FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 2009

Remy Bumppo presents

Athol Fugard’s Daring Drama The Island

Partners with Court, TimeLine & League of Chicago Theaters to Launch
FugardChicago2010.org

Chicago - Remy Bumppo Theatre Company presents The Island, Athol Fugard's gripping prison drama, Jan. 27 through March 7, 2010 in the Upstairs Mainstage of the Greenhouse Theater Center at 2257 N. Lincoln Avenue. Preview performances begin Wednesday, Jan. 27 with opening night Sunday, Jan. 31 at 7:00 p.m. The Island cast features guest artists LaShawn Banks and Kamal Angelo Bolden, and is directed by Remy Bumppo Artistic Director James Bohen. Set design is by Tim Morrison, costume design by Rachel Laritz, lighting design by JR Lederle, sound design by Victoria Delorio and properties design by Nick Heggestad.

“Yes, they’ll laugh. But who cares about that as long as they laugh in the beginning and listen at the end. That’s all we want them to do...listen at the end!” – John, The Island

John and Winston are cellmates in an unnamed prison based on the one where Nelson Mandela was held. They 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 parallels Antigone's fight against political and patriarchal boundaries with the imprisoned men's fight for their dignity. The Island is a testament to the resiliency of the human heart.

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

Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, Court Theatre and TimeLine Theatre Company present three of Athol Fugard's bravest plays in 2010. The lineup begins with TimeLine's production of 'Master Harold'...and the Boys (Jan. 20 - March 21), followed by Remy Bumppo's The Island (Jan. 27 - March 7, 2010) and concludes with Court Theatre's production of Sizwe Banzi is Dead (May 13 - June 13, 2010). Remy Bumppo, Court and TimeLine, with support from the League of Chicago Theaters, have launched www.fugardchicago2010.org, a collaborative website to promote Chicago's season of Fugard. The website offers information about the playwright, ticket information for all three productions, and links to each theatre's website where further information about the individual productions can be found. In addition, the site offers theatre-
goers a 3-play pass for $75 as well as the opportunity to sign-up for a 20% discount on individual tickets and behind the scenes news on the productions and playwright.

**Listing Information**

*The Island*

By Athol Fugard  
Directed by James Bohnen  
Cast: LaShawn Banks and Kamal Angelo Bolden  
Jan. 27 - March 7, 2010  
Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays 2:30 p.m.  
Wednesday matinee performances at 2:00 p.m. on Feb. 10 and 24  
Saturday matinee performances on Feb. 6 at 1:30 p.m. and Feb. 20 at 2:30 p.m.  
Student matinee March 3, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.  
Opening Night is Sunday, Jan. 31 at 7:00 p.m.  
The Greenhouse Theater Center  
Upstairs 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, Jan. 31 at 7:00 p.m. – The Island** Opening Night. Tickets are $50 and include post-show artist reception in the lobby.  
**Saturday, Feb. 6 at 1:30 p.m. – Between the Lines** program with social and political activist and educator Prexy Nesbitt. Tickets are $50 and include a ticket for the 2:30 p.m. performance of The Island. Between the Lines presents Chicago’s leading luminaries sharing their unique insights into the play, and joining the audience once again after the play for a post-show question and answer session.  
**Note:** Several other events that explore the topic of Civil Disobedience are being planned. For up to date information on Special Events related to The Island, please visit www.remybumppo.org

**Playwright Athol Fugard** is a South African playwright as well as a novelist, actor and director. In 1958 he organized a multiracial theatre where he wrote, directed and acted in the shows, including No-Good Friday and Nongogo. His play The Blood Knot premiered in 1962 and was later produced at an off-Broadway theater in 1964. He devised The Island with John Kani.
and Winston Ntshona, who originated the two roles. Other plays include Master Harold…and the Boys (Evening Standard Award winner for Best Play, 1983), My Children! My Africa!, Exits and Entrances and The Road to Mecca, which was the 1988 winner of a New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Foreign Play. In 1975 The Island was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Play.

LaShawn Banks makes his Remy Bumppo debut with The Island. Other Chicago credits include: The Turn of the Screw, Othello, The Duchess of Malfi, To the Green Fields Beyond (Writers’ Theatre); Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol (Goodman Theatre); Execution of Justice (About Face Theatre); and A Year with Frog and Toad (Chicago Children’s Theatre). Regional credits include: The Comedy of Errors, Macbeth (Summer Shakespeare at Notre Dame); As You Like It, All’s Well That Ends Well, Richard II, A Penny for a Song, Love’s Labors Lost, Antony and Cleopatra (American Players Theatre); The Amen Corner (Cleveland Playhouse); Sounding the River, Anna Karenina, Jitney (Milwaukee Repertory Theatre); The Colored Museum, The Old Settler and Hello, Again! (Trustus Theatre). Film credits include The Merry Gentleman directed by Michael Keaton.

Kamal Angelo Bolden recently played the title role in The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity at Victory Gardens Theater. The Peoria, IL native has worked with Tennessee’s top theater companies, including the Nashville Children’s Theater, Tennessee Repertory Theatre and the Nashville Shakespeare Festival. In addition to his stage work, which was recently awarded the Critic’s Pick Best Actor nod from the Nashville Scene, Kamal has also appeared in national and regional commercials and independent films.

James Bohnen (Director) is the artistic director and co-founder of Remy Bumppo Theatre Company where he has directed over two dozen productions. He works in the summers at American Players Theatre in Spring Green, WI. 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 Gerald Sibleyras and adapted by Tom Stoppard, The Island by Athol Fugard, and Les Liaisons Dangereuses by Choderlos De Lacos and adapted by Christopher Hampton. Two-play subscriptions are now available and range from $37 to $96. Subscriptions may be ordered online at www.remybumppo.org or by calling 773-244-8119.

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