



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 19, 2007

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"There's gonna be a general lack of toast in the neighborhood this morning. . ."

Two River Theater Company presents

True West

By Sam Shepard • Directed by Robert M. Rechnittz
March 7 – March 25, 2007

(Media Interviews Available – Call 732.345.1400 x830)

Red Bank, NJ – From March 7 through March 25, Two River Theater Company will present **Sam Shepard's *True West*** directed by **Robert M. Rechnittz**. *True West* is a fierce, funny, visceral and vibrant play by the quintessential American playwright whom *The New Yorker* hails as "one of the most original, prolific and gifted dramatists at work today." *True West* revolves around two very different, yet shockingly similar, brothers in this exploration of identity, American myths, and true family values.

Robert M. Rechnittz, TRTC's Executive Director, explains why he chose to direct this play. "I love Sam Shepard's plays. *True West* is a hilarious and touching story of the reunion of two brothers. It is raucous and riotous, a knockdown, drag out slugfest that will hand you plenty of laughs and maybe some tears. With *True West*, Shepard writes a far more traditional and cohesive narrative than he had done before. It's touching, compelling, and insanely funny. *True West*, my last chance to be a cowboy, my last chance to go back home, again."

Sam Shepard is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of more than 45 plays. Shepard's plays, 11 of which have won Obie Awards, include *Buried Child*, *The Late Henry Moss*, *Simpatico*, *Curse of the Starving Class*, *Fool for Love*, and *A Lie of the Mind*, which won a New York Drama Desk Award. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Shepard received the Gold Medal for Drama from the Academy in 1992, and in 1994 he was inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame. *New York Magazine* hails Sam Shepard as "the greatest American playwright of his generation. The most inventive in language and revolutionary in craft, the writer whose work most accurately maps the interior and exterior landscapes of society."

The cast of four includes the brothers Lee and Austin portrayed by **Rob Sedgwick** (New York theater credits include: *Bliss* and *Vick's Boy* at Rattlestick Theater, *Major Barbara* at Irish Repertory Theater, *Mistresses* at Ensemble Studio Theater, *Those Left Behind* at Director's Company) and **Wayne Maugans** (New York credits include: Sam Shepard's *Chicago* at Signature Theatre Company, *A Movie Star Has to Star in Black and White* at Signature Theatre Company, *bodySONGS* at NYSF/Joseph Papp Public Theater, and *Tourists and Refugees II* at Manhattan Theatre Club. Wayne is a featured performer on the BBC/PBS documentary *Sam Shepard: Stalking*



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Himself) respectively. The role of Saul will be played by **David Colacci** (former Resident Artist at the Cleveland Play House and current Artistic Director at Hope Summer Repertory Theater in Michigan. Thirty years of acting and directing credits include work at San Diego's Old Globe, the Actors Theater of Louisville, the Guthrie in Minneapolis, Seattle's Rep, ACT, and Empty Space.). **Sonja Lanzener** (former resident company actor at Alabama Shakespeare Festival playing major roles in *Coriolanus*, *Richard III*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Regional work includes *The Notebook of Trigorin* at Cincinnati Playhouse; *The Boys Next Door* at the Berkshire Theater Festival; *Mad Forest* at Manhattan Theatre Club; *True West* at New York's Cherry Lane; *Long Day's Journey Into Night* and *The Cherry Orchard* at Chicago's Goodman Theater) will portray Mom.

Neil Prince returns as the production's scenic designer. His most recent work at TRTC includes *Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, *Visiting Mr. Green*, and *You Can't Take It With You*. Rounding out the design team are **Brenda M. Veltre**, lighting design; **Deborah J. Caney**, costume design; and **Karin Graybash**, sound design.

True West opens Saturday, March 10 and runs through Sunday, March 25. Tickets are \$30 - \$54 and are available by contacting the TRTC Box Office at 732.345.1400 or by visiting the box office at 21 Bridge Avenue in Red Bank. TRTC has scheduled an **audio described performance** on Saturday, March 24 at 3pm. **Post-show discussions** are scheduled following the 8pm performance on Wednesday, March 14 and following the matinees on Sunday, March 18 at 3pm and Wednesday, March 21 at 1pm. **ForePlay**, TRTC's popular **pre-show discussion series**, is scheduled 45 minutes prior to every performance of the run. **Student matinee performances** are scheduled at 10am on Tuesdays, March 13 and March 20. **Discounted group rates** are available by calling TRTC's Director of Sales Sydney Mehrlander 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.

WHERE: Two River Theater Company, 21 Bridge Street, Red Bank

WHEN: