severely tested by an unexpected stroke of good fortune. While *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* explores a friendship held taut by sexual desire that unravels when love intrudes."

Heroes

By Gerard Sibleyras

Translated by Tom Stoppard

Directed by James Bohnen

Featuring Artistic Associate David Darlow and guest artists Mike Nussbaum and Roderick Peeples.

Oct. 14-Nov. 29

Downstairs Mainstage

Tom Stoppard's translation of Gérard Sibleyras' play won the Olivier Award for Best New Comedy. 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."

(more)

The Island

By Athol Fugard

Directed by James Bohnen

Jan. 27-Mar. 7

Upstairs Mainstage

Athol Fugard's daring drama is set in an unnamed prison based on the one where Nelson Mandela was held. John and Winston are cellmates who spend their days doing back-breaking labor, and their nights rehearsing Sophocles' *Antigone* to present to their fellow inmates. When John learns his sentence is being reduced, the men's friendship is tested. Fugard plays the parallels between Antigone's fight against political and patriarchal boundaries off of the imprisoned men's fight for their dignity. *The Island* is a testament to the resiliency of the human heart.

Les Liaisons Dangereuses

By Choderlos De Laclos

Adapted by Christopher Hampton

Directed by David Darlow

Featuring Artistic Associates Greg Matthew Anderson, Annabel Armour, Linda Gillum, and Nick Sandys

Mar. 17-May 2

Upstairs Mainstage

Christopher Hampton adapts *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, Choderlos de Laclos's 1782 novel of sexual intrigue and ruthless manipulation set in the salons and boudoirs of pre-Revolutionary France. Feeling their aristocratic world waning, the Vicomte de Valmont and the Marquise de Merteuil, devise a game to test their skills as rapacious lovers. In their tenacious battle for the upper hand, they, like their innocent prey, become part of the wreckage. Filled with seduction, treachery, and passion, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* leaves the audiences desiring more.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions to the 2009-2010 Season are on sale now and can be purchased by phone at 773-244-8119 or online at www.remybumppo.org. Series subscriptions range from \$56 to \$145, and Flex subscriptions range from \$65 to \$75. Single tickets will be on sale starting Aug. 1, 2009 and can be purchased online at www.remybumppo.org or by phone at 773-404.7336 or in person at the Greenhouse Theater Center box office at 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. For groups of 6 or more, contact Remy Bumppo Theatre Company at 773-244-8119.

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

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