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**AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER
ANNOUNCES FINAL TWO PRODUCTIONS FOR 2015–16 SEASON**

Newly announced productions include the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama winner, *Between Riverside and Crazy*, and a brand-new, fully staged production of Jason Robert Brown’s *The Last Five Years*

SAN FRANCISCO (April 24, 2015) – **American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) Artistic Director Carey Perloff** announced today the final two productions that will comprise the lineup of the company’s 49th subscription season. Joining the five previously announced productions—Philip Kan Gotanda and Sean San José’s world-premiere production, *Monstress*; Eugene O’Neill’s classic comedy, *Ah, Wilderness!*; Terry Teachout’s celebrated one-man show, *Satchmo at the Waldorf*; the groundbreaking new musical, *The Unfortunates*; Will Eno’s inventive new comedy, *The Realistic Joneses*—will be Stephen Adly Guirgis’s outrageous new dark comedy, *Between Riverside and Crazy*, and a brand-new, fully staged production of Jason Robert Brown’s powerful and intimate musical, *The Last Five Years*. At this time, only current full-season A.C.T. subscribers can renew their subscriptions for the 2015–16 season. To receive priority notice when packages become available to new subscribers, patrons can email season@act-sf.org or call the A.C.T. Box Office at 415.749.2228.

The 2015–16 season kicks off with the just-announced winner of the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, Stephen Adly Guirgis’s (*The Motherf*ucker with the Hat*, *Jesus Hopped the A Train*) outrageous new dark comedy, *Between Riverside and Crazy* (**September 2–27, 2015**). Directed by **Irene Lewis** (*Race and Dead Metaphor* at A.C.T.), *Between Riverside and Crazy* tells the story of ex-cop and recent widower Walter “Pops” Washington, who is desperately trying to hold on to his prime piece of real estate—one of the last great rent-stabilized apartments in New York City—while simultaneously battling his inner demons. His landlord wants him and his newly paroled son out; his cop friends are begging him to back down from a lawsuit against City Hall; the local liquor store has closed; and a beautiful, mysterious Santeria practitioner promises salvation in the midst of all the chaos. A hilarious and timely story that tackles gentrification, recovery, faith, sketchy houseguests, and the saving grace of family, *Between Riverside and Crazy* is “a genuine original that deserves to be seen by anyone hungry for a smart, exuberantly funny urban dramedy” (*Newsday*). **Press night is on Wednesday, September 9, 2015.** Performances of *Between Riverside and Crazy* will take place at A.C.T.’s Geary Theater.

In the fall, A.C.T. will present ***Monstress* (September 16–November 22, 2015)**, two world-premiere one-act plays about love, longing, and the American Dream. In these two tales of contemporary Filipino-American life in the Bay Area, adapted from the acclaimed collection of short stories by San Francisco author Lysley Tenorio, a vibrant array of characters strive for personal transformations that are seemingly impossible, wonderfully moving, and distinctly theatrical. The infamous headline-making eviction of Filipino residents from San Francisco's International Hotel in the 1970s sets the background for Philip Kan Gotanda's stirring *Save the I-Hotel*, which illuminates the dangers of love that crosses forbidden territories. Sean San José's retelling of the title story "Monstress" moves us from the streets of Manila to San Francisco, where a B-movie director has been seduced by the opportunity to work with a shady American filmmaker. An evening of song and story about love and family, hope and indifference, triumph and failure, *Monstress* explores the resilience of a community struggling to find a home in the ever-shifting sands of the American dream. *Monstress* will be directed by A.C.T. Artistic Director **Carey Perloff**, with associate direction by **Sean San José** (*Superheroes* at Cutting Ball Theater). **Press nights are on Wednesday, September 30 and Thursday, October 1, 2015.** Performances of *Monstress* will take place at A.C.T.'s Strand Theater.

Next, A.C.T. will present ***Ah, Wilderness!* (October 14–November 8, 2015)**, Eugene O'Neill's passionate coming-of-age classic. *Ah, Wilderness!* is a tender portrait of a sensitive teenage poet whose experience of first love leads him into the raptures of romantic poetry and the pain of heartbreak. As the Miller clan prepare for their Fourth of July celebrations, their idealistic, literature-quoting 16-year-old son, Richard, is struggling with what it means to be young and in love. As Richard's attempts to sow his wild oats intersect with small-town gossip, hilarious misunderstandings ensue. Full of the vibrant nostalgia of first love and other youthful discoveries, *Ah, Wilderness!* is a humorous portrait of a family's attempts to stay united in the midst of growing pains, as well as "a valentine to hearty turn-of-the-twentieth-century American life" (*Washington Post*). *Ah, Wilderness!* will be directed by A.C.T. Associate Artistic Director **Mark Rucker** (*4000 Miles* and *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play* at A.C.T.). **Press night is on Wednesday, October 21, 2015.** Performances of *Ah, Wilderness!* will take place at A.C.T.'s Geary Theater.

