

A.C.T. AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER

CAREY PERLOFF, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | ELLEN RICHARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER KICKS OFF ITS 2013–14 SEASON WITH THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF TONY AWARD–WINNING DIRECTOR FRANK GALATI’S TRIUMPHANT NEW STAGING OF THE MUSICAL *1776*

Single tickets available now!

*** September 11–October 6, 2013 ***

SAN FRANCISCO (July 1, 2013) –**American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.)** kicks off its 2013–14 season with passionate (and patriotic) fireworks with the West Coast premiere of Tony Award–winning director **Frank Galati’s** triumphant new staging of the musical *1776*. In the spirit of the remarkable national political debates spurred on by the acclaimed film *Lincoln*, *1776* is a vivid musical look at the revolutionary events that shaped our republic more than 230 years ago as our founding fathers wrestled with infighting, held heated debates, and negotiated compromises while drafting our Declaration of Independence. Filled with glorious music and unforgettable characters, this incredible new production will include 15 Bay Area actors new to the production. Hailed by critics as “brilliant,” “thrilling,” and “utterly riveting,” *1776* takes us on a timely, rousing, and suspenseful adventure into the fascinating first chapter of American history. When it premiered on Broadway in 1969, *1776* ran for more than 1,200 performances and was the recipient of three Tony Awards, including Best Musical. The *New York Times* called it “a cliff-hanging drama . . . as magical as a fairy tale,” and *Sarasota Magazine* praised Galati’s new production as “beautifully staged . . . exciting and suspenseful.” As relevant today as it was when it was written, this musical features the songs “Sit Down, John,” “Momma, Look Sharp,” and “He Plays the Violin.” A.C.T.’s production of *1776* runs **September 11–October 6, 2013**, at The Geary Theater (415 Geary Street, San Francisco). Press night is Friday, September 20, 2013. **Tickets** starting at \$20) are on sale now and may be purchased online at act-sf.org or by calling **415.749.2228**.

Says A.C.T. Artistic Director **Carey Perloff**: “In this era of bitterly partisan politics, we sometimes forget that our own treasured democracy nearly didn’t make it out of the starting gate! This musical is an extraordinary look at the machinations and deal-making that Congress went through to arrive at the Declaration of Independence. Director Frank Galati has taken *1776* and created a production of astonishing immediacy and specificity, in which every move on the chess board is vivid and alive. When I saw the production in Sarasota, I felt sure it would play

beautifully for Bay Area audiences, who love a good argument almost as much as they love a great song. Galati's *1776* has all of this and more—it is a truly literate, hilarious, and tough-minded play with music, deeply engaging whether you love arguing politics or are more interested in outsized personalities.”

The cast of *1776* features **John Hickok** (John Adams), **Abby Mueller** (Abigail Adams), **Andrew Boyer** (Benjamin Franklin), **Ryan Drummond** (Richard Henry Lee), **Steve Hendrickson** (Andrew McNair), **Richard Farrell** (Dr. Lyman Hall), **Dan Hiatt** (Stephen Hopkins), **Jarrold Zimmerman** (Edward Rutledge), **Alex Shafer** (Col. Thomas McKean), **Jerry Lloyd** (Caesar Rodney), **Jeff Parker** (John Dickinson), **Bernard Balbot** (James Wilson), **Ian Simpson** (John Hancock), **Noel Anthony** (Charles Thomson), **Brandon Dahlquist** (Thomas Jefferson), **David Ledingham** (Dr. Josiah Bartlett), **Mark Farrell** (George Read), **Keith Pinto** (Roger Sherman), **Morgan Mackay** (Lewis Morris), **Colin Thomson** (Samuel Chase), **Benjamin Pither** (Joseph Hewes), **Ian Leonard** (Reverend John Witherspoon), **Dillon Heape** (Robert Livingston), **Andrea Prestinario** (Martha Jefferson), **Zach Kenney** (The Courier), and **Justin Travis Buchs** (Leather Apron).

Music and lyrics for *1776* are by **Sherman Edwards** and the book is by **Peter Stone**. The creative team for A.C.T.'s production of *1776* includes **Frank Galati** (director), **Peter Amster** (choreography), **Michael Rice** (music director), **Russell Metheny** (scenic design), **Mara Blumenfeld** (costume design), **Paul Miller** (lighting design), and **Kevin Kennedy** (sound design).

