AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER KICKS OFF ITS 2017–18 SEASON WITH WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE’S TRAGIC MASTERPIECE, HAMLET

Starring Obie Award winner and 2017 Tony Award nominee John Douglas Thompson, Hamlet is A.C.T.’s first Shakespeare production since The Tempest reopened The Geary Theater in 1996.

A.C.T.’s Geary Theater
September 20–October 15, 2017

SAN FRANCISCO (August 14, 2017)—American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) kicks off its 2017–18 season with William Shakespeare’s tragic masterpiece, Hamlet (September 20–October 15, 2017). Obie Award winner and 2017 Tony Award nominee (Best Featured Actor in a Play, Jitney; Satchmo at the Waldorf, A.C.T.) John Douglas Thompson leads a stellar cast of beloved Bay Area actors in Shakespeare’s ghostly tale of revenge, palace intrigue, and madness. Shattered by the mysterious death of his father, the king, and shamed by the unnatural acts of his mother, Hamlet’s despair has left him a devastated prince. When visited by the ghost of his father, who tells of the treasonous acts by Hamlet’s uncle, Hamlet vows to avenge the death that has brought a cloud of darkness over the castle. A classic tale of a family haunted by grief, power, and despair, Hamlet marks A.C.T.’s first production of Shakespeare in nearly two decades, and a thrilling start to the 2017–18 season. Press night for Hamlet will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 2017. Single tickets (ranging from $15–$105) are available at the A.C.T. Box Office at 415.749.2228 or online at www.act-sf.org. Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.


Helmed by A.C.T. Artistic Director Carey Perloff, the creative team for Hamlet includes James F. Ingalls (Lighting Designer), David Israel Reynoso (Scenic and Costume Designer), and Jake Rodriguez (Sound Designer). Original
music will be written by composer David Coulter, who recently composed and performed the music for A.C.T.’s acclaimed world-premiere theatrical adaptation of Khaled Hosseini’s international best-selling novel, A Thousand Splendid Suns.

“Directing Hamlet with an actor as extraordinary as John Douglas Thompson is an incredibly invigorating challenge and a lifelong dream of mine,” says Perloff. “The combination of long-term A.C.T. collaborators like Anthony Fusco, Domenique Lozano, Jomar Tagatac, and Steven Anthony Jones, as well as new talents including Teagle Bougere and designer David Israel Reynoso, have given me great inspiration as we explore one of the most complex plays in Shakespeare’s canon. I am particularly moved by Hamlet’s deep psychic journey as he navigates an uncertain world upended by duplicity, power struggles, and deception. This will be A.C.T.’s first production of Hamlet in over 20 years and I can’t think of a better venue than the Geary Theater—home to some of the nation’s most distinguished classical actors of the 20th and 21st century—to present it in. I am honored that it will launch my final season as artistic director of A.C.T.”

In connection with Hamlet, 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 having an entire night out 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, September 20, 7 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 these select performances.

- **Tech Night:**
  **Thursday, September 21, 6 p.m.**
  Join us at a neighborhood bar for a happy hour with hors d’oeuvres, drinks, and mingling with industry contacts and theatergoers before walking over to A.C.T.’s Geary Theater for the 8 p.m. performance.

- **Prologue:**
  **Tuesday, September 26, 5:30 p.m.**
  Before the curtain goes up, get a sneak peek at the artistic process at this fascinating preshow conversation with the director and artistic staff, sponsored by KDFC Radio.

- **Theater on the Couch:**
  **Friday, September 29, 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 addresses audience questions and explores the minds, motives, and behavior of the characters.

- **Audience Exchanges:**
  **Tuesday, October 3, 7 p.m. | Sunday, October 8, 2 p.m. | Wednesday, October 11, 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, October 4, 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 after-party.
• **Wente Vineyards Wine Series:**
  
  *Tuesday, October 10, 7 p.m.*
  Before the show, raise a glass at this wine-tasting event featuring the Bay Area’s hottest local winery.

• **PlayTime:**
  
  *Saturday, October 14, 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 *Hamlet* is made possible by company sponsors Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson and Barry Williams and Lalita Tademy; executive producers Kay Yun and Andre Neumann-Loreck and Jo S. Hurley; and associate producers Arnlie and Shelly Glassberg and Marjorie Perloff.

A.C.T. would also like to acknowledge its 2017–18 season presenters Frannie Fleishhacker; Priscilla and Keith Geeslin; Fred M. Levin and Nancy Livingston, The Shenson Foundation; Burt and Deedee McMurtry; Arthur Rock and Toni Rembe; Mary and Steven L. Swig; Jeffrey W. and Laurie Ubben; season partner PG&E, lead education partner Wells Fargo, 50th-anniversary Airline Sponsor United Airlines; and Official Hotel Sponsor Hotel G.


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FACT SHEET FOR HAMLET

WHAT:
In the story of a man who wakes up to find his world upended and his closest friends unworthy of trust, Shakespeare shows us how quickly change can happen—how an orderly kingdom ruled by a loving king can, in one stroke, become unrecognizable.

WHO:
Written by William Shakespeare
Directed by Carey Perloff

CAST (in alphabetical order):
Graham Beckel, Rivka Borek, Teagle F. Bougere, Peter Fanone, Anthony Fusco, Dan Hiatt, Steven Anthony Jones, Domenique Lozano, Adrianna Mitchell, Vincent J. Randazzo, Teddy Spencer, Jomar Tagatac, and John Douglas Thompson

CREATIVE TEAM:
James F. Ingalls (Lighting Designer), David Israel Reynoso (Scenic and Costume Designer), Jake Rodriguez (Sound Designer), David Coulter (Original Music)

WHERE:
A.C.T.’s Geary Theater (415 Geary St., San Francisco)

WHEN:
September 20–October 15, 2017
Press Night: Wednesday, September 27, 2017

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:
Tuesdays–Saturdays at 8 p.m.
Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m.
Sundays at 2 p.m.

InterACT Events
Bike to the Theater Night: September 20 (7 p.m.)
Tech Night: September 21 (6 p.m.)
Prologue: September 26 (5:30 p.m.)
Theater on the Couch: September 29 (8 p.m.)
Audience Exchanges: October 3 (7 p.m.), October 8 (2 p.m.), October 11 (2 p.m.)
OUT with A.C.T.: October 4 (8 p.m.)
Wine Series: October 10 (7 p.m.)
PlayTime: October 14 (12:45 p.m.)

TICKETS:
$15–$105
Ticket prices are subject to change without notice

PHOTOS:
www.act-sf.org/press

TIX & INFO:
415.749.2228 | act-sf.org

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