



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact:** Kevin Kopjak, Charles Zukow Associates | 415.296.0677 | [kevink@charleszukow.com](mailto:kevink@charleszukow.com)

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

**AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER ANNOUNCES  
THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF  
CARYL CHURCHILL'S *LOVE AND INFORMATION*  
AS THE INAUGURAL PRODUCTION AT THE  
NEW STRAND THEATER**

***Love and Information* completes the line-up for  
A.C.T.'s 2014–15 season!**

**A.C.T. also announces development on two groundbreaking new works at  
The Strand Theater for the 2015–16 season!**

SAN FRANCISCO (May 30, 2014) – American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) Artistic Director Carey Perloff announced today that renowned playwright **Caryl Churchill's** internationally acclaimed new work, *Love and Information*, will make its West Coast debut as the inaugural production at A.C.T.'s new **Strand Theater**, completing the line-up for the 2014–15 season. Churchill's (*A Number*, *Cloud 9*, *Top Girls*) astonishing new play *Love and Information* is a brilliant exploration of the relationship between our obsession with data and our longing for meaning in a society whose attention is split between the virtual and the actual. Featuring a dozen actors portraying hundreds of characters in 50 interchangeable scenes, Churchill's "thought-churning, deeply poignant new play" (*The New York Times*) showcases her signature ability to reinvent structure, language, and theatricality. Performance schedule for *Love and Information* will be announced at a later date.

Located in the revitalized Central Market Street Corridor, The Strand Theater will feature a 285-seat theater, a 120-seat black box theater, and a café, and is a cutting-edge addition to A.C.T.'s theaters in San Francisco, which include The Geary Theater and The Costume Shop Theater, an intimate black-box performance space located near The Strand Theater. The new venue will allow A.C.T. to present new work and emerging artists, expand education programs and produce theater in versatile and innovative ways.

Says Perloff: "I am thrilled to announce the first production at our new Strand Theater! Sitting as it does at the epicenter of a radically changing neighborhood, The Strand aspires to create a bridge linking longtime neighbors, Bay Area theater lovers, newly arrived tech workers, and first-time audiences in a richly intimate theatrical home. And what better way to begin than with Caryl Churchill's dazzling new play *Love and Information*, that brilliantly exposes the heart-breaking gap between our longing for love and our relentless acquisition of information. The more numbers we crunch, the more we keep asking: What does it all mean? In a world that seems increasingly virtual, how do we find true human connection? What is a relationship? How do we find language to talk about what will never be quantifiable? The very structure of this wildly imaginative play demands that we rethink our assumptions at every moment. Churchill has been rocking the theatrical world for three decades, and we are honored to open our new space with this utterly unique work by one of theater's greatest pioneers."

Additionally, A.C.T. announced its development of two new works for production at The Strand Theater slated for the 2015–16 season: *The Unfortunates*, the acclaimed musical that had its first outing at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in 2013 and the A.C.T.-commissioned *The Monstress Project*, based on the acclaimed collection of short-stories detailing the Filipino-American experience from San Francisco author Lysley Tenorio.

A.C.T. invites Bay Area audiences to take part in the development of these two exciting projects during the 2014–15 season, prior to their full stagings, through A.C.T.'s wildly popular new play reading series, Scripts.

Says A.C.T.'s Director of New Work, **Beatrice Basso**, "By producing these three works in The Strand Theater's immediate future, A.C.T. is highlighting the pivotal stages of new work development at A.C.T. From presenting the newest work by one of our greatest living playwrights, to providing an all-important second developmental run of a thrilling new musical, to a world premiere staging inspired by a celebrated collection of San Francisco-based Filipino stories, audiences will have an intimate look at the complex process of creating theater in the 21st century. The combination of international pieces, interdisciplinary works, and homegrown projects allows A.C.T. to expand its reach in bold new ways, and gives us the opportunity to collaborate with artists we admire and whose work will resonate in the intimate environment of the Strand Theater."

### ***The Unfortunates***

A beloved hit at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in its first outing last summer, *The Unfortunates* mixes the heat of a gospel revival with the sweet sorrow of the blues as five prisoners face their execution and search for salvation. Together, this witty, audacious group creates the epic world of Big Joe, a tough bartender who risks everything to save the armless courtesan Rae from a deadly plague. Created by Jon Beavers, Ramiz Monsef, Ian Merrigan, Casey Hurt, and Kristoffer Diaz, this innovative work spins an unforgettable, darkly comic tale with a

powerful, eclectic score to create “a funky fever-dream of mortal fear and the longing for salvation” (*The Oregonian*). A.C.T. has embarked upon further development of this unusual new work, and a public workshop of the latest *Unfortunates* will be announced at a later date.

