



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2009

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Two River Theater Company

presents

PRIVATE LIVES

By **Noel Coward**

Directed by **KJ Sanchez**

May 12 – May 31, 2009

Red Bank, NJ – Two River Theater Company closes out the season with **Noel Coward's** ferocious comedy *Private Lives*. Set in Buenos Aires in the late 1920s, this sexy and spicy, Latin-flavored, tango-infused interpretation will be directed by TRTC's Associate Artistic Director **KJ Sanchez**. Coward's classic wit is given a sultry South American twist, as divorcees become newlyweds and set off a pair of star-crossed honeymoons that go disastrously, hilariously awry. *Private Lives* begins previews on **Tuesday, May 12**, opens **Saturday, May 16**, and runs through **Sunday, May 31**.

British Playwright Noel Coward (1899-1973) was also an actor and composer who produced, directed, and performed in many of his own works. His successful plays, the drama *The Vortex* (1924) and the comedy *Hay Fever* (1925), established him as one of the most popular playwrights of the twentieth century. His comedies (among them *Private Lives*, 1930; *Design for Living*, 1933; and *Blithe Spirit*, 1941), witty and sophisticated, capture the speech and manners of the post-World War I British upper class.

"I set this production in Argentina in 1929 not only because it was the golden age of Tango, but also because I found other fantastic similarities between Buenos Aires and the Paris of Coward's play," says **director KJ Sanchez** (TRTC's *ReEntry*, *Mere Mortals*). "In the late 20s and early 30s Argentina was one of the richest countries in the world. Buenos Aires was as sophisticated and cosmopolitan as Paris, London and New York. It was a place of great innovation with extraordinary, vibrant and effervescent literary, music and art scenes."

Sanchez's other directing credits include *The Giver* at Asolo Repertory Theatre, Heather Raffo's *9 Parts of Desire* at Actors Theatre of Louisville, and her own plays *Pants on Fire* at the American Repertory Theatre, *Highway 47* with Working Classroom in Albuquerque, New Mexico, *Handcuff Girl Saves the World* at the Washington Ensemble Theatre. Her play, *For All Time*, produced by Cornerstone Theater Company in Los Angeles, recently received an *LA Times*' Critics Pick.

The cast of five include **Triney Sandoval** (Broadway: *A Man for All Seasons*, *Frost/Nixon*. Other New York credits: *The Idiot*, *Elliot*, *A Soldier's Fugue*, *As You Like It*, and *Art*) as Elyot and **Sheila Tapia** (Off-Broadway: *Elliot*, *A Soldiers Fugue*, Culture Project Impact Festival/P73; *Welcome To Arroyos*, The Lark/NYC Hip Hop Festival/NYTW; *Naughty Prep School Stories*, NYC Fringe; and *The Wrath of Aphrodite*, GayFest NYC), known to Two River audiences for her part in this season's *ReEntry*, portraying Amanda. **Maria Parra** (*The Fifth Column*, The Mint Theater; *Señor Jay's Tango Palace*, Vital Theatre Company; and *With Love Gabe*, Intar's New Works Lab) plays Sibyl and **Nicholas Urda** (*Kidnapping Laura Linney*; *Othello*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Don Juan*, *The Persians* and *Love's Labour's Lost*, Shakespeare Theatre Company) is Victor. **Katharine McLeod** (NYC: *The Revolution Trilogy*, Columbia. Regional: *Pride and Prejudice*, Actors Theatre of Louisville; *Comedy of Errors*, Vermont Shakespeare; *Twelfth Night* and *All's Well That Ends Well*, Shakespeare in the Square-Toronto) plays maid **Louise**.

Leading the creative team is Two River Theater Company newcomer **Scenic Designer Wilson Chin** (Off-Broadway: *Len*, *Asleep in Vinyl*, *The Dear Boy*, *10 things to do before I die*, Second Stage Theatre; *Masked*, Daryl Roth Theatre; *The Gospel According to Adam*, Naked Angels; *Dark Matters*, Rattlestick Theatre). Winner of two California Elly Awards for Best Lighting Design, **Christopher Studley** (East Coast credits include *The Ones that Flutter*, SPF at The Public Theatre; *The Scariest*, The Exchange@ 45 Bleeker; *Devil on all Sides*, P.S. 122) is the **Lighting Designer** and **Sound Design** is by **M.L.Dogg**, winner Outstanding Sound Design, 2005 FringeNYC Festival for *Go-Go Kitty*, *GO!* **Costume Designer Niki Hernandez-Adams** returns to TRTC for the third time. Patrons will remember her past designs of *The Glass Menagerie* and *Mere Mortals*.

