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“A gift to actors and a goody bag for its audience” —*The New York Times*

“A masterpiece of creative compression that is at once arrestingly original and faithful to its source material” —*The Wall Street Journal*

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER ANNOUNCES FULL CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR *VANITY FAIR*, KATE HAMILL’S ROLICKING NEW STAGE ADAPTATION OF WILLIAM THACKERAY’S 19TH-CENTURY NOVEL

A.C.T.’s Geary Theater
April 17–May 12, 2019

SAN FRANCISCO (March 7, 2019)—**American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) Artistic Director Pam MacKinnon** announced the full cast and creative team for *Vanity Fair*, acclaimed playwright **Kate Hamill’s** rollicking new stage adaptation of William Thackeray’s classic 19th-century novel that pops with 21st-century spirit. Ambitious Becky Sharp may not have been born with wealth or status, but she’s determined to attain both—at any cost. Armed with fierce wit and calculating charm, Becky forges her own path through London’s high society, dealing herself into a game she was never invited to play. Displaying the celebrated audacity and verve that she brought to her adaptation of *Sense & Sensibility*, Hamill conjures an inventive and lively period drama that combines a fierce contemporary edge with the theatricality of Victorian Burlesque. *Vanity Fair* is a coproduction with Shakespeare Theatre Company. *Vanity Fair* performs at A.C.T.’s Geary Theater (415 Geary St., San Francisco) **April 17–May 12, 2019**. Press night for *Vanity Fair* will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2019. **Single tickets** (ranging from \$15–\$110) are available at the A.C.T. Box Office at **415.749.2228** or online at www.act-sf.org. *Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.*

“Kate Hamill’s *Vanity Fair* is a carnival ride of a great novel made flesh and blood,” says **MacKinnon**. “Actors create worlds. Feelings are big. Ambition is white-hot. I’m thrilled to be bringing Becky Sharp to The Geary Theater.”

Under the direction of **Jessica Stone** (*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* at Two River Theater; *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* at The Old Globe and Huntington Theatre Company); *Vanity Fair* features (in alphabetical order) A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts alum **Rebekah Brockman** (*Arcadia* and *Dead Metaphor* at A.C.T.; *The Burial at Thebes* at Irish Repertory Theatre); **Dan Hiatt** (*The Birthday Party* and *Hamlet* at A.C.T.; *Dinner with Friends* at Yale Repertory Theatre); **Alyssa Wilmoth Keegan** (*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at Round House Theatre; *Botticelli in the Fire* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company); **Anthony Michael Lopez** (*Othello* at New York Theatre Workshop; *Henry V* at Hartford Stage); **Adam Magill** (*Macbeth* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre; *The Legend of Georgia McBride* at Marin Theatre Company); **Maribel Martinez** (*Julius Caesar* at The Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park; *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at Shakespeare Santa Cruz); and A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts alum **Vincent Randazzo** (*A Walk on the Moon* and *Hamlet* at A.C.T.; *Washed Up on the Potomac* at San Francisco Playhouse).

The creative team for *Vanity Fair* includes **Alexander Dodge** (Scenic Designer), **Jennifer Moeller** (Costume Designer), **David Weiner** (Lighting Designer), **Jane Shaw** (Sound Designer and Original Music), and **Connor Gallagher** (Choreographer).

A.C.T.'s Master of Fine Arts Program will present Kate Hamill's stage adaptation of Jane Austen's beloved novel, ***Sense and Sensibility***, concurrently with *Vanity Fair*. The Dashwood sisters—sensible Elinor and starry-eyed Marianne—have very different approaches to finding love. But when their father's death leaves them penniless, homeless, and vulnerable to gossip, they must rely on each other to discover what it takes to follow their hearts. Performances of *Sense and Sensibility* will take place **May 9–11, 2019** at The Rueff at A.C.T.'s Strand Theater. Tickets (\$20–\$25) available at www.act-sf.org/mfashows.

In connection with *Vanity Fair*, A.C.T. will offer numerous **InterACT events**—many of which are presented free of charge—that will give patrons opportunities to get closer to the action while having an entire night out at the theater. Visit act-sf.org/interact to learn more about subscribing to these events throughout the season:

- **Bike to the Theater Night**
Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m.
Providing a greener alternative to theater transportation, A.C.T. and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition offer free valet bike parking, as well as a special discount on tickets, for these select performances.
- **Prologue**
Tuesday, April 23, 5:30 p.m.
Before the curtain goes up, get a sneak peek at the artistic process at this fascinating preshow discussion with the director and artistic staff.
- **Audience Exchanges**
Tuesday, April 30, 7 p.m. | Sunday, May 5, 2 p.m. | Wednesday, May 8, 2 p.m.
After the show, stick around for a lively Q&A session with the actors and artists who create the work onstage.

