

A.C.T. AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER

CAREY PERLOFF, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | ELLEN RICHARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TONY AWARD WINNERS BILL IRWIN AND DAVID SHINER RETURN TO AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER WITH THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF THE SIGNATURE THEATRE PRODUCTION OF *OLD HATS*

SINGLE TICKETS AVAILABLE BEGINNING SUNDAY, JULY 20!

SEPTEMBER 10 – OCTOBER 5, 2014

SAN FRANCISCO (July 17, 2014) – Sixteen years after they swept San Francisco Bay Area audiences off their feet with the Tony Award–winning production *Fool Moon*, **American Conservatory Theater** (A.C.T.) welcomes back Tony Award winners **Bill Irwin** and **David Shiner** in the West Coast premiere of the Signature Theatre production of *Old Hats*. Using technology and movement—and featuring original music written and performed by **Shaina Taub** (actress, *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812*)—*Old Hats* combines the inimitable magic and hilarity of Irwin and Shiner into a wild and remarkable outing of theater for generations old and new. Directed by **Tina Landau** (*The Time of Your Life* at A.C.T. in 2004), *Old Hats* was the recipient of the 2013 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Alternative Theatrical Experience and the 2013 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Revue. *Old Hats* marks the first collaboration for Irwin and Shiner since the smash Broadway hit *Fool Moon*, which set A.C.T. box office records during its sold-out 1998 run and their return engagement in 2001. *Old Hats* will perform at A.C.T.'s Geary Theater (415 Geary Street, San Francisco) **September 10–October 5, 2014**. Press night for *Old Hats* will be on Wednesday, September 17, 2014. **Single tickets** (\$20–\$120) are available beginning **Sunday, July 20 at 10 a.m.** and may be purchased online at act-sf.org or by calling **415.749.2228**.

"I can't wait to bring *Old Hats* to A.C.T. and San Francisco, back to my favorite audience in the entire world," says **Irwin**. "We played *Fool Moon* twice in the Geary Theater, 16 and 13 years ago and now it's time for baggy pants comedy, the mature-years version. David Shiner and I will bring our love for the art of the clown—which still gets us excited, even in deep, deep middle age—back to A.C.T. with an all-new show!"

Says A.C.T. Artistic Director, **Carey Perloff**: “What a joy to welcome back our two beloved clowns in this exquisite and hilarious meditation on life, lunacy, and the passage of time. *Old Hats* picks up where *Fool Moon* left off in a wildly imaginative journey about the anxieties of living in the modern world. For our audience, this will be a beautiful follow up to *Humor Abuse*, Lorenzo Pisoni’s coming of age story. This is the story of clowns getting older—and even crazier—and we can’t wait to have them back!”

A.C.T. will offer numerous **InterACT events**—many of which are presented free of charge—in association with *Old Hats* 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**

Wed., September 10

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:**

Tues., September 16, 5:30 p.m.

Get inside the artistic process at this lively preshow discussion with A.C.T. artistic staff.

- **Theater on the Couch:**

Fri., September 19, 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:**

Tue., Sept. 23, 7 p.m. | Sun., Sept. 28, 2 p.m. | Wed., Oct. 1, 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.:**

Wed., Sept. 24, 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:**

Tue., Sept. 30, 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:**
Sat., Oct. 4, 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 *Old Hats* is made possible by executive producers **Nion T. McEvoy and Leslie Berriman**; producers **Lloyd and Janet Cluff; Kirke and Nancy Sawyer Hasson; Dr. and Mrs. Gideon Sorokin**; and associate producers **Judith and David Anderson; Vicki and David Fleishhacker; Paula and John Murphy**; and **Elsa and Neil Pering**.

A.C.T. would 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; Ms. Barbara Ravizza and Mr. John S. Osterweis; Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock; Doug Tilden and Teresa Keller**.

The creative team for *Old Hats* includes director **Tina Landau** (*The Time of Your Life* at A.C.T.; *Bells Are Ringing* and *Superior Donuts* on Broadway); scenic and costume designer **G.W. Mercier** (*The Time of Your Life* at A.C.T.; *Juan Darién: A Carnival Mass* on Broadway), lighting designer **Scott Zielinski** (*The Times of Your Life* at A.C.T.; *Topdog/Underdog* on Broadway), sound designer **John Gromada** (*Hedda Gabler* at A.C.T.; Tony nomination for *The Trip to Bountiful* on Broadway), and projection designers **Wendall K. Harrington** (*Ragtime* and *Tommy* on Broadway) and **Erik Pearson** (*Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth* on Broadway; *Othello* at Allentown Shakespeare in the Park).

A.C.T.'s 2014–15 season continues with Colm Tóibín's fiercely lyrical solo play, ***Testament***, starring Seana McKenna; the Bay Area's favorite holiday tradition, the Charles Dickens classic ***A Christmas Carol***; an all-new production of Tom Stoppard's great time-travel romance, ***Indian Ink***; 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's most rapturous and seductive musical, ***A Little Night Music***.