After its record-breaking run last season, A.C.T. is happy to welcome back the Bay Area's favorite holiday tradition, ***A Christmas Carol* (December 2–27, 2015)**. Featuring a lively cast of dozens, delightful music, gorgeous costumes, and deliciously spooky ghosts, this version of *A Christmas Carol*, adapted by Paul Walsh and Carey Perloff, stays true to the heart of Dickens's timeless story of redemption and brings a playful sensibility to his rich language. *A Christmas Carol* —now in its 38th year—is a cornerstone of the A.C.T. repertory and has become a holiday tradition for families around the Bay Area. **Press night is on Thursday, December 10, 2015.** Performances of *A Christmas Carol* will take place at A.C.T.'s Geary Theater.

Ringling in 2016, A.C.T. will present the acclaimed one-man show ***Satchmo at the Waldorf* (January 13–February 7, 2016)**. This richly imagined biographical play features a collision between two jazz titans, Louis Armstrong and Miles Davis, who are both magnetically channeled by John Douglas Thompson, deemed “America’s greatest classical actor” by critic John Lahr. This acclaimed off-Broadway hit, by theater critic Terry Teachout, details Armstrong’s meteoric rise, as well as his fateful relationships with his manager and with Davis. A tale of ambition, artistry, and overreach set just four months before Armstrong’s death in 1971, *Satchmo at the Waldorf* offers viewers a complex, unforgettable glimpse into the heart and soul of one of history’s most iconic jazz legends. *Satchmo at the Waldorf* will be directed by **Gordon Edelstein** (*The Glass Menagerie* at Roundabout Theatre and *Uncle Vanya* at Long Wharf Theater). **Press night is on Wednesday, January 20, 2016.** Performances of *Satchmo at the Waldorf* will take place at A.C.T.’s Geary Theater.

Continuing the tradition of introducing eclectic, unforgettable musical projects to the stage, A.C.T. will next present the groundbreaking new musical, ***The Unfortunates* (February 3–April 10, 2016)**. A surreal steampunk romp through uniquely American genres, *The Unfortunates* combines the heat of a gospel revival with the sweet sorrow of the blues. A huge hit at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival last year, the play is based on an old blues song, “St. James Infirmary,” and transports audiences to a world of memory and mythmaking in which courage is tested in magical ways. Big Joe, a stalwart, tough-talking soldier and bartender with oversized hands, risks everything to save the armless courtesan Rae from a plague that has decimated all but a handful of survivors. The search for salvation is marked by the characters’ willingness to make music in the face of loss. From a prison camp to a New Orleans barroom to a brush with the underworld, *The Unfortunates* is a musical fever dream that’s as life-affirming as it is darkly imaginative. *The Unfortunates* will be directed by **Shana Cooper** (*Love’s Labour’s Lost* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival). **Press nights are on Wednesday, February 17 and Thursday, February 18, 2016.** Performances of *The Unfortunates* will take place at A.C.T.’s Strand Theater.

In spring 2016, A.C.T. will present the West Coast premiere of Will Eno’s brilliant new comedy, ***The Realistic Joneses* (March 9–April 3, 2016)**. In a small American town, two couples who live next door to each other share the same last name—and much more—in this comedy that had Broadway audiences and critics howling with delight. Soon after the Joneses meet each other, they discover that they are suffering from a similar malady, which leads to a surreal deterioration of language and communication. This results in a complex game of wits that makes ordinary conversation an extraordinary adventure. In Will Eno’s inventive new play, what seems like a series of routine encounters between American neighbors becomes a captivating look at how impossible it is for words to fully capture feeling, and how miraculous it is for human beings to truly know each other. *The Realistic Joneses* will be directed by **Loretta Greco** (*Lackawanna Blues* and *Speed the Plow* at A.C.T.). **Press nights is on Wednesday, May 16, 2016.** Performances of *The Realistic Joneses* will take place at A.C.T.’s Geary Theater.

