



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two River Theater Company
presents

HEARTBREAK House

By **George Bernard Shaw**
Directed by **Aaron Posner**
November 4 – November 23, 2008

Red Bank, NJ – Two River Theater Company continues its season with George Bernard Shaw’s classic ***Heartbreak House*** - where tea is served as eccentric houseguests waltz blithely towards the apocalypse. Artistic Director **AARON POSNER** (*Macbeth, A Murder, A Mystery & A Marriage*) reimagines Shaw’s witty masterwork with an innovative staging that goes straight to the core of this intelligent, insightful and engaging play. *Heartbreak House* begins previews on **Tuesday, November 4**, opens **Saturday, November 8**, and runs through **Sunday, November 23**.

“*Heartbreak House* is a master’s masterpiece,” says director **Aaron Posner**. The writing is smart, funny and unerringly accurate. Whether he is exploring the politics of money or the complex geography of the human heart, his scalpel-sharp wit constantly cuts amazes, astounds and delights. Even when we find ourselves indicted by his uncanny eye for our human failings and foibles, we cannot help but appreciate the mind and spirit of this writer who is not only still relevant, but still radical nearly 100 years later.”

Nobel Prize-winning Irish playwright **GEORGE BERNARD SHAW** (1856 - 1950) was a literary critic, a socialist, and a leading figure in 20th century theater. Shaw wrote more than 50 plays including *Candida, Arms and the Man, Mrs. Warren's Profession, Man and Superman, Caesar and Cleopatra, Major Barbara, Androcles and the Lion, Pygmalion*, and *Heartbreak House*.

“We have assembled one of the most talented groups of artists I have ever worked with for this production,” says **Posner**. “The designers, actors and the entire creative team are absolutely top notch and

working at the top of their respective games. Rehearsals have been a sheer delight and I could hardly be more excited to share this particular venture with our audiences. The passion and power of Shaw's language and ideas comes crackling forth from this amazing cast with an infectious energy. "

The cast of eight includes **DANA ACHESON** (New York: *Perfect Harmony*, Clurman Theatre; *Dying City*, Lincoln Center Theatre; *Detail*, EST; *The Shaggs: Philosophy of the World*, NY Musical Festival; *Courting Vampires*, SPF; *Gnome*, The Zipper; *New Boy*, Beckett Theatre) and **STEPHEN D'AMBROSE** (TRTC's *Our Town*; *Macbeth*, New York Classical Theater) as daughter Ellie and father Mazzini Dunn. Playing husband and wife, Hector and Hesione Hushabye, are **BRADFORD COVER** (Broadway: *A Thousand Clowns*. Off-Broadway: *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Hamlet*, *The Constant Couple*, *Arms and the Man*, *Richard II*) and, in her 12th production with Posner, **GRACE GONGLEWSKI** (Off-Broadway: *The Guys*, The Flea Theatre; Regional: *The Beard Of Avon*, Cape Cod Playhouse; *Hedda Gabler*, *Candida*, *Major Barbara*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Arden Theatre Company).

OBIE Award winner **CHRISTOPHER DONAHUE** (New York: *Dogeaters*, Public Theatre; *Measure for Measure*, NYSF; *The Notebooks of Leonardo Da Vinci*, Second Stage; *The Arabian Nights*, Manhattan Theatre Club; *Metamorphoses*, Broadway; and *Monster*, Classic Stage Company) portrays Boss Mangan and **ANTOINETTE LAVECCHIA** (New York: *Max & The Truffle Pig*, NYMF festival; *The Bottle House*, Public Theatre; *Puccini: A Composer's Journey*, Carnegie Hall; *String of Pearls*, Primary Stages; *Magic Hands Freddy*, Soho Playhouse; *Kimberly Akimbo*, Manhattan Theatre Club) plays Ariadne Utterword.

