



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two River Theater Company Announces 2009/2010 Season

RED BANK, NJ - Two River Theater Company is proud to announce the 2009/2010 Season. "We are passionately committed to being a world-class regional theater company – right here in Red Bank," says **Artistic Director Aaron Posner**. "We could not be more excited about our line-up. It's as rich, as professionally produced, as delicious, as dangerous, and as delightful as anything being presented around the country this year. Our 2009/2010 season truly offers something for everyone. We are by our very nature, drawn to the extremes, and this season offers opportunities to revel in magic and romance, to ask stark and impossible questions about how we exist in a complex and contradictory universe, to grapple with love and loneliness in families, to explore the nature of love and marriage, and to find simple musical delight in the true spirit of childhood."

"We are bringing together amazing theater artists to work on our stages including two of the most important emerging playwrights in this country, **Anne Washburn** and **Quiara Alegria Hudes**, both young women who are rapidly making a real mark on the American theater. In addition, three of our productions are co-created with other major regional theaters so the work we are making here will find broader audiences in Washington D.C., Bethesda, Maryland, and Berkeley, California."

Two River Theater Company's 2009/2010 subscription series kicks off with **26 Miles** by **Quiara Alegria Hudes**. Pulitzer Prize finalist and author of Broadway's smash hit ***In the Heights***, Hudes will be in residence at TRTC working on this new and powerful play – a road trip of discovery exploring the relationship between an estranged mother and daughter. "I've wanted to work with Quiara for years and I'm absolutely thrilled to be directing this play," says **KJ Sanchez** (*Private Lives, ReEntry*), TRTC's Associate Artistic Director. "26 Miles has everything I look for in great theater: it's funny, smart, insightful, original, and enchanting. I think our audiences will fall in love with this play." A co-

production with Round House Theatre in Bethesda, MD, **26 Miles** will run from September 15 through October 4, 2009.

26 Miles is followed by **William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream***. Infectious and outrageous love drives this mythical, magical, and mischievous classic that will be re-imagined by director **Aaron Posner** (*Heartbreak House, Macbeth*). A co-production with California Shakespeare Theater in Berkeley, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will run October 20 through November 8, 2009.

TRTC's Executive Producer and Founder **Robert M. Rechnittz** (*The Glass Menagerie, True West*) is at the helm for **Neil Simon's *Barefoot in the Park***. "This seminal work of situation comedy has inspired countless plays, movies, and TV show since it first took Broadway by storm in 1964," says **Posner**. "Not only is it hilarious, it is also a fabulous portrait of a unique time in the history of the archetypical American Marriage and the conflict between free-spirited individualism and propriety that is as present today as it was 45 years ago." *Barefoot in the Park* runs from February 9 through February 28, 2010.

In the spring, **Posner** will direct ***Orestes, A Tragic Romp*** translated/adapted by **Anne Washburn** from the play by Euripides with original music composed by **James Sugg** (*A Murder, A Mystery and A Marriage*). "This amazing and arresting new adaptation takes us on a journey to the depths of anguish and the dark night of the human soul," says Posner. A co-production with Folger Theatre in Washington D.C., *Orestes, A Tragic Romp* will run from March 23 through April 11, 2010.

Rounding out the season is **Steve Martin's** madcap comedy ***Picasso at the Lapin Agile***. "This is one of the smartest, funniest plays ever written by one of the great comic minds of our time," says **Posner**. "The fantastical meeting between Pablo Picasso and Albert Einstein in 1904 gives Martin ample opportunity to riff and reflect on the fun and foibles of the 20th century with insight, intelligence, and even a little insanity." *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* begins May 18 and runs through June 6, 2010.

In addition to the 5-show subscription series, TRTC will also produce a musical for the whole family. Delighted with the success of last season's ***A Year with Frog and Toad***, Posner included another family musical in the line-up for next year. "The Peanuts gang has been a favorite of mine for as long as I could read," says **Posner**. "***You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*** is a charming, loving musical that captures perfectly the true spirit of childhood, friendship, and the mystery of life as seen through the eyes of very short, very bewildered, very passionate people who only come up to

adults knees.” ***You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown***, an off-subscription production slated for the holiday season, will be directed by **Matt Pfeiffer** and will run from December 15, 2009 through January 3, 2010.

With the announcement of the play selection for next season, the **TRTC Box Office will now take orders for new subscriptions** at discounted rates of at least **20% off** single ticket prices.

Subscription prices range from \$141-\$245 depending on performance date and time. Discounted GenY (21 years and younger) subscriptions are available for \$90. Subscribers may include the family holiday production, *You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, – in their subscription package for an additional \$33-\$38.

Individual tickets for the five subscription series shows go on sale Wednesday, July 1, 2009 at 10am. Tickets for ***You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*** are available now for subscribers and will be on sale to the general public **September 14, 2009** at 10am.

There are 10 student matinees scheduled throughout the season. Study guides, Educator Preview performances, post-show discussions with the cast, and visiting teaching artists are all part of the student matinee package. Selected student matinees will also offer a pre-show workshop. TRTC’s **No Seats Empty** program ensures underserved students have the opportunity for the full TRTC theater experience as well. Applications for the No Seats Empty program are available by contacting Kate Cordaro, Director of Education, at 732.345.1400 ext. 814. Reservations for student matinees may be made by calling 732.345.1400 or emailing groups@trtc.org.

For more information about TRTC’s 2009/2010 Season, call **732.345.1400**, visit www.trtc.org or **visit the Two River Theater Company Box Office**, located at 21 Bridge Avenue in Red Bank, NJ. Box Office Hours: Monday-Saturday: 10am-6pm; Sunday: Noon-5pm.

26 Miles

By **Quiara Alegria Hudes**

Directed by **KJ Sanchez**

September 15-October 4, 2009

It’s 26 miles to Yellowstone, and Olivia is doing eighty with her mother Beatriz riding shotgun. On an unexpected road trip, they navigate the rugged family landscape between loneliness and love in an ’83 Buick Regal in this cross-country, coming-of-age, journey of discovery. A stunning new play by Quiara Alegria Hudes, Pulitzer Prize finalist and author of the Broadway smash *In the Heights*.

Co-production with Round House Theatre, Bethesda, MD.

26 Miles is underwritten in part by The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

By **William Shakespeare**

Directed by **Aaron Posner**

October 20-November 8, 2009

“Lord what fools these mortals be!” Particularly when they are in love! In his most magical and mischievous celebration of fools in love, Shakespeare assembles an odd array of fun, funny, and flummoxed mortals who fall in and out and in and out of nearly every variety of love under the moon. A true delight!

Co-production with California Shakespeare Theater, Berkeley, CA.

The production sponsor for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is Residence Inn Marriott, Neptune, NJ.

You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown

Based on the comic strip “Peanuts” by **Charles M. Schulz**

Book, Music and Lyrics by **Clark M. Gesner**

Directed by **Matt Pfeiffer**

December 15, 2009-January 3, 2010

All your friends will be here! Irascible Snoopy. Philosophical Linus. Bossy Lucy. Adorable Sally. Schroeder, the virtuoso. And, of course, the one and only lovable Charlie Brown. Brimming with wonderful songs, charming characters, and a true spirit of childhood joy, this is the perfect holiday treat for the entire family.

The production sponsor for *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* is OceanFirst.

Barefoot in the Park

By **Neil Simon**

Directed by **Robert M. Rechnittz**

February 9 – February 28, 2010

Ah, those delicious, delirious, and dicey first days of marriage! It's 1964, and newlyweds Paul and Corie are just starting their life together in a tiny, fifth floor Manhattan walk-up. When invaded by Corie's buttinsky mom and an aging Lothario who lives on the roof, hilarity ensues. Neil Simon's first Broadway blockbuster – a sparkling, romantic comedy from the master of the form.

The exclusive production sponsor for *Barefoot in the Park* is RBC Wealth Management.

Orestes

A Tragic Romp

Translated / Adapted by **Anne Washburn**

From the play by Euripides

Directed by **Aaron Posner**

March 23-April 11, 2010

The war is over, the parents murdered, the palace surrounded, and Orestes and Electra await judgment by both Gods and men...just a typical day in the House of Atreus. Grave yet giddy, fierce yet fun, Anne Washburn's razor sharp modern adaptation blows more than 2000 years of dust off Euripides' surprisingly fresh and still wildly relevant classic.

Co-production with Folger Theatre, Washington, D.C.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

By **Steve Martin**

May 18 – June 6, 2010

Modern Art meets Modern Thought! It's Paris, 1904. Pablo Picasso and Albert Einstein meet one magical, mythical night at the Lapin Agile (“Nimble Bunny”) Bar. The air crackles with sexuality, artistry, and metaphysical madcap comedy. Witness the dawning of the 20th century as it could only be imagined by comic genius Steve Martin.

Titles and dates are subject to change.

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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.