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**REMY BUMPPO OPENS 11/12 SEASON WITH CHICAGO
PREMIERE OF EDELSTEIN'S BREATHTAKING REVISION OF
O'NEILL'S *MOURNING BECOMES ELECTRA***

Long Wharf Theatre Artistic Director and Adapter Gordon Edelstein Headlines Oct. 15
Between the Lines Conversation

CHICAGO--Remy Bumppo Theatre Company opens its 15th year with Gordon Edelstein's adaptation of Eugene O'Neill's classic American tragedy *Mourning Becomes Electra*, based on the *Oresteia*. The production marks Timothy Douglas' directorial debut as Remy Bumppo's new artistic director. *Mourning Becomes Electra* runs September 21 through October 30 at the Greenhouse Theater Center, located at 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. **Opening/Press Night is Monday, Sept. 26 at 7:00 p.m.** This production kicks off Remy Bumppo's season, *The American Evolution*, thematically exploring transformational experiences in U.S. history. Single tickets are on sale now at www.remybumppo.org or by calling the box office at 773-404-7336 (773-40-GREEN).

"If I could only have stayed as I was then. Why can't all of us remain innocent and loving and trusting? But God won't leave us alone. He twists and wrings and tortures our lives with others' lives until—we poison each other to death." —*Mourning Becomes Electra*

Desperate to free herself from her marriage and the clutches of the Mannon family curse, Christine takes a lover and murders her husband. Deeply wounded by her mother's betrayal, young Lavinia crusades to reveal the truth and reclaim the family honor. She discovers her strength in a quest for redemption, striving for the unlikely place at the head of her family. This streamlined revision of O'Neill's epic, which begins at the end of the Civil War, hurtles us through the Mannons' cycle of murder, vengeance, and reinvention.

Director Douglas explains the choice to present Gordon Edelstein's version of the play: "O'Neill's New England-set drama is structured after Aeschylus' *Oresteia*. Edelstein's adaptation of the play intensifies O'Neill's plot points and relationships by removing peripheral characters that fill the role of the Greek chorus by commenting on the turn of
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events. While Fate's influence remains a compelling force in the play, the streamlining of O'Neill's opus places its moral and psychic consequences directly into the hands of the protagonists. Furthermore, this distillation drives the pace of storytelling and reduces the length of the play to three hours.”

The cast features Artistic Associates Annabel Armour (as Christine Mannon), David Darlow (as Ezra Mannon) and Nick Sandys (as Adam Brant) along with guest artists Kelsey Brennan (as Lavinia Mannon) and Scott Stangland (as Orin Mannon). Rounding out the cast are Stephanie Chavera, Luke Daigle and Veronda G. Carey.

Mourning Becomes Electra is directed by Remy Bumpo Artistic Director Timothy Douglas with scenic design by Tim Morrison, lighting by Steve Sorenson, costumes by Samantha C. Jones, sound design by Victoria DeIorio and properties by Sally Weiss. Stage Management is provided by Amy Bertacini.

Remy Bumpo's 2011/2012 Season is made possible in part by Prince Charitable Trusts, The Illinois Arts Council and by a City Arts Program 3 grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs. Remy Bumpo's production of *Mourning Becomes Electra* is sponsored in part by Karen Randolph and Bill Linden.

Special Events:

All events are at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.

Monday, Sept. 26 at 7:00 p.m. *Mourning Becomes Electra* Opening/Press Night. Tickets are \$50 and include a post-show artist reception in the lobby.

Saturday, Oct. 15 at 1:30 p.m. *Between the Lines* conversation with Long Wharf Theatre Artistic Director Gordon Edelstein, who adapted *Mourning Becomes Electra* for the world premiere at ACT in Seattle, and produced the 2002 production at Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut. Tickets are \$60 and include admission to the 2:30 p.m. performance and a post-show discussion.

Listing Information

Mourning Becomes Electra

by Eugene O'Neill

Adapted by Gordon Edelstein

Directed by Timothy Douglas

September 21 – October 30

at the Greenhouse Theater Center – Upstairs Mainstage
2257 N. Lincoln Ave.
Chicago, IL 60614

Performance Times:

Opening/Press Night: Monday, Sept. 26 at 7:00 p.m.

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Previews and regular run: Wednesdays to Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Matinee performances: Thursday, Sept. 29 and Oct. 20 at 2:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 8 at 2:30 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 15 *Between the Lines* program at 1:30 p.m., performance at 2:30 p.m.

No performance: Wednesday, Sept. 28.

Cast:

The cast features Artistic Associates Annabel Armour, David Darlow and Nick Sandys and guest artists Kelsey Brennan and Scott Stangland, with Stephanie Chavera, Luke Daigle and Veronda G. Carey.

Production Team:

Mourning Becomes Electra is directed by Remy Bumppo Artistic Director Timothy Douglas with scenic design by Tim Morrison, lighting by Steve Sorenson, costumes by Samantha C. Jones, sound design by Victoria DeIorio and properties by Sally Weiss. Stage Management is provided by Amy Bertacini.

Tickets:

773-404-7336 (773-40-GREEN)

or online at www.remybumppo.org

Previews: Wednesday through Sunday \$35 - \$40

Regular Run: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday \$40 - \$45; Saturday and Sunday \$45 - \$55.

Opening Night: \$50 (includes post-show reception)

Between the Lines: \$60 (includes a pre-show talk with Playwright and Long Wharf Theatre Artistic Director Gordon Edelstein at 1:30 p.m., 2:30 performance and post-show discussion).

Student Tickets: \$20 in advance for all performances by phone and in person. \$15 student rush tickets are subject to availability and may be purchased one hour prior to curtain in person only. Students must have valid student I.D.

Group discounts of 20% are available for parties of 10 or more. For group information and reservations call 773-244-8119.

Parking:

Discounted parking is available for \$6 on weekends and weekdays after 5:00 p.m. at the Children's Memorial Hospital Garage located ½ block north of the theater on Lincoln Ave.

Bios:

TIMOTHY DOUGLAS (*Director*) With 30 years of experience as a theater leader, stage director, actor and educator, Timothy joined Remy Bumppo Theatre Company in July of 2011. He has directed nationally and internationally, including works for American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Rep, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Cleveland Playhouse, Downstage (New Zealand), Guthrie Theater, Juilliard School, Magic Theatre, Milwaukee Rep, Pittsburgh Public Theatre, Pittsburgh Irish & Classical, Playmakers Rep, Portland Center Stage, Round House Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, South Coast Rep, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Toi Whakaari (New Zealand), Utah Shakespearean Festival,

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Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company and Yale Repertory. He served as Associate Artistic Director at Actors Theatre of Louisville from 2001 through 2004 and for two seasons a director-in-residence of new play development at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. Douglas is a Linklater-designated voice instructor, and has served on the faculties of several universities, including the Theatre School at DePaul. As an actor he has appeared regionally, off-Broadway and on television. Timothy is a graduate of Marymount Manhattan College and Yale School of Drama.

GORDON EDELSTEIN (*Adapter*) is in his ninth season as Long Wharf Theatre's Artistic Director. In addition to his recent work on the world premiere of Athol Fugard's *Have You Seen Us?* and his own adaptation of *A Doll's House*, Mr. Edelstein directed *Coming Home* at Berkeley Rep and Long Wharf Theatre's production of *The Glass Menagerie* starring Judith Ivey at the Roundabout Theatre. As a director, he has garnered three Connecticut Critics Circle Awards and during his tenure at Long Wharf Theatre, the theatre has produced world premieres by Athol Fugard, Paula Vogel, Craig Lucas, Julia Cho, Noah Haidle, Dael Orlandersmith, and Anna Deavere Smith. Over the course of his career, he has also directed and/or produced premieres by Philip Glass, Arthur Miller, Paula Vogel, Donald Margulies, James Lapine, Charles Mee, Mac Wellman, and Martin McDonagh, among many others, and has directed an extremely diverse body of work from Sophocles to Pinter, and from Shakespeare to Beckett.

ANNABEL ARMOUR (*Christine Mannon*) is an Artistic Associate with Remy Bumpo where she has appeared in *The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Fiction*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *The Best Man*, *Power*, *Aren't We All*, *Humble Boy*, *A Delicate Balance*, *Hidden Laughter*, *Money*, *Top Girls*, *Hapgood*, *Road to Mecca*, and *Heartbreak House*. Annabel is the recipient of two Joseph Jefferson Awards and two After Dark Awards. She appeared this summer at First Folio in Nick Sandy's production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Some favorite include *At Home at the Zoo* and *Before My Eyes* (Victory Gardens), *Picnic* (Writers' Theatre), *Pride and Prejudice* (Cleveland Playhouse), *Sunday in the Park with George* (Chicago Shakespeare), *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (Irish Rep & Galway Arts Festival), *Angels in America I & II* (Journeyman), *Grapes of Wrath* (Ford's Theatre D.C.), and *The First Look Series* (Steppenwolf). She can be seen in the films: *Amityville Horror*, *Were the World Mine*, and the recently released *Conviction* with Hillary Swank.