Choreography for *Private Lives* is by **Angeles Chanaha** and **Michael Nadtochi** of TangOblivion.

Professional show dancers, Chanaha and Nadtochi are best known for their spectacular performances of the "Argentine Tango", the authentic form of Tango developed in Buenos Aires in the late 19th century and transformed into stage art.

Underwritten in part by Smith Barney and Giordano, Halleran & Ciesla, *Private Lives* is scheduled to run **Tuesday, May 12** through **Sunday, May 31**. Tickets are **\$34 - \$60**. Get more information online at www.trtc.org, call **732.345.1400**, or visit the **Two River Theater Company Box Office** in Red Bank, located at 21 Bridge Avenue. Box Office Hours: Monday-Saturday: 10am-6pm; Sunday: Noon-5pm

Maria Parra and **Nicholas Urda**, two actors from the production, will lead **Before Play**. This **pre-show discussion series** is scheduled 45 minutes prior to every performance. The actors will talk about and demonstrate the Tango. **Post-show discussions** are scheduled following the 8pm performance on **Wednesday, May 20**, and following the matinees on **Sunday, May 24** at 3pm and **Wednesday, May 27** at 1pm. One **student matinee performance** is scheduled on **Tuesday, May 19** at 10am. **Discounted group rates** and **dinner / theater packages** are available through the Box Office or by calling TRTC's Sales Line at 732.345.1400 ext 813.

TRTC is accessible to people with disabilities, including wheelchair accessibility, assistive listening devices and large print programs at every performance. Accessible seating is available by reservation. For more information call the Box Office at **732.345.1400**.

CALENDAR NOTICE

Events for *Private Lives*:

Tuesday, May 12 – Community preview performance sponsored by Zager, Fuchs PC. More than 100 local educators will be treated to the first public performance of *Private Lives*.

Saturday, May 16 – Opening Night performance of *Private Lives* and post-show celebration.

Wednesday, May 20, 8pm; Sunday, May 24, 3pm; Wednesday, May 27, 1pm – **Post-show discussions** led by a member of the artistic staff will follow each performance.

Thursday, May 28 – An **audio-described performance** is scheduled at 8pm. Tickets are \$14 for those needing audio-description. Call 732.345.1400.

Saturday, May 30 – An **open captioned performance** is scheduled at 3pm.

Members of the press are invited to the opening night performance of *Private Lives* on **Saturday, May 16 at 8pm**. Please schedule tickets through Jayme Powers, Director of Communications, by phone at **732.345.1400 ext. 830** or via email at jpowers@trtc.org.

WHERE:

Two River Theater Company
21 Bridge Street
Red Bank, NJ 07701

WHEN:

May 12 – May 31, 2009

WHO:

Written by **Noel Coward**
Directed by **KJ Sanchez**
Scenic Design by **Wilson Chin**
Costume Design by **Niki Hernandez-Adams**
Lighting Design by **Christopher Studley**
Sound Design by **M.L. Dogg**
Choreography by
Angeles Chanaha and **Michael Nadtochi**
Dance Captain **Bob Boross**
Dialect Coach **Francisco Fuertes**
Production Stage Manager **Sarah Gleissner**

CAST:

Katharine McLeod...Louise
Maria Parra...Sibyl
Triney Sandoval...Elyot
Sheila Tapia...Amanda
Nicholas Urda...Victor

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TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY is a professional not-for-profit regional theater company, providing outstanding plays and educational programs for audiences of central New Jersey and beyond. TRTC was founded in 1994 by Robert and Joan Rechnitz and over the past 14 seasons has grown into one of the most vital and dynamic arts organizations in the region. Since opening its new theater in May of 2005, TRTC has hosted a number of luminaries and award winners, including Bruce Springsteen, Olympia Dukakis, Jackson Browne, Jon Bon Jovi, Edward Albee, Sheldon Harnick, and the African Children's Choir. The company received "Theatre of the Year" awards from the New Jersey Theatre Alliance in 2006, and from *The Star-Ledger* in both 2006 and 2008. TRTC is supported in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and contributions from hundreds of local and national corporations, foundations, businesses and individuals. Two River Theater Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance.