

REMY BUMPPPO

think theatre



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REMY BUMPPPO THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE READING AT GRANT PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION

July 3rd Concert Gathers Over 100 Cultural Leaders to Read Historic Document

CHICAGO--Remy Bumppo Theatre Company in association with the Grant Park Music Festival, presents a reading of the Declaration of Independence featuring over 100 theater and cultural leaders as readers on Sunday, July 3rd at 5:30 p.m. at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, located at 201 E. Randolph Street. The reading kicks off the Grant Park Music Festival's Independence Celebration which includes 12 musical pieces honoring the meaning of America. The event will be broadcast live on WFMT 98.7 FM.

The Declaration of Independence reading is spearheaded by Remy Bumppo Theatre Company's new artistic director, **Timothy Douglas**, who explains the decision to read the document aloud. "The document is written in a wonderful language art, which is now almost defunct, called the art of rhetoric." Douglas explains the art of rhetoric was "developed in order to be able to persuade and influence people. As theatre practitioners we inherit this language art. What you see in plays is what happens when the communication of a point of view fails or succeeds. When it succeeds you get love, joy and bliss, and when it fails you get tyranny and slaughter." Douglas continues, "Remy Bumppo invites audiences to experience the power of our nation's birthing document," and hopes that, "in the spirit of the Independence Day holiday, the public reading will stir up the most authentic of patriotic feelings."

Local theater luminaries confirmed to read include Tony Award-winning actress **Deanna Dunagan**, Lookingglass Theatre Company ensemble members **Andrew White** (artistic director) and **Raymond Fox**, Victory Gardens Theater Executive Director **Jan Kallish**, League of Chicago Theaters Executive Director **Deb Clapp**, and Remy Bumppo Artistic Director **Timothy Douglas**. Confirmed cultural leaders to date include Chicago Public Radio contributor and "Dueling Critic" **Kelly Kleiman** and Grant Park Music Festival Chorus Director **Christopher Bell**.

Admission to the Grant Park Music Festival concert is free, and seating available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information visit www.remybumppo.org or www.grantparkmusicfestival.com.

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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.

GRANT PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL - Acclaimed by critics and loved by audiences, the Grant Park Music Festival is the nation's only free, municipally-supported, summer-long outdoor classical music series. The Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, located between Michigan and Columbus Avenues at Washington Street, is the official home of the Grant Park Music Festival. The Festival is led by Principal Conductor Carlos Kalmar along with Chorus Director Christopher Bell, Board President Beth Rodriguez, and Interim Executive Director Leigh Levine.

Founded by the Chicago Park District in 1935 and co-presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Grant Park Orchestral Association since 2001, the Grant Park Music Festival will present over 30 concerts between June 15 and August 20, 2011, typically on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

The Grant Park Music Festival is proudly presented by the Grant Park Orchestral Association with support from the Chicago Park District and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.