KELSEY BRENNAN (*Lavinia Mannon*) is pleased to return to Remy Bumpo after performing last season in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Other Chicago credits include *Romeo and Juliet* at First Folio Theatre and *The Gospel According to James* at Victory Gardens Theatre. Regionally, Kelsey has appeared at Indiana Repertory Theatre (*The Gospel According to James* world premiere), Milwaukee Repertory Theatre (*Trouble in Mind*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*), American Players Theatre (*Ah, Wilderness!*, *Henry IV*, *The Belle's Stratagem*), and Next Act Theatre (*The Value of Names*). Kelsey is a graduate of Ohio University.

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DAVID DARLOW (*Ezra Mannon*) is an Artistic Associate at Remy Bumpo. David has been seen in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Night and Day*, *Heroes*, *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 has also been seen in *A Life in the Theatre*, *As You Like It*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Passion* and *The Misanthrope* at the Goodman; *Othello*, *Timon of Athens* and *As You Like It* at Chicago Shakespeare; *The Real Thing* and *Betrayal* at Northlight; *Nathan the Wise* at Chicago Festival of the Arts; Stephen Sondheim's *Passion* (with Patty LuPone and Audra McDonald) at the Ravinia Festival. Other credits include *Cyrano*, *Three Hotels* and *The Heiress* at Apple Tree Theatre, and *Endgame* at ATC (Joseph Jefferson Award). His films include *Were the World Mine*, *Let's Go to Prison*, *The Weatherman*, *Road to Perdition*, *The Fugitive*, *Hoodlum*, *Miller's Crossing*, and *Ride with the Devil*. On television he has been seen in "Barney Miller," "Barnaby Jones," "Early Edition," "Prison Break," and several Movies of the Week. He has directed *Mrs. Warren's Profession* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* for Remy Bumpo and *As You Like It* at the Utah Shakespearean Festival, and served as Artistic Director at the Oak Park Festival.

NICK SANDYS (*Adam Brant*) is an Artistic Associate at Remy Bumpo, where previous credits include *The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?* (Chicago Magazine's Best Actor 2011), *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (two Jeff Nominations 2010), *Old Times*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Fiction* (director), *The Real Thing* (Jeff Nomination 2007), *Tartuffe*, *Arcadia*, *Money*, *The Secret Rapture* (After Dark Award 2003), *No Man's Land*, and *Hapgood*. Last fall he played Richard Hannay in *The 39 Steps* at Cleveland Play House and Syracuse Stage, and other recent appearances include *Blithe Spirit*, *Twelfth Night* (Jeff Nomination 2010), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Jeff Nomination 2008) (First Folio--Artistic Associate); *Persuasion*, *The Sound of Music*, *Pride & Prejudice* (Chamber Opera Chicago); *My Fair Lady* (Light Opera Works); *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*, *Pride & Prejudice* (Northlight); *Oedipus Complex* (Goodman); *Around The World in 80 Days* (Lookingglass); *The Misanthrope* (Jeff Nomination 2004, Next Theatre); and productions at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Marriott Theatre, Writers' Theatre, Drury Lane Oakbrook, and Irish Repertory. Nick is a certified fight director with The Society of American Fight Directors, his choreography appearing at The Metropolitan Opera, Goodman Theatre, Lyric Opera, Steppenwolf, Shattered Globe (Jeff Award 2008), Northlight, Victory Gardens, and many others across Chicagoland.

SCOTT STANGLAND (*Orin Mannon*) is making his Remy Bumpo debut. Chicago credits include: *Boy Gets Girl* (Eclipse Theatre Company); *Man From Nebraska* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); *Short Shakespeare! Macbeth* and *Julius Caesar* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *Every Christmas Story Ever Told* (Noble Fool Theatricals); *As You Like It – u/s* (Writers' Theatre). Regional credits include *Romeo & Juliet* and *Comedy of Errors* (Michigan Shakespeare Festival); *Romeo & Juliet* and *Antony & Cleopatra* (Colorado Shakespeare Festival). Film credits: *Contagion* and *Men of Honor*. Television credits: *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story* (TNT). He received his MFA in Acting from The Theatre Conservatory at Roosevelt University.