

# A.C.T. AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER

CAREY PERLOFF, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | ELLEN RICHARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press photos and kits: [act-sf.org/press](http://act-sf.org/press)

## AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER TO PRESENT AN ELECTRIFYING NEW PRODUCTION OF DAVID IVES' *VENUS IN FUR*

Called "90 minutes of good, kinky fun," by the *New York Times*, this steamy and provocative comedy explores sexual domination, power dynamics, loyalty and infidelity.

• March 19 – April 13, 2014 •

SAN FRANCISCO (January 28, 2014) – American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) is primed to seduce audiences this March with an electrifying new production of *Venus in Fur*—David Ives' 2012 Tony Award–nominated play that electrified (and titillated) Broadway audiences. When a young actress auditions for a demanding playwright/director's adaptation of a classic novel that explores sexual domination, their encounter explodes into a playful, witty, and erotic game of cat and mouse, dangerously blurring the lines between fantasy and reality—and seduction and power. *Venus in Fur* was named one of the "year's best" plays by more than a dozen major publications, and called "seriously smart and very funny . . . a suspense-packed study of the erotics of power" by the *New York Times*. *Venus in Fur* runs **March 19–April 13, 2014**, at A.C.T.'s Geary Theater (415 Geary Street, San Francisco). **Press night is Wednesday, March 26, 2014.** Tickets (\$20 –\$120) are on sale now and may be purchased online at [act-sf.org](http://act-sf.org) or by calling 415.749.2228.

Says **Carey Perloff**, Artistic Director of A.C.T.: "'David Ives has an uncanny ability to keep an audience guessing! When I first saw *Venus in Fur* I was captivated by its thriller plot twists and fascinating play-within-a-play structure – to say nothing of the fact that it's incredibly sexy. It's when you go back and read it again that you realize how brilliantly crafted it is, with such exquisite language. I can't wait to see it at the Geary."

Directed by **Casey Stangl** [*In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)* at South Coast Repertory], *Venus Fur* features **Henry Clarke** (*No Man's Land* at American Repertory Theater) as Thomas and **Brenda Meaney** (*Owners* at Yale Repertory Theatre) as Vanda. The creative team for *Venus in Fur* includes scenic designer **John Lee Beatty** (*The Nance* and *Other Desert Cities* on Broadway), costume designer **Alex Jaeger** (*Major Barbara* and *4000 Miles* at A.C.T.; *Other Desert Cities* at the Mark Taper Forum), lighting designer **Alexander V. Nichols** (*Underneath the*

*Lintel* at A.C.T.; *Hugh Jackman, Back on Broadway* on Broadway), and sound designer **Will McCandless** (*4000 Miles* and *Higher* at A.C.T.; *A Winter's Tale* at Cal Shakes).

A.C.T. will offer numerous **InterACT events**—many of which are presented free of charge—in association with *Venus in Fur* 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:** March 19, 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:** March 25, 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:** March 28, 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:** April 1, 7 p.m. | April 6, 2 p.m. | April 9, 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.:** April 2, 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](http://www.act-sf.org/out) for information about how to subscribe to OUT nights (and other InterACT events) throughout the season.
- **Symposium:** April 5, 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:** April 8, 7 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:** April 12, 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 *Venus in Fur* is made possible by executive producers **John Little and Heather Stallings Little; Doug Tilden and Teresa Keller**; producers **Anonymous; Kent M. Harvey; Nion T. McEvoy and Leslie Berriman; Alan and Ruth Stein**; and associate producers **Anonymous; Anne and Gerald Down; Melanie and Peter Maier**, with additional support by Hafner Vineyard.

A.C.T. would like to acknowledge its 2013–14 company sponsors **Frannie Fleishhacker; Priscilla and Keith Geeslin; 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:**

***Venus in Fur***

**American Conservatory Theater** (A.C.T.) is primed to seduce audiences this March with an electrifying new production of ***Venus in Fur*** – David Ives’ 2012 Tony Award-nominated play that electrified (and titillated) Broadway audiences. When a young actress auditions for a demanding playwright/director’s adaptation of a classic novel that explores sexual domination, their encounter explodes into a playful, witty, and erotic game of cat and mouse, dangerously blurring the lines between fantasy and reality—and seduction and power. *Venus in Fur* was named one of the “year’s best” plays by more than a dozen major publications, and called “seriously smart and very funny . . . a suspense-packed study of the erotics of power” by the *New York Times*.

**WHO:**

Directed by **Casey Stangl**

Creative Team: **John Lee Beatty** (scenic designer), **Alex Jaeger** (costume designer), **Alexander V. Nichols** (lighting designer), **Will McCandless** (sound designer)

Featuring: **Henry Clarke** as Thomas and **Brenda Meaney** as Vanda

**WHERE:**

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

**WHEN:**

**March 19 – April 13, 2014**

Press Night: Wednesday, March 26, 2014

**InterACT Events**

Bike to the Theater Night .....3/19 (8 p.m.)

Audience Prologue .....3/25 (5:30 p.m.)

Theater on the Couch.....3/28 (8 p.m.)

Audience Exchanges.....4/1 (7 p.m.), 4/6 (2 p.m.), 4/9 (2 p.m.)

OUT with A.C.T.....4/2 (8 p.m.)

Symposium.....4/5 (2 p.m.)

Wine Series.....4/8 (5:30 p.m.)

PlayTime.....4/2 (12:30 p.m.)

**TICKETS:**

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

**PHOTOS:**

[http://www.act-sf.org/home/about/press\\_room.html](http://www.act-sf.org/home/about/press_room.html)

**TIX & INFO:**

**415.749.2228** | [act-sf.org](http://act-sf.org)

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