



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**REMY BUMPPO INTRODUCES 15th SEASON AND ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR DOUGLAS' FIRST AT AUGUST 29 SALON**

Dueling Theater Critics Jonathan Abarbanel and Kelly Kleiman to Moderate
Conversation on the Season Theme: *The American Evolution*

CHICAGO--Remy Bumppo Theatre Company presents its annual Season Salon, the official kick off to its 2011/2012 season, on Monday, August 29 from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at the Greenhouse Theater Center at 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. The evening features a lively and sometimes irreverent panel discussion and audience question and answer session on the season theme *The American Evolution* followed by refreshments and conversation in the lobby. This year's salon is moderated by WBEZ's Dueling Critics **Jonathan Abarbanel** and **Kelly Kleiman**. Panelists include **Daniel Desormeaux**, associate professor of French Literature at the University of Chicago, **Peter Taub**, director of performances at the Museum of Contemporary Art, **Timothy Douglas**, artistic director of Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, and one other panelist to be announced. Remy Bumppo's Season Salon is open to the public, and reservations are recommended. A \$15 donation is requested at the door. Seating is general admission, and doors open at 7:00 p.m. For reservations visit the Events Calendar at www.remybumppo.org or call 773-244-8119. The event will be recorded for WBEZ's Chicago Amplified archives at www.wbez.org/amplified.

Remy Bumppo's 2011/2012 Season is made possible in part by Prince Charitable Trusts; The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; and a CityArts grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

Remy Bumppo's Season Salon, now in its eighth year, serves as a preview of the upcoming season and introduces the season theme. The 2011/2012 season features three plays selected by the company's new artistic director, Timothy Douglas, exploring transformational experiences in America's history. The productions, which will be

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directed by Douglas, include Eugene O'Neill's epic drama *Mourning Becomes Electra* in a shortened adaptation by Gordon Edelstein, Sept. 21- Oct. 30, 2011; Marivaux's pre-French Revolution love story *Changes of Heart*, in a translation by Stephen Wadsworth, Nov. 23, 2011 - Jan. 8, 2012; and Lee Blessing's one-person comedy *Chesapeake* featuring Remy Bumppo Artistic Associate Greg Matthew Anderson, March 28 – May 6, 2012.

Artistic Director Douglas explains the connection between the plays: “*The American Evolution* theme encompasses the Civil War, the Civil Rights movement and acts of Civil Disobedience in the U.S.” Douglas, who guides Remy Bumppo through its own transition of artistic leadership, states, “These plays remind us that the only constant is change. Remy Bumppo's Artistic Associates and I have crafted an inaugural season that reflects on America's progression and widening of perspective, as a way of celebrating Remy Bumppo's 15th season, and my first, as Remy Bumppo's artistic director.”

All shows will be presented at the Greenhouse Theater Center at 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago. Subscriptions range from \$70 for previews to \$165 for opening nights and are on sale now at www.remybumppo.org or by calling the Greenhouse Theater box office at 773-404-7336. Single tickets are also on on sale.

A pre-Salon dinner is offered at **Simply It: Cuisine of Vietnam**, 2269 N. Lincoln Ave. Chef Tuan offers Remy Bumppo patrons a simply delicious pre-fixe dinner for just \$20 per person (tax and tip not included). BYOB and Simply It will waive the corkage fee for Salon guests. Reservations are required and limited to the first 60 patrons. Dinner reservations can be made with Simply It at (773) 248-0884 or with Remy Bumppo Theatre Company at (773) 244-8119.

Panelist Bios:

Jonathan Abarbanel (moderator) is a theater critic for Chicago Public Radio and the weekly *Windy City Times* newspaper. He is senior writer for *Chicago Footlights* magazine and Chicago correspondent for *Back Stage*, the national trade paper. Jonathan is a long-time member of the American Theatre Critics Association and is one of the few theatre critics to serve as a site reporter and panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts. Jonathan has received awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, the Friends of Literature, the Illinois Theatre Association and the Prix Italia (for radio production). His own plays, libretti, lyrics and revue sketches have been performed in Chicago at the Center for New Music, Court Theatre, Bailiwick Repertory, Theatre BAM! and The Second City. His work also has been produced at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, the Westside Theatre (Off-Broadway), at London's Royal Festival Hall, and broadcast on WFMT Radio.

Daniel Desormeaux (panelist for *Changes of Heart*) is an associate professor of French Literature at the University of Chicago. Professor Daniel Desormeaux's scholarly work focuses on the historico-anthropological link between French literature and culture and

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French Caribbean literatures and cultures since the Haitian Revolution. A native of Haiti, he has been educated in Canada and the United States. His interests include relations of French literature and history of ideas throughout the nineteenth-century, critical interpretation of authorship and collections, comparative analysis of French literature and other arts, development of new cultural institutions from the French Revolution to the late nineteenth-century, and the Haitian Revolution and slavery in Saint Domingue. He published numerous essays and a book entitled *La Figure du bibliomane* (2001) that address these topics. He is currently completing a critical edition of Toussaint Louverture's memoirs, a monography on Alexandre Dumas, and a collection of essays on French Caribbean novels.

Timothy Douglas (panelist) assumed the role of Remy Bumppo Theatre Company Artistic Director in July of 2011. He has built a 30-year career as a stage director, actor and educator, proving his versatility as both an acclaimed interpreter of the classics and contemporary drama. He worked in the Chicago area from 1988 - 1991 before going on to serve as a resident director at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles from 1994 - 1997 and associate artistic director at Actor's Theatre of Louisville from 2001 – 2004. He has been a company member with Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, Massachusetts since 1986. Directing credits include the world premiere of August Wilson's *Radio Golf* for Yale Rep, *Much Ado About Nothing* for the Folger Shakespeare Theatre and the premiere of a new translation/adaptation of Ibsen's *Rosmersholm* off-Broadway. He has directed productions in the U.S. for American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Rep, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Cleveland Playhouse, 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, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company and abroad for Downstage and Toi Whakaari (New Zealand). As a Linklater-designated voice instructor, he served on the faculties of Emerson College, American Conservatory Theater, Shakespeare & Company, National Theatre Conservatory, University of Southern California, the Theatre School at DePaul University and New Zealand Drama School.

Kelly Kleiman (moderator) is a freelance writer on the arts, feminism, travel and social justice. Her reportage and essays have appeared in the *New York Times* (Chicago edition), *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post* and *Christian Science Monitor*, among other dailies; in magazines including *In These Times* and *Dance*; in the alternative press; on the BBC; and on Chicago Public Radio, where she's one of the "Dueling Critics" and a contributor to the Onstage Backstage theater blog. She is also a consultant to charities and editor and publisher of The Nonprofiteer, a blog about charity, philanthropy and nonprofit management: www.Nonprofiteer.net. She holds undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Chicago.

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Peter Taub (panelist for *Chesapeake*) directs the performing arts programs at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (MCA). He has developed and produced artist-centered projects for over 25 years as a curator and arts manager. The MCA program presents and develops cross-disciplinary performances in dance, theater and music; and engages audiences with artists around the creative process. He has developed artists-in-residence projects, touring projects, and commissions of new works with a wide range of artists including Meg Stuart/Damaged Goods, John Jasperse Company, Reggie Wilson/Fist & Heel Performance Group, dumb type, The Builders Association, Roger Guenveur Smith, William Kentridge/ Handspring Puppet Company, and Ernest Khabeer Dawkins, among others. He developed and co-leads the choreographers funding and professional development program, Chicago Dancemakers Forum, which is now in its ninth year and is the largest source of support for new dance development in Chicago. He has served on numerous local and national arts policy and funding committees for government and private sector arts programs, and has taught in the arts studio and arts history programs at University of Illinois, Chicago and School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Listing Information

Remy Bumppo's 2011 Season Salon: *The American Evolution*

A panel discussion on human transformations born from the Civil War, Civil Rights and Civil Disobedience featuring Jonathan Abarbanel, Daniel Desormeaux, Timothy Douglas, Kelly Kleiman and Peter Taub, followed by refreshments and conversation.

Monday, August 29 from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. (Doors open at 7:00 p.m.)

The Greenhouse Theater Center, Downstairs Mainstage

2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago

A \$15 donation is requested at the door.

Reservations can be made on the Events Calendar at www.remybumppo.org

Or at 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.

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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.