

A.C.T. AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER

CAREY PERLOFF, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | ELLEN RICHARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Kevin Kopjak, Charles Zukow Associates | 415.296.0677 | kevink@charleszukow.com

Press photos and kits: act-sf.org/press

"Astonishing! Sexy, funny and deeply entertaining."
New York Magazine

"Directed with easy warmth and probing intelligence by Carey Perloff."
USA Today

"Carey Perloff has done right . . . go with confidence!"
The Wall Street Journal

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER KICKS OFF THE NEW YEAR WITH TOM STOPPARD'S EPIC ROMANCE, *INDIAN INK*

Added performance on Sunday, February 8 at 7 p.m.

January 14–February 8, 2015

SAN FRANCISCO (November 17, 2014) –Continuing its exploration on the power of memory and storytelling, **American Conservatory Theater** (A.C.T.) will kick off the new year with an all-new production of **Tom Stoppard's *Indian Ink*, (January 14–February 8, 2015)** a romantic saga spanning decades, continents, and cultures. *Indian Ink* follows Flora Crewe, a free-spirited English poet on her travels through India in the 1930s, where her intricate relationship with an Indian artist unfurls against the backdrop of a country seeking its independence. Fifty years later, the poet's younger sister, the Indian artist's son, and a determined American biographer each attempt to decipher the legacy of Flora's controversial career and mysterious past. Directed by A.C.T. Artistic Director **Carey Perloff** to great acclaim earlier this season at New York's Roundabout Theatre Company, this surprising story of two people whose connection lives on through art movingly explores how the creative spirit can bring us together in the most unexpected ways. Press night for *Indian Ink* will be on Wednesday, January 21, 2015. **Tickets (ranging in price from \$20–\$140)**, are available by calling the A.C.T. Box Office at **415.749.2228** or online at www.act-sf.org.

Says **Perloff**: "It has been a singular joy to revisit this passionate and complex play fifteen years after giving it its American premiere at A.C.T. For this production, Tom has rewritten the ending and made other excellent alterations which have given the play a wonderful new flow. The circular tide of history so richly evoked in the play is realized with this company, led by the inimitable Firdous Bamji who played Anish this first time and now plays his father, Nirad Das! *Indian Ink* has been captivating New York audiences with its magical language and sensual relationships, and I can't wait to see the play on the Geary stage, as our exploration of the work of Britain's greatest living playwright continues."

The cast for *Indian Ink* includes **Josie Alvarez, Mary Baird, Firdous Bamji, Joel Bernard, Vandit Bhatt, Danielle Frimer, Anthony Fusco, Dan Hiatt, Jason Kapoor, Roberta Maxwell, Brenda Meany, Philip Mils, Ajay Naidu, Mike Ryan, Glenn G. Stott, Pej Vahdat, and Rajeev Varma.**

The creative team for *Indian Ink* includes set design by **Neil Patel**, lighting design by **Robert Wierzel**, costume design by **Candice Donnelly**, and original music and sound design by **Dan Moses Schreier**.

In association with *Indian Ink*, 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 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, January 14

Providing a greener alternative to theater transportation, A.C.T. and the San Francisco Bike Coalition offer free valet bike parking, as well as a special discount on tickets, for these select performances.

- **Prologue:**
Tuesday, January 20, 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.

- **Theater on the Couch:**
Friday, January 23, following the 8 p.m. performance

Led by Dr. 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:**
Tues., January 27, 7 p.m. | Sun., February 1, 2 p.m. | Wed., February 4, 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, January 28, 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, February 3, 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, February 7, 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 *Indian Ink* is made possible by executive producers **Frannie Fleishhacker; John Little and Heather Stallings Little; Barbara Ravizza and John S. Osterweis; Ms. Kathleen Scutchfield;** and **Doug Tilden and Teresa Keller;** producers **Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dathe; Linda Jo Fitz; Rose Hagan and Mark Lemley; Donald J and Toni Ratner Miller; Terry and Jan Opdendyk; Sally and Toby Rosenblatt;** and **Mr. and Mrs. Gene Schnair;** and associate producers **Paul Angelo; Capegio Properties, Barbara and Chuck Lavoroni; Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson; Dr. and Mrs. Richard E. Geist; Marcia and Geoffrey Green; Drs. Michael and Jane Marmor; Marjorie Perloff and Dr. Joseph Perloff *; Merrill Randol Sherwin; Emmett and Marion Stanton; Kay Yun and Andre Neumann-Loreck. (*deceased).** Additional support provided by **Acorn Winery; Campari; Inspiration Vineyards;** and **Piazza Market Catering.**

A.C.T. would also like to acknowledge its 2014–15 company sponsors **Frannie Fleishhacker; Priscilla and Keith Geeslin; Jeri Lynn and Jeffrey W. Johnson; Fred M. Levin and Nancy Livingston, The Shenson Foundation; Burt and Deedee McMurtry; Barbara Ravizza and John S. Osterweis; Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock;** and **Doug Tilden and Teresa Keller** and its season partners, **Wells Fargo** and **PG&E.**

A.C.T.'s 2014–15 season continues with the West Coast debut of the outrageous and enthusiastically acclaimed new comedy, ***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play***; the sumptuous jazz-filled production, ***Let There Be Love***; the West Coast premiere of Caryl Churchill's internationally acclaimed new work, ***Love and Information***; and Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler's most rapturous and seductive musical, ***A Little Night Music***.

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FACT SHEET

WHAT: *Indian Ink*

Hailed as “enticing and entertaining” by the *New York Times* in the recent Roundabout Theatre production, Stoppard’s exquisitely romantic play tells the story of a contemporary English biographer and a young Indian man, who separately attempt to explore the mysteries of the erotic artwork and poetry left behind by a racy, freethinking English poet from the 1930s and the Indian painter whom she has come to love.

WHO: Directed by Carey Perloff

Cast: Josie Alvarez, Firdous Bamji, Joel Bernard, Vandit Bhatt, Danielle Frimer, Anthony Fusco, Dan Hiatt, Roberta Maxwell, Brenda Meany, Philip Mills, Ajay Naidu, Mike Ryan, Glenn Stott, Pej Vahdat, and Rajeev Varma.

Creative team: set designer Neil Patel; lighting designer Robert Wierzel; costume designer Candice Donnelly; and sound designer Dan Moses Schreier.

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

WHEN: **January 14 – February 8, 2015**

Press Night: Wednesday, January 21, 2015

InterACT Events

Bike to the Theater Night: January 14 (7 p.m.)

Audience Prologue: January 20 (5:30 p.m.)

Theater on the Couch: January 23 (8 p.m.)

Audience Exchanges: January 27 (7 p.m.); February 1 (2 p.m.); February 4 (2 p.m.)

OUT with A.C.T: January 28 (8 p.m.)

Wine Series: February 3 (7 p.m.)

PlayTime: February 7 (12:30 p.m.)

TICKETS: \$20 - \$120

PHOTOS: http://act-sf.org/home/about/press_room.html

TIX & INFO: 415.749.2228 | act-sf.org

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