



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER ANNOUNCES FULL CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR CARYL CHURCHILL'S *TOP GIRLS*

Directed by Tamilla Woodard, this modern classic dissects the cost of progress in a world divided by class, cruelty, and capitalism.

A.C.T.'s Geary Theater
September 19–October 13, 2019

SAN FRANCISCO (August 8, 2019)—**Tony Award winner and American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) Artistic Director Pam MacKinnon** announced today the full cast and creative team for **Caryl Churchill's** “breathtaking” (*The Washington Post*) *Top Girls*, opening A.C.T.'s 2019–20 season. Shattering the glass ceiling doesn't come without a few injuries. It's 1980s Britain and nothing will stop Marlene's ascent from working girl to top exec. Not the sniveling, jealous male coworker. Not the family birthdays she'll miss. Not even other women. In the race to the top, there's no time for sisterhood. Directed by **Tamilla Woodard** (*Men on Boats* at A.C.T.), this modern classic dissects the cost of progress in a world divided by class, cruelty, and capitalism. *Top Girls* performs at A.C.T.'s Geary Theater (415 Geary St., San Francisco) **September 19–October 13, 2019**. [Press night for *Top Girls* will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2019.](#) Single tickets (ranging from \$15–\$110) are available beginning Friday, August 9 at the A.C.T. Box Office at **415.749.2228** or online at act-sf.org. *Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.*

“The Bay Area will be showered with works by Caryl Churchill during the 2019–20 season. We are honored to join Magic Theatre, Shotgun Players, and The Custom Made Theatre Co. in producing works from one of our greatest living playwrights,” says **MacKinnon**. “*Top Girls*, Churchill's groundbreaking modern classic about work-life imbalance, ambition, privilege, and family secrets, will be right at home at The Geary Theater. Under the direction of Tamilla Woodard—who returns to A.C.T. after directing last season's critically acclaimed *Men on Boats*—I can't imagine a better kick-off to the 2019–20 season theme, ‘rules of play.’”

Top Girls features (in alphabetical order): **Monique Hafen Adams** (‘Patient Griselda’/‘Mrs. Kidd’), **Michelle Beck** (‘Marlene’), **Summer Brown** (‘Dull Gret’/‘Nell’), **Rosie Hallett** (‘Pope Joan’/‘Win’), **Lily Harris** (‘Kit’/‘Shona’), **Monica**

Lin ('Lady Nijo'/'Jeanine'), **Julia McNeal** ('Isabella Bird'/'Louise'), **Gabriella Momah** ('Angie'), and **Nafeesa Monroe** ('Joyce'/'Waitress').

The creative team for *Top Girls* includes **Nina Ball** (Scenic Designer), **Sarita Fellows** (Costume Designer), **Barbara Samuels** (Lighting Designer), and **Jake Rodriguez** (Sound Designer).

In connection with *Top Girls*, 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:**
Thursday, September 19, 6:30 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 this select performance.
- **Drinks & Drama Friday:**
Friday, September 20, 6 p.m.
A new pre- and postshow evening of specialty cocktails, pop-up food, and low-priced tickets to the performance.
- **Prologue:**
Tuesday, September 24, 5 p.m.
Before the curtain goes up, get a sneak peek at the artistic process at this fascinating preshow discussion with the director and artistic staff.
- **Theater on the Couch:**
Friday, September 27, following the 8 p.m. performance
This exciting postshow discussion series addresses audience questions and explores the minds, motives, and behavior of the characters.
- **Audience Exchanges:**
Tuesday, October 1, 7 p.m. | Sunday, October 6, 2 p.m. | Wednesday, October 9, 2 p.m.
After the show, stick around for a lively Q&A session with the actors and artists who create the work onstage.
- **A.C.T. Pride Night (formerly OUT with A.C.T.):**
Wednesday, October 2, before and following the 7:30 p.m. performance
A revamped pre- and postshow party celebrating LGBTQ+ pride within the theater community.
- **Wine Night:**
Tuesday, October 8, 6:30 p.m.
Before the show, raise a glass at this wine-tasting event featuring the Bay Area's hottest local wineries.
- **PlayTime:**
Saturday, October 12, 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 *Top Girls* is made possible by Executive Producers **Donald J. and Toni Ratner Miller**; and Associate Producers **Dr. Allan P. Gold** and **Mr. Alan C. Ferrara**.

A.C.T. would also like to acknowledge its 2019–20 Season Presenters **Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson**; **Priscilla and Keith Geeslin**; **James C. Hormel** and **Michael P. Nguyen-Hormel**; **Fred M. Levin** and **Nancy Livingston**, **The Shenson**

Foundation; Kenneth and Gisele Miller; Toni Rembe and Arthur Rock; Robina Riccitiello; Mary and Steven Swig; Jeff and Laurie Ubben; Kay Yun and Andre Neumann-Loreck; and Company Sponsors Mrs. Barbara Bakar; Lesley Ann Clement and Karl Lukaszewicz; Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund; Frannie Fleishhacker; Kevin and Celeste Ford; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon P. Getty; Kirke and Nancy Sawyer Hasson; Jeri Lynn and Jeffrey W. Johnson; Mr. and Mrs. Robert McGrath; Burt and Deedee McMurtry; David and Carla Riemer; Patti and Rusty Rueff; Aaron Vermut and Adriana López Vermut; Jack and Susy Wadsworth; and Barry Williams and Lalita Tademy. Additional support provided by Hilton Union Square and Parc 55 San Francisco, A.C.T.'s Official Hotel Partner.

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PAM MACKINNON (Artistic Director) is A.C.T.'s fourth artistic director. She is a Tony, Drama Desk, and Obie award-winning director, having directed upwards of 70 productions around the country, off-Broadway, and on Broadway. Her Broadway credits include Beau Willimon's *The Parisian Woman* (with Uma Thurman), *Amelie: A New Musical*, David Mamet's *China Doll* (with Al Pacino), Wendy Wasserstein's *The Heidi Chronicles* (with Elisabeth Moss), Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* (with Glenn Close and John Lithgow), Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, and Outer Critics Circle nomination), and Bruce Norris's *Clybourne Park* (Obie Award for Excellence in Direction, Tony and Lucille Lortel nominations). After five years as board chair of Clubbed Thumb, a downtown New York theater company dedicated to new American plays, she sits on its advisory board. She is an artistic associate of the Roundabout Theatre Company, a Usual Suspect of New York Theatre Workshop, and an alumna of the Drama League, Women's Project, and Lincoln Center Theater's Directors' Labs. She is also the executive board president of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC). She grew up in Toronto, Canada, and Buffalo, New York, acted through her teens, but majored in economics and political science at the University of Toronto and briefly pursued a PhD in political science at UC San Diego, before returning to her true passion: theater.

JENNIFER BIELSTEIN (Executive Director) has more than 25 years of theater management experience. She serves on the board of Theatre Forward and is president of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT)—an organization that represents 75 theaters nationwide— having previously served as LORT's vice president; chair of its Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee; secretary; and on multiple union negotiating teams. Before relocating to the Bay Area, Bielstein was the managing director of the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, managing director of Actors Theatre of Louisville, and executive director of Writers Theatre in Chicago. She has also worked for Steppenwolf Theatre Company, About Face Theatre, Northlight Theatre, and Lincoln Park Zoo, and served on the boards of the League of Chicago Theatres, the Arts and Cultural Attractions Council, and other civic boards. She has received the Center for Nonprofit Excellence's Pyramid Award of Excellence in Leadership, and has been recognized in Louisville's *Business First's* 40 Under 40. In 2017, Bielstein was named by *Twin Cities Business* as a Person to Know, and, in 2018, *Minnesota Business* magazine named her as a Real Power 50 member. Bielstein is a graduate of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, attended Stanford's Graduate School of Business Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders in the Arts, and earned an MBA from Bellarmine University, where she received the MBA Faculty Merit Award and was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the honor society for business programs.

FACT SHEET FOR *TOP GIRLS*

WHAT:

Shattering the glass ceiling doesn't come without a few injuries. It's 1980s Britain and nothing will stop Marlene's ascent from working girl to top exec. Not the sniveling, jealous male coworker. Not the family birthdays she'll miss. Not even other women. In the race to the top, there's no time for sisterhood. Written by Caryl Churchill (*Love and Information*), one of the English language's greatest living playwrights, this modern classic dissects the cost of progress in a world divided by class, cruelty, and capitalism.

WHO:

Written by **Caryl Churchill**

Directed by **Tamilla Woodard**

CAST (*in alphabetical order*):

Monique Hafen Adams ('Patient Griselda'/'Mrs. Kidd), **Michelle Beck** ('Marlene'), **Summer Brown** ('Dull Gret'/'Nell'), **Rosie Hallett** ('Pope Joan'/'Win'), **Lily Harris** ('Kit'/'Shona'), **Monica Lin** ('Lady Nijo'/'Jeanine'), **Julia McNeal** ('Isabella Bird'/'Louise'), **Gabriella Momah** ('Angie'), and **Nafeesa Monroe** ('Joyce'/'Waitress').

CREATIVE TEAM:

Nina Ball (Scenic Designer), **Sarita Fellows** (Costume Designer), **Barbara Samuels** (Lighting Designer), and **Jake Rodriguez** (Sound Designer)

WHERE:

A.C.T.'s Geary Theater (415 Geary St., San Francisco)

WHEN:

September 19–October 13, 2019

Press Night: Wednesday, September 25, 2019

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday at 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Fridays at 8 p.m.

Saturdays at 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Sundays at 2 p.m.

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TICKETS & INFORMATION:

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