

A.C.T. AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER

CAREY PERLOFF, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | ELLEN RICHARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER TRAVELS TO 1940S ITALY WITH A VIVID NEW TRANSLATION OF EDUARDO DE FILIPPO'S POIGNANT ITALIAN COMEDY, *NAPOLI!*

Starring A.C.T. favorite Marco Barricelli and Stratford Festival star Seana McKenna, *Napoli!* explores the themes of morality, civility and the state of society!

• FEBRUARY 12 – MARCH 9, 2014 •

SAN FRANCISCO (December 20, 2013) – Continuing its 2013-14 season, **American Conservatory Theater** (A.C.T.) travels to 1940s Italy with A.C.T. favorite **Marco Barricelli** (former Artistic Director of Shakespeare Santa Cruz; *Vigil* at A.C.T.) and Canada's Stratford Festival star **Seana McKenna** (*Phèdre* at A.C.T.), who return to lead the cast of *Napoli!*, Beatrice Basso and Linda Alper's vivid new translation of Eduardo De Filippo's poignant Italian comedy. During the chaotic days of World War II in Naples, an enterprising woman sets up a small-time black market business in the middle of her home to keep her family afloat. She prospers, but maybe a bit too much—compelling her husband to ask hard questions about morality, civility, and the state of their society. In a war-torn culture in which coffee is like liquid gold, De Filippo's masterful blend of humor and pathos tells the story of an unforgettable and wildly entertaining family determined to make a living even if it means profiteering. Directed by A.C.T. Associate Artistic Director **Mark Rucker**, this production culminates the Year of Italian Culture in the United States. *Napoli!* runs **February 12–March 9, 2014** at A.C.T.'s Geary Theater (415 Geary Street, San Francisco). **Press night is Wednesday, February 19, 2014.** Tickets (\$20 - \$120) are on sale now and may be purchased online at act-sf.org or by calling **415.749.2228**.

Says **Carey Perloff**, Artistic Director of A.C.T.: "We are always eager to bring the magnificent Marco Barricelli back to the Geary stage, and *Napoli!* provides a wonderful opportunity to pair him with the equally inimitable Seana McKenna. A play filled with the rich bittersweet comedy of postwar Italy, *Napoli!* introduces a gallery of indelible characters each trying to find a way to survive a ravaged economy and fulfill their dreams. As we contemplate the issue of income inequality in contemporary America, it is fascinating to watch what lengths a

family will go to to make a living, even if it means profiteering off one's neighbors and selling illegal goods. I think *Napoli!* is a play that is going to truly surprise and delight San Francisco audiences!”

The cast for *Major Barbara* includes **Marco Barricelli** as Gennaro; **Seana McKenna** as Amalia; **Nick Gabriel** as Amedeo; **Blair Busbee** as Maria Rosaria; **Dion Mucciacito** as Errico Settebellizze; **York Walker** as Pascalino; **Mike Ryan** as Peppe “the Jack”; **Anthony Fusco** as Riccardo Spasiano; **Sharon Lockwood** as Adelaide; **Lisa Kitchens** as Assunta; **Gabriel Marin** as Miezso Prevetete; **Gregory Wallace** as Ciappa; **Aaron Moreland** as Federico; **Lateefah Holder** as Donna Peppenella; **Danielle Frimer** as Teresa; **Kemiyondo Coutinho** as Margherita; **Asher Grodman** as The Guard/The Wine Man; and **Dillon Heape** as Doctor.

The creative team for *Napoli!* includes scenic designer **Erik Flatmo** (*4000 Miles, Scapin* at A.C.T.), costume designer **Lydia Tanji** (*Dead Metaphor, Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet* at A.C.T.); lighting designer **Robert Wierzel** (*Arcadia* at A.C.T.; *Fela!* on Broadway) and sound designer **Will McCandless** (*4000 Miles, Higher* at A.C.T.).

A.C.T. will offer numerous **InterACT events**—many of which are presented free of charge—in association with *Napoli!* that will give patrons opportunities to get closer to the action while making a whole night out of their evening at the theater:

- **Bike to the Theater Night:** Wednesday, February 12, at 8 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 this select performance.
- **Audience Prologue:** Tuesday, February 18, at 5:30 p.m.
Before the curtain goes up, get behind the artistic process at this fascinating preshow discussion with the director and artistic staff. **Can't make it to the event? We'll be streaming it live online!**
- **Theater on the Couch:** Friday, February 21, at 8 p.m.
Following the show, discuss the minds, motives, and behaviors of the characters with Dr. Mason Turner, chief of psychiatry at San Francisco's Kaiser Permanente Medical Center.
- **Audience Exchanges:** Tue., Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. | Sun., Mar. 2, at 2 p.m. | Wed., Mar. 5, at 2 p.m.
Learn firsthand what goes into the making of great theater. After the show, stick around for a lively Q&A session with the actors, designers and artists who develop the work onstage.
- **OUT with A.C.T.:** Wednesday, February 26, at 8 p.m.
The best LGBT night in town! Mingle with the cast and enjoy free drinks and treats at this popular after party. Visit www.act-sf.org/out for information about how to subscribe to OUT nights (and other InterACT events) throughout the season.
- **Symposium:** Saturday, March 1, at 2 p.m.
You're invited to join us after the show for a lively discussion! A.C.T. invites you to join us in the theater immediately following your performance for a discussion and Q&A with a local expert. The discussion will be moderated by A.C.T. dramaturg **Michael Paller**. **Can't make it to the event? We'll be streaming it live online!**

- **Wine Series:** Tuesday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m.
Before the show, raise a glass at this wine tasting event featuring unique wines from **The Barrel Room**, a popular wine bar located in Union Square.
- **PlayTime:** Saturday, March 8, 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 Napoli! is made possible by executive producers **Frannie Fleishhacker** and **Chris and Leslie Johnson**; producers **Lloyd and Janet Cluff**; **Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson**; **Bert and LeAnne Steinberg**; **Toby and Sally Rosenblatt**; **Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem**; and associate producers **Romana and John Bracco**; **Gayle and Steve Brugler**; **Edward and Della Dobranski**; **Mrs. Michael Dollinger**; **Daniela Fagoili**; **Barbara and Jon Phillips**, with additional support by **Inspiration Vineyards and Hafner Vineyard**.

A.C.T. would like to acknowledge its 2013–14 company sponsors **Frannie Fleishhacker**; **Priscilla and Keith Geeslin**; **Mr. and Mrs. Gordon P. Getty**; **Mr. and Mrs. John Goldman**; **Ambassador James C. Hormel and Michael P. Nguyen**; **Fred M. Levin and Nancy Livingston**, **The Shenson Foundation**; **Burt and Deedee McMurtry**; **Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock**; **Patti and Rusty Rueff**; **Ms. Kathleen Scutchfield**; **Mary and Steven Swig**; **Jeff and Laurie Ubben**.

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FACT SHEET

WHAT: *Napoli!*

During the chaotic days of World War II in Naples, an enterprising woman sets up a small-time black market business to keep her family afloat. She prospers, but maybe a bit too much—compelling her husband to ask hard questions about morality, civility, and the state of their society. De Filippo’s masterful blend of humor and pathos tells the story of an unforgettable and wildly entertaining family determined to survive at any cost.

WHO: Directed by Mark Rucker

Creative Team: **Erik Flatmo** (scenic designer), **Lydia Tanji** (costume designer), **Robert Wierzel** (lighting designer), **Will McCandless** (sound designer)

Featuring: Marco Barricelli, Seana McKenna, Nick Gabriel, Blair Busbee, Dion Mucciacito, York Walker, Mike Ryan, Anthony Fusco, Sharon Lockwood, Lisa Kitchens, Gabe Marin, Gregory Wallace, Aaron Moreland, Lateefah Holder, Danielle Frimer, Kemiyondo Coutinh, Asher Grodman, Dillon Heape.

WHERE: A.C.T.’s Geary Theater, 415 Geary Street, San Francisco, CA 94108

WHEN: February 12 – March 9, 2014
Press Night: Wednesday, February 19, 2014

InterACT Events

Bike to the Theater Night..... 2/12, (8 p.m.)
Audience Prologue2/18 (5:30 p.m.)
Theater on the Couch.....2/21 (8 p.m.)
Audience Exchanges.....2/25 (7 p.m.), 3/2 (2 p.m.), 3/5 (2 p.m.)
OUT with A.C.T.....2/26 (8 p.m.)
Symposium.....3/1 (2 p.m.)
Wine Series.....3/4 (5:30 p.m.)
PlayTime.....3/8 (12:30 p.m.)

TICKETS: Tickets (\$20 - \$120) are on sale now and may be purchased online at act-sf.org or by calling 415.749.2228.

PHOTOS: act-sf.org/press

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