A.C.T. will close its 2015–16 season with ***The Last Five Years (May 11–June 5, 2016)***, which receives a brand-new, fully staged production following the wildly successful concert version at The Geary Theater in spring 2015. Tony Award–winning composer of *Parade* and *Honeymoon in Vegas*, Jason Robert Brown, brings us this powerful and intimate musical about two twenty-something New Yorkers, Cathy (a struggling actress) and Jamie (a rising novelist), who dive headfirst into a marriage fueled by the optimism that comes from finding “the one.” From one of the most imaginative voices in musical theater, the play features a unique structure in which Cathy’s journey is sung from ending to beginning, and Jamie’s from beginning to end. The lovers’ individual accounts reveal that, in a city where professional and personal passions collide and only the strongest relationships survive, navigating the waters of love and matrimony can prove to be daunting. Packed to the brim with humor, ravishing romance, and an exuberant score, *The Last Five Years* takes an unforgettable look at the hope that love will endure the test of time. **Press night is on Wednesday, May 18, 2016.** Performances of *The Last Five Years* will take place at A.C.T.’s Geary Theater.

Full-season (7-play) subscriptions will soon be available for **\$91–\$679** and offer incredible savings, unparalleled access, exclusive benefits, and personalized customer service. Subscribers save as much as **50% off single-ticket prices**. Students and educators are eligible to save up to half-price on subscriptions, and senior discounts are available for certain series. To make subscriptions more affordable, A.C.T. also offers all subscribers an **extended payment plan** that allows payment in two easy installments. A.C.T.’s competitive subscriber benefits include **free ticket exchanges** up to the day of your scheduled performance, **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. To renew a current A.C.T. subscription, please call **415.749.2250** or log on to www.act-sf.org/renew.

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**AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER 2015–16 SEASON
AT A GLANCE**

BETWEEN RIVERSIDE AND CRAZY

By Stephen Adly Guirgis

Directed by Irene Lewis

September 2–27, 2015

A.C.T.'s Geary Theater

Press night: Wednesday, September 9, 2015

“This is the kind of rich, dynamic theater you almost never see anymore—fresh, savage and original.”—*New York Observer*

In this outrageous new dark comedy from Stephen Adly Guirgis (*The Motherf*ucker with the Hat*, *Jesus Hopped the A Train*), ex-cop and recent widower Walter “Pops” Washington is desperately trying to hold on to his prime piece of real estate—one of the last great rent-stabilized apartments in New York City—while simultaneously battling his inner demons. His landlord wants him and his newly paroled son out; his cop friends are begging him to back down from a lawsuit against City Hall; the local liquor store has closed; and a beautiful, mysterious Santeria practitioner promises salvation in the midst of all the chaos. A hilarious and timely story that tackles gentrification, recovery, faith, sketchy houseguests, and the saving grace of family, *Between Riverside and Crazy* is “a genuine original that deserves to be seen by anyone hungry for a smart, exuberantly funny urban dramedy” (*Newsday*).

World-premiere production

MONSTRESS

by Philip Kan Gotanda and Sean San José

A theatrical adaptation of short stories by Lysley Tenorio

Associate Direction by Sean San José

Directed by Carey Perloff

September 16–November 22, 2015

A.C.T.'s Strand Theater

Press nights: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 & Thursday, October 1, 2015

“Tenorio’s characters are zany, witty, and beautifully drawn”—*Slate.com*

In these two tales of contemporary Filipino-American life in the Bay Area, adapted from the acclaimed collection of short stories by San Francisco author Lysley Tenorio, a vibrant array of characters strive for personal transformations that are seemingly impossible, wonderfully moving, and distinctly theatrical. The infamous headline-making eviction of Filipino residents from San Francisco’s International Hotel in the 1970s sets the background for Philip Kan Gotanda’s stirring *Save the I-Hotel*, which illuminates the dangers of love that crosses forbidden territories. Sean San José’s retelling of the title story “Monstress” moves us from the streets of Manila to San Francisco, where a B-movie director has been seduced by the opportunity to work with a shady American filmmaker. An evening of song and story about love and family, hope and indifference, triumph and failure, *Monstress* explores the resilience of a community struggling to find a home in the ever-shifting sands of the American dream.

AH, WILDERNESS!

by Eugene O’Neill

Directed by Mark Rucker

October 14–November 8, 2015

A.C.T.'s Geary Theater

Press night: Wednesday, October 21, 2015

"A sensitive tribute to young and middle-aged love and to a beautiful, bygone era."—*The Examiner*, Washington, DC

Eugene O'Neill's passionate coming-of-age classic is a tender portrait of a sensitive teenage poet whose experience of first love leads him into the raptures of romantic poetry and the pain of heartbreak. As the Miller clan prepare for their Fourth of July celebrations, their idealistic, literature-quoting 16-year-old son, Richard, is struggling with what it means to be young and in love. As Richard's attempts to sow his wild oats intersect with small-town gossip, hilarious misunderstandings ensue. Full of the vibrant nostalgia of first love and other youthful discoveries, *Ah, Wilderness!* is a humorous portrait of a family's attempts to stay united in the midst of growing pains, as well as "a valentine to hearty turn-of-the-twentieth-century American life" (*Washington Post*).

