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**REMY BUMPPO THEATRE COMPANY'S JAMES BOHNEN ANNOUNCES
2010-11 TO BE HIS LAST SEASON AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**
14th Year to Close the Circle with *Night and Day*

CHICAGO—Remy Bumpo Theatre Company's Founding Artistic Director James Bohnen officially announced today that he will step down at the close of the 2010-11 season after 14 years of artistic leadership.

Founded by a trio of theater producers from Aspen's Theatre-in-the-Park, Carol Loewenstern, John Stoddard and James Bohnen arrived in Chicago in 1996 to test the theatrical waters with a mini-season of Tom Stoppard's vibrant and romantic exploration of a free press *Night and Day* and Anton Chekhov's tenderly tragic view of the artistic temperament *The Seagull*, both directed by Bohnen. Pulled away by other interests Loewenstern and Stoddard moved on, but due to strong critical and audience response to the plays, and the vast pool of talented artists, Remy Bumpo, and Bohnen, never left Chicago.

Remy Bumpo officially incorporated in 2001 as a non-profit theater company, inaugurated its board of directors and established a core of artistic associates including Annabel Armour, David Darlow, Shawn Douglass, Linda Gillum and Nick Sandys. The company later added Joe Van Slyke (1952 - 2007) and Greg Matthew Anderson to its ensemble.

Year by year the company chooses work by seminal playwrights like Tom Stoppard and George Bernard Shaw because, in the words of Bohnen, "their commingling of humor with intelligent arguments lent themselves to what we believed in and came to call *think theatre*." In 2006 Remy Bumpo became a resident company at the Greenhouse Theater Center (then called the Victory Gardens Greenhouse).

Seeking to build a more personal connection with its audience, the company established programs that encourage further engagement and discussion such as First Rehearsal Receptions, the Season Salon, the Between the Lines series and annual thinkTank programming.

(more)

James Bohnen release

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The company has announced its 2010-11 season, which will include Tom Stoppard's *Night and Day*, Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and Edward Albee's *The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?* According to Bohnen, "The decision to revive *Night and Day* for the company after 14 years is more than a simple re-visiting of Stoppard's rarely produced play. It is a way for me to begin to close the circle. This has been a wonderful journey. I have made many lasting friendships and have had the privilege of working on many of the world's best plays with a lengthy list of deeply talented collaborators."

The search for a new Artistic Director is underway, and Bohnen has offered to work side by side with his successor to ensure a smooth transition. Executive Director Kristin Larsen states, "James' legacy will live on into the next phase of Remy Bumppo's organizational life. The criterion for a selection of plays that entertain and challenge audiences with big ideas will continue, as well as the company's core value that 'the art is the heart of the organization.'"

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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.