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Remy Bumpgo's 2013/2014 Season

THE HUMAN PUZZLE:

Mysteries revealed, histories concealed

CHICAGO - Remy Bumpgo Theatre Company's 17th season begins with the work of one of the most beloved of all English authors and ends with one of the most horrific of all events, with a classic British mystery in the middle.

"All three plays are mysteries about the human condition, in very different modes," says Remy Bumpgo Artistic Director Nick Sandys. "Every year, in every play we produce, we endeavor to figure out why we humans behave the way we do, be it funny or serious or apparently inhuman. These three plays - a comedy, a thriller and a history - give us the chance to experience life journeys that are not our own, but which contain essential mysteries to which we can all relate and which we want to try to solve or understand, like the characters themselves."

Opening the season in October will be the U.S. Premiere of a new adaptation of **Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey***. "It's Austen's least-known novel," says Sandys, "but perhaps her most outright comedic." The tale of a young book-loving woman goes back and forth between the Gothic novels she is reading and her actual life, a different theatrical style for Remy Bumpgo and one that not only provides adventure, humor and romance, but is also surprisingly fitting for the Halloween season.

Over the holiday period, Remy Bumpgo will present J.B. Priestley's ***An Inspector Calls***, a drawing-room mystery with many a twist, seldom done in the U.S. but a staple of English theatre. "It's a great British mystery, a thriller with a real spiritual edge," says Sandys. "With Priestley, there is always an element that plays with the mysteries of time, as well as a strong moral undercurrent almost Dickensian in tone."

The spring production will be the Midwest Premiere of Tadeusz Slobodzianek's ***Our Class***, a riveting look at events in a besieged Polish village, seen through the eyes of ten classmates, which won Poland's highest literary award, the Nike Prize. "I believe this is a very important play," says Sandys, "an incredibly powerful theatrical journey into the heart of the 20th century and its

aftermath, focusing on the Holocaust from a perspective not seen before on stage. Like all great theatre, it involves you in small human choices that have huge repercussions."

In addition to the subscription series, Remy Bumppo will also reprise five performances of Sandys' own adaptation and solo performance of Charles Dickens' *The Chimes* in December. All four presentations will be at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.

Subscriptions will go on sale in March. Single ticket sales will open in August.

NORTHANGER ABBEY By Jane Austen

Adapted by Tim Luscombe

Directed by Joanie Schultz

October 2 - November 10, 2013

Featuring Annabel Armour

Opening/Press Night: Monday, October 7, 7pm

Greenhouse Theater Center, Upstairs Mainstage



Jane Austen has a high time with the literature of her day, as 17-year old Catherine, a voracious reader, makes the Gothic tale she's reading come all-too-much to life, causing her to misinterpret much that's happening around her. Remy Bumppo presents the U.S. Premiere of a new adaptation, complete with charming heroes, sneering villains, love lost and found, and a setting perfect for the Halloween season. There's debate whether Northanger Abbey was the first Jane Austen novel, but there's no debate that it's full of fun and romance in inimitable Austen style.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS By J.B. Priestley

Directed by David Darlow

December 4, 2013 - January 12, 2014

Featuring Greg Matthew Anderson

Opening Night/Press Night: Monday, December 9, 7pm

Greenhouse Theater Center, Upstairs Mainstage



England, 1912. The Birling family has just enjoyed a fine dinner in their upper-middle class home. Enter Inspector Goole, who brings word of a sudden death. The inspector proceeds to interrogate the family, discovering dark secrets and setting off a series of revelations. *An Inspector Calls* is classic English drawing-room mystery a la Agatha Christie, and more - a social critique that has made it a literary classic. "Whodunit?" becomes a question of what "it" was, how it was done, who it was done to, and just who Inspector Goole might be.

OUR CLASS By Tadeusz Slobodzianek

English version by Ryan Craig

Directed by Nick Sandys

April 2- May 25, 2014

Featuring David Darlow, Shawn Douglass and Linda Gillum

Press Night: Sunday, April 6, 7pm

Opening Night: Monday, April 7, 7pm

Greenhouse Theater Center, Upstairs Studio



For decades, it was believed the annihilation of the Jewish population of Jedwabne, Poland, in 1941 was a Nazi atrocity. The truth turned out to

be even more shocking. In ***Our Class***, which won Poland's top literary prize, Slobodzianek looks at the build-up to the massacre, the events themselves, and the impact on the lives of survivors, through the eyes of ten classmates, half Jewish and half Catholic, who were young adults in 1941. ***Our Class*** is a searing look at the horror that can be perpetrated by one group on another, in the struggle to retain humanity under repression.

All information subject to change.

Photos by Johnny Knight