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scheduled tickets, guaranteed best seating, ticket insurance, access to convenient prepaid parking one block away from the theater, discounts for neighborhood restaurants, and the opportunity to subscribe to *Words on Plays*, A.C.T.'s in-depth theater guide for each show. **Subscriptions can be ordered via the A.C.T. subscriptions office by calling 415.749.2250 or online at www.act-sf.org/subscribe**

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BILL IRWIN, an A.C.T. associate artist, is a founding member of Kraken Theatre Ensemble and San Francisco's Pickle Family Circus. He was most recently seen at A.C.T. in *Endgame* in 2012. His original works, with various collaborators, include *Fool Moon*, *Largely New York*, *The Harlequin Studies*, *Mr. Fox: A Ruminantion*, *The Happiness Lecture*, and *The Regard of Flight*. Other theater credits include Broadway productions of *Waiting for Godot*, *Bye, Bye Birdie*, *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?*, and *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*; Broadway and West End revivals of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (2005 Tony Award, Helen Hayes Award); *Waiting for Godot* at Lincoln Center Theater; *Scapin* at Roundabout Theatre Company; and *The Tempest*, *Garden of Earthly Delights*, *Texts for Nothing*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *The Seagull*, *A Man's a Man*, *3 Cuckolds*, and *5-6-7-8 Dance*. The 2003–04 Signature Theatre season was devoted to his original work, and he has been an affiliate artist with Roundabout. Television credits include *Monday Mornings*, *Lights Out*, *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, *Bill Irwin: Clown Prince* (PBS's *Great Performances*), *Third Rock from the Sun*, *Northern Exposure*, *Sesame Street*, *Elmo's World*, *The Regard of Flight*, *The Cosby Show*, *The Laramie Project*, *Subway Stories*, *Bette Midler: Mondo Beyondo*, *Law & Order*, *Life on Mars*, and the closing ceremony of the 1996 Olympic Games. Film credits include *Rachel Getting Married*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Igby Goes Down*, *Lady in the Water*, *Dark Matter*, *Raving*, *Across the Universe*, *Popeye*, *Eight Men Out*, *Silent Tongue*, *Illuminata*, *My Blue Heaven*, *A New Life*, *Scenes from a Mall*, and *Stepping Out*. He has been granted a National Endowment for the Arts Choreographers Fellowship, as well as a MacArthur Fellowship.

DAVID SHINER made his American debut starring in the renowned Canadian Cirque du Soleil and toured North America in Cirque's *Nouvelle Experience* from 1990 through the spring of 1991. American-born, David began his career 34 years ago on the streets of Boulder, Colorado. In 1981, he moved to Europe and honed his craft on the streets of Paris, Rome, Florence, London and Munich. He then began performing in Europe's most prestigious circuses, including starring in the German National Circus' Ronacalli and the Swiss National Circus' Knie. In 1993, 1995 and 1998, Mr. Shiner starred with Bill Irwin and the Red Clay Ramblers in *Fool Moon* (Tony Award for Unique Theatrical Experience), touring the show throughout the U.S. and Europe. He also starred on Broadway as The Cat in the Hat in *Seussical: The Musical*. Recent credits include Cirque du Soleil's *Kooza* in which Mr. Shiner wrote and directed. Film and television credits include *Lorenzo's Oil*, *Man of the House*, and *The Bill Cosby Show*. Mr. Shiner is an instructor at Bavarian Academy of Dramatic Arts and continues to maintain his home base in Munich.

TINA LANDAU (*Director*) Tina Landau is a writer/director whose work includes *Old Hats* and Chuck Mee's *Iphigenia 2.0* (Signature Theatre), Paula Vogel's *A Civil War Christmas* (New York Theater Workshop), Tarell McCraney's *Wig Out!* (Vineyard Theater) and *In the Red and Brown Water* (The Public), *Antony and Cleopatra* (Hartford Stage), *Midsummer Night's Dream* (McCarter Theatre, Papermill Playhouse) as well as *Bells Are Ringing* and Tracy Letts' *Superior Donuts* on Broadway. Landau is a member of Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago, where her numerous productions include *The Wheel*, *The Brother/Sister Plays*, *Hot L Baltimore*, *The Tempest*, and *The Time of Your Life* (also at Seattle Repertory Theater and A.C.T.). She wrote and directed the musicals *Floyd Collins* (composer Adam Guettel; Playwrights Horizons) and *Dream True* (composer Ricky Ian Gordon;

Vineyard) and the plays *Space* (Steppenwolf, Public, Mark Taper Forum) and *Beauty* (La Jolla Playhouse.) Tina teaches regularly and has co-authored, with Anne Bogart, *The Viewpoints Book*.