- **OUT with A.C.T.**
Wednesday, May 1, following the 8 p.m. performance
The best LGBT night in town! Mingle with the cast and enjoy free drinks and treats at this popular after-party.
- **Wente Vineyards Wine Series**
Tuesday, May 7, 7 p.m.
Before the show, raise a glass at this wine-tasting event featuring the Bay Area’s hottest local winery.
- **PlayTime**
Saturday, May 11, 12:45 p.m.
Before this matinee performance, get hands-on with the artists who make it happen at this interactive theater workshop.

A.C.T.’s production of *Vanity Fair* is made possible by Executive Producers **Mrs. Barbara Bakar, Frannie Fleishhacker, John Little and Heather Stallings Little, Nion McEvoy and Leslie Berriman**; Associate Producers **Dr. Barbara L. Bessey, Dr. and Mrs. Richard E. Geist, Linda Kurtz, Emmett and Marion Stanton, Marcy and Paul Nathan, Vera and Harold Stein, Dr. Martin and Elizabeth Terplan**; and Benefactors **Carlotta and Robert Dathe**.

A.C.T. would also like to acknowledge its 2018–19 Season Presenters **Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson; Priscilla and Keith Geeslin; James C. Hormel and Michael P. Nguyen-Hormel; Fred M. Levin and Nancy Livingston, The Shenson Foundation; Toni Rembe and Arthur Rock; Robina Riccitiello; Jeff and Laurie Ubben; Kay Yun and Andre Neumann-Loreck**; and Company Sponsors **Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund; Frannie Fleishhacker; Kevin and Celeste Ford; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon P. Getty; Jeri Lynn and Jeffrey W. Johnson; Burt and Deedee McMurtry; Barbara Ravizza and John S. Osterweis; Patti and Rusty Rueff; Mary and Steven Swig; Aaron Vermut and Adriana López Vermut; Jack and Susy Wadsworth; and Barry Williams and Lalita Tademy**.

A.C.T.’s 2018–19 season concludes with Eugène Ionesco’s “seminal absurdist satire” (*Los Angeles Times*) ***Rhinoceros* (May 29–June 23, 2019)**—translated by Derek Prouse and directed by two-time Tony Award winner Frank Galati.

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FACT SHEET FOR VANITY FAIR

WHAT:

Hailed as “a masterpiece of creative compression that is at once arrestingly original and faithful to its source material” by the *Wall Street Journal*, A.C.T. will next present acclaimed playwright Kate Hamill’s rollicking new stage adaptation of William Thackeray’s classic 19th-century novel that pops with 21st-century spirit, ***Vanity Fair* (April 17–May 12, 2019)**. Ambitious Becky Sharp may not have been born with wealth or status, but she’s determined to attain both—at any cost. Armed with fierce wit and calculating charm, Becky forges her own path through London’s high society, dealing herself into a game she was never invited to play. Displaying the celebrated audacity and verve that she brought to her adaptation of *Sense & Sensibility*, Hamill conjures an inventive and lively period drama that combines a fierce contemporary edge with the theatricality of Victorian Burlesque.

WHO:

Written by **Kate Hamill**

Directed by **Jessica Stone**

CAST (*in alphabetical order*):

Rebekah Brockman, Dan Hiatt, Alyssa Wilmoth Keegan, Anthony Michael Lopez, Adam Magill, Maribel Martinez, and Vincent Randazzo.

CREATIVE TEAM:

Alexander Dodge (Scenic Designer), **Jennifer Moeller** (Costume Designer), **David Weiner** (Lighting Designer), **Jane Shaw** (Sound Designer and Original Music), and **Connor Gallagher** (Choreographer).

WHERE:

A.C.T.’s Geary Theater (415 Geary St., San Francisco)

WHEN:

April 17–May 12, 2019

Press Night: Wednesday, April 24, 2019

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

Tuesdays–Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m.

Sundays at 2 p.m.

INTERACT EVENTS

Bike to the Theater Night: **Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m.**

Prologue: **Tuesday, April 23, 5:30 p.m.**

Audience Exchanges: **Tuesday, April 30, 7 p.m. | Sunday, May 5, 2 p.m. | Wednesday, May 8, 2 p.m.**

OUT with A.C.T.: **Wednesday, May 1, following the 8 p.m. performance**

Wine Series: **Tuesday, May 7, 7 p.m.**

Playtime: **Saturday, May 11, 12:45 p.m.**

TICKETS AND INFORMATION:

415.749.2228 | act-sf.org

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