SATCHMO AT THE WALDORF

by Terry Teachout

Directed by Gordon Edelstein

January 13–February 7, 2016

Starring John Douglas Thompson

A.C.T.'s Geary Theater

Press night: Wednesday, January 20, 2016

"Extraordinary. . . . Tour de force would be an understatement."—*Boston Globe*

This richly imagined biographical one-man show features a collision between two jazz titans, Louis Armstrong and Miles Davis, who are both magnetically channeled by John Douglas Thompson, deemed "America's greatest classical actor" by critic John Lahr. This acclaimed off-Broadway hit, by theater critic Terry Teachout, details Armstrong's meteoric rise, as well as his fateful relationships with his manager and with Davis. A tale of ambition, artistry, and overreach set just four months before Armstrong's death in 1971, *Satchmo at the Waldorf* offers viewers a complex, unforgettable glimpse into the heart and soul of one of history's most iconic jazz legends.

THE UNFORTUNATES

Created by Jon Beavers, Kristoffer Diaz, Casey Hurt, Ian Merrigan, and Ramiz Monsef

Directed by Shana Cooper

February 30–April 10, 2016

A.C.T.'s Strand Theater

Press nights: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 & Thursday, February 18, 2016

"A glorious, bluesy, mythical, uplifting paean to the power of music to stir the soul."—*Mail Tribune*, Ashland, Oregon

A surreal steampunk romp through uniquely American genres, *The Unfortunates* combines the heat of a gospel revival with the sweet sorrow of the blues. A huge hit at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival last year, the play is based on an old blues song, "St. James Infirmary," and transports audiences to a world of memory and mythmaking in which courage is tested in magical ways. Big Joe, a stalwart, tough-talking soldier and bartender with oversized hands, risks everything to save the armless courtesan Rae from a plague that has decimated all but a handful of survivors. The search for salvation is marked by the characters' willingness to make music in the face of loss. From a prison camp to a New Orleans barroom to a brush with the underworld, *The Unfortunates* is a musical fever dream that's as life-affirming as it is darkly imaginative.

West Coast premiere
THE REALISTIC JONESES
by Will Eno
Directed by Loretta Greco
March 9–April 3, 2016
A.C.T.'s Geary Theater
Press night: Wednesday, March 16, 2016

"A tender, funny and terrific new play . . . unmatched by anything this season!"—*New York Times*

In a small American town, two couples who live next door to each other share the same last name—and much more—in this comedy that had Broadway audiences and critics howling with delight. Soon after the Joneses meet each other, they discover that they are suffering from a similar malady, which leads to a surreal deterioration of language and communication. This results in a complex game of wits that makes ordinary conversation an extraordinary adventure. In Will Eno's inventive new play, what seems like a series of routine encounters between American neighbors becomes a captivating look at how impossible it is for words to fully capture feeling, and how miraculous it is for human beings to truly know each other.

THE LAST FIVE YEARS
Written and composed by Jason Robert Brown
May 11–June 5, 2016
A.C.T.'s Geary Theater
Press night: Wednesday, May 18, 2016

"Graceful, gripping and break-your-heart beautiful. *The Last Five Years* burrows into your skin by virtue of its very theatricality. It's impossible not to swoon!"—*New York Daily News*

Following the wildly successful concert version at The Geary Theater in spring 2015, *The Last Five Years* receives a brand-new, fully staged production that will close out A.C.T.'s 2015–16 season. Tony Award–winning composer of *Parade* and *Honeymoon in Vegas*, Jason Robert Brown, brings us this powerful and intimate musical about two twenty-something New Yorkers, Cathy (a struggling actress) and Jamie (a rising novelist), who dive headfirst into a marriage fueled by the optimism that comes from finding "the one." From one of the most imaginative voices in musical theater, the play features a unique structure in which Cathy's journey is sung from ending to beginning, and Jamie's from beginning to end. The lovers' individual accounts reveal that, in a city where professional and personal passions collide and only the strongest relationships survive, navigating the waters of love and matrimony can prove to be daunting. Packed to the brim with humor, ravishing romance, and an exuberant score, *The Last Five Years* takes an unforgettable look at the hope that love will endure the test of time.