Real-life husband and wife team, in their 71st production together, are **KENNETH ALBERS** (*King Lear* and *Death of a Salesman*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Three Sisters*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Touch of the Poet*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*) and **CATHERINE LYNN DAVIS** (Regional: Yale, Milwaukee and Indiana Rep, American Player's Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival) as Captain Shotover and Nurse Guinness respectively.

Scenic Designer **TONY CISEK** has collaborated with Posner on a number of productions including *A Murder, A Mystery, & A Marriage* at Two River Theater Company, *Sometimes A Great Notion* at Portland Center Stage, *Headman's Holiday* with Theatre Alliance, *As you Like It* and *Daedalus* at Arden Theatre Company, and *The Tempest*, *Othello*, *Twelfth Night* and *As you Like It* at Folger Theatre. Serbian Costume Designer **OLIVERA GAJIC** designed the costumes last season for TRTC's world premiere of *The Ghost's Bargain* and designs extensively for the Berkshire Theatre Festival and Juilliard School. Other designs include *Chekhov Lizardbrain* for Pig Iron, *Miss Julie* for Rattlestick, and *One Million Butterflies* for Primary Stages. Lighting design is by **F. MITCHELL DANA** (Broadway: *The Suicide*, *Monday After the Miracle*, *Mass Appeal*, *Freedom*

of the City, Oh Coward) and Sound Designer **DANIEL KLUGER** (Two River Theater Company's *A Murder, A Mystery & A Marriage*, *The Ones That Flutter*, SPF/The Public Theatre).

Underwritten in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, *Heartbreak House* is scheduled to run **Tuesday, November 4** through **Sunday, November 23**. Tickets are \$34 - \$60. For more information, 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. Subscriptions for the 2008/2009 season and single tickets are now on sale. Subscription prices range from \$136 - \$240 and are discounted at least **20%**. **Discounted group rates** and **dinner/theater packages** are available by calling TRTC's Sales Hotline at 732.345.1400 ext 813. Box Office Hours: Monday-Saturday: 10am-6pm; Sunday: Noon-5pm

Before Play, TRTC's **free, pre-show discussion series**, is scheduled 45 minutes prior to every performance. The experience of heartbreak runs through our most emotional stories both on the stage and in our own lives. The Before Play discussion will be about life before, during and after heartbreak.

Post-show discussions are scheduled following the 8pm performance on Wednesday, November 12, and following the matinees on Sunday, November 16 at 3pm and Wednesday, November 18 at 1pm. One **student matinee performance** is scheduled on Tuesday, November 11 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, assisted 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 *Heartbreak House*:

Tuesday, November 4 – Community preview performance sponsored by Zager, Fuchs PC.

Saturday, November 8 – Opening Night performance of *Heartbreak House* and post-show celebration.

Wednesday, November 12, 8pm; Sunday, November 16, 3pm; Wednesday, November 18, 1pm – **Post-show discussions** led by a member of the artistic staff will follow each performance.

Thursday, November 20 – An **audio-described performance** is scheduled at 8pm. Tickets are \$14 for those needing audio-description. Call 732.345.1400.

Members of the press are invited to the opening night performance of *Heartbreak House* on **Saturday, November 8 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:

November 4 – November 23, 2008

WHO:

Directed by **Aaron Posner**
Scenic Design by **Tony Cisek**
Costume Design by **Olivera Gajic**
Lighting Design by **F. Mitchell Dana**
Sound Design by **Daniel Kluger**
Production Stage Manager **Amanda Michaels**
Assistant Director **Dina Epshteyn**
Dramaturgy by **Liz Green**

CAST:

Dana Acheson*...Ellie Dunn
Ken Albers*...Captain Shotover
Bradford Cover*...Hector Hushabye
Stephen D'Ambrose*...Mazzini Dunn
Catherine Lynn Davis*...Nurse Guinness
Christopher Donahue*...Boss Mangan
Grace Gonglewski*...Hesione Hushabye
Antoinette LaVecchia*...Ariadne Utterword

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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.