### ***The Monstress Project***

In anticipation of opening the Strand and becoming part of a neighborhood that includes a sizable Filipino population, A.C.T. decided to commission five remarkable theater artists to respond to Bay Area writer Lysley Tenorio’s exquisite short story collection *Monstress*. The result is four interlocking pieces of theater exploring Filipino immigration, unrealized dreams, loss of youth and place, unrequited love, and generational and cultural clashes, filtered through the imagination of playwrights **Colman Domingo, Philip Kan Gotanda, Jessica Hagedorn** and **Sean San José**, and composer **Fabian Obispo**. *The Monstress Project* was developed as part of A.C.T.’s “San Francisco Stories” initiative, and Bay Area audiences are invited to attend a free reading of select segments of the production at a one-night-only sneak preview on **Sunday, June 22 at 7 p.m.** at The Geary Theater. Admission is free, but reservations are required. For more information, or to reserve seats, visit [www.act-sf.org/scripts](http://www.act-sf.org/scripts).

### ***A.C.T.’s 2014–15 Season***

A.C.T. kicks off its 2014–15 season with the West Coast premiere of the Signature Theatre production of ***Old Hats (September 10–October 5, 2014)***, starring Tony Award winners Bill Irwin and David Shiner. Using music, technology, and movement – plus a few other tricks up their sleeves – *Old Hats* combines the inimitable magic, slapstick and hilarity of Irwin and Shiner into a wild and remarkable outing of theater for generations old and new. Press night for *Old Hats* will be on Wednesday, September 17, 2014.

In the fall, Carey Perloff will direct ***Testament (October 29–November 23, 2014)***, Colm Tóibín’s fiercely lyrical solo play originally staged at the Dublin Theater Festival in 2011, and retitled for Broadway in 2013 as *The Testament of Mary*. Hailed as “beautiful and daring” by the *New York Times*, this incisive, intelligent, and deeply human work—a 2013 Tony Award nominee for Best New Play—recounts in riveting detail a mother’s experience as she grieves for the child who has been taken from her by men she regards as fanatics. Press night for *Testament* will be on Wednesday, November 5, 2014.

After its record-breaking run last season, A.C.T. will welcome the return of the Bay Area’s favorite holiday tradition, the Charles Dickens classic ***A Christmas Carol (December 5 –28, 2014)***. Featuring a lively cast of dozens, delightful music, gorgeous costumes, and those 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. Press night for *A Christmas Carol* will be on Thursday, December 11, 2014.

Continuing its exploration on the power of memory and storytelling, A.C.T. will kick off 2015 with an all-new production of Tom Stoppard's great time-travel romance ***Indian Ink (January 14–February 8, 2015)***, directed by Carey Perloff. 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. Through the passion of the poet's writing and letters, they each discover that she held many more secrets in Jummapur, India, than ever before known or imagined. Press night for *Indian Ink* will be on Wednesday, January 21, 2015.

Next, A.C.T. Associate Artistic Director Mark Rucker will direct the West Coast debut of the outrageous and enthusiastically acclaimed new comedy ***Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play (February 18–March 15, 2015)***, by Bay Area-born playwright Anne Washburn. Hailed by the *New York Times* as one of the Top Ten Plays of 2013 and "downright brilliant," *Mr. Burns* begins in a dark dystopia where a group of surviving strangers bond by recreating from memory the iconic "Cape Feare" episode of *The Simpsons*. As the story moves decades later, the recollection becomes an almost religious-like fable, elaborately staged for adoring crowds through live theater and opera. A marvelously meta tribute to the pop-culture phenomenon *The Simpsons* and a paean to the power of storytelling, *Mr. Burns* is an ingenious exploration of how we share recollection, memory, and truth. Press night for *Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play* will be on Wednesday, February 25, 2015.

Directed by Maria Mileaf, ***Let There Be Love (April 8–May 3, 2015)*** tells the story of Alfred, a gruff and complicated aging West Indian immigrant, recently transplanted to London. Struggling with his new surroundings and estrangement from both his daughters, he finds a kind of new awakening, and a new reckoning with his past, when he comes to know a young Polish caregiver assigned to his case. Filled with the sumptuous jazz standards that pour forth from his beloved record player, *Let There Be Love* explores the forces of memory and mystery that lie at the heart of all immigrant experiences—and what can happen when, at any age, we open our minds to the possibility of change. Press night for *Let There Be Love* will be on Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

To close out the 2014–15 season, Stephen Sondheim's most rapturous and seductive musical, ***A Little Night Music (May 20–June 14, 2015)***, will waltz onto the Geary stage in a sumptuous, all-new production directed by Mark Lamos. Filled with Sondheim's signature wit and some of his most gorgeous melodies—including the beloved and haunting treasure "Send in the Clowns"—*A Little Night Music* presents a beguiling and bittersweet tale of lost love, scandalous infidelity, and young passions that intertwine over a midsummer's eve at a country home in 1900s Sweden. This ravishing production will sweep audiences away with mesmerizing theatrical storytelling that ignites the senses. Press night for *A Little Night Music* will be on Wednesday, May 27, 2015.

Full-season subscriptions (7-play) range in price from \$84–\$665 and are available now by calling 415.749.2250 or visiting [www.act-sf.org](http://www.act-sf.org). Full-season subscriptions 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 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. To renew a current A.C.T. subscription, please call 415.749.2250 or visit [www.act-sf.org/renew](http://www.act-sf.org/renew).

# # #