A.C.T. will offer numerous **InterACT events** in association with *1776* that will give patrons opportunities to get closer to the action while making a whole night out of their evening 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, September 11, 2013
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 this select performance.
- **Audience Prologue:**
Tuesday, September 17, at 5:30 p.m.
Before the curtain goes up, get behind the artistic process at this fascinating preshow discussion with the creative team and artistic staff.
- **Theater on the Couch:**
Friday, September 20, following the 8 p.m. performance
Led by Mason Turner, chief of psychiatry at San Francisco's Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, this exciting postshow discussion series explores the minds, motives, and behaviors of the characters and addresses audience questions.
- **Audience Exchanges:**
Tuesday, September 24, at 7 p.m. | Sunday, September 29, at 2 p.m. | Wednesday, October 2, at 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, September 25, 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 afterparty.
- **Wine Series:**
Tuesday, October 1, at 7 p.m.
Before the show, raise a glass at this wine tasting event featuring leading sommeliers from the Bay Area's hottest local wineries.
- **PlayTime:**
Saturday, October 5, at 12:30 p.m.
Before this matinee performance, get hands-on with theater with the artists who make it happen at this interactive workshop.

A.C.T.'s production of *1776* is made possible by executive producers **Rusty and Patti Rueff**; producers **Bruce Cozadd and Sharon Hoffman, David Steele, and Susan Van Wagner**; and associate producers **Paul Angelo** and **Andrew Dahlkemper**.

A.C.T.'s 2013–14 season continues with the captivating solo drama ***Underneath the Lintel***, starring Academy Award nominee David Strathairn; the Bay Area's favorite holiday tradition, the Charles Dickens classic ***A Christmas Carol***; a sumptuous production of George Bernard Shaw's political comedy ***Major Barbara***; a hilarious new translation of Eduardo De Filippo's hilarious and poignant Italian comedy ***Napoli!***; the Northern California premiere of David Ives's captivating cat-and-mouse drama, ***Venus in Fur***; the West Coast premiere of Peter Brook's internationally acclaimed music-infused ***The Suit***; and James Fenton's beautiful reinvention of ***The Orphan of Zhao***, starring the inimitable stage and film star BD Wong.

A.C.T. subscribers enjoy incredible savings, unparalleled access, exclusive benefits, and personalized customer service. **Subscriptions can be ordered via the A.C.T. subscriptions office by calling 415.749.2250 or online at www.act-sf.org/subscribe.** Subscribers save as much as **33 percent off single-ticket prices**. Full-time students, educators, and administrators with valid ID save up to 50 percent off select packages. Senior discounts are available for certain series. A.C.T.'s competitive subscriber benefits include **free ticket exchanges** up to the day of scheduled tickets, **priority seating, ticket insurance**, access to **convenient prepaid parking** one block away from the theater, and **discounts for neighborhood restaurants**.

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1776 FACT SHEET

WHAT: A.C.T. presents the West Coast premiere of Tony Award–winning director Frank Galati's triumphant new staging of the musical **1776**, a vivid musical look at the revolutionary events that shaped our republic more than 230 years ago as our founding fathers wrestled with infighting, held heated debates, and negotiated compromises while drafting our Declaration of Independence. Filled with glorious music and unforgettable characters, this incredible new production takes us on a timely, rousing, and suspenseful adventure into the fascinating first chapter of American history. As relevant today as it was when this piece was written, this musical telling of our nation’s birth features the songs “Sit Down, John,” “Momma Look Sharp,” and “He Plays the Violin.”

WHO: Music and lyrics for *1776* by **Sherman Edwards**
Book is by **Peter Stone**
Directed by **Frank Galati**
Creative Team: **Peter Amster** (choreography), **Michael Rice** (music director), **Russell Metheny** (scenic design), **Mara Blumenfeld** (costume design), **Paul Miller** (lighting design), and **Kevin Kennedy** (sound design).

WHERE: **A.C.T.’s Geary Theater (415 Geary Street, San Francisco)**

WHEN: **September 11 – October 6, 2013**
Tue.–Sat. at 8 p.m. (9/24 performance is at 7 p.m.)
Wed., Sat. & Sun. at 2 p.m. (no 2 p.m. performance on 9/11, 9/15, 9/18)

- InterACT Events**
Bike to the Theater Nights.....9/11+
Audience Prologue.....9/17 (5:30 p.m.)
Theater on the Couch.....9/20 (following the 8 p.m. performance)
Postperformance Audience Exchanges.....9/24 (7 p.m.), 9/29 (2 p.m.), 10/2 (2 p.m.)
OUT with A.C.T.....9/25 (8 p.m.)
Wine Series.....10/1 (7 p.m.)
PlayTime.....10/5 (12:30 p.m.)

TICKETS: **Starting at \$20**

TICKETS & INFO: 415.749.2228 | act-sf.org

PHOTOS: act-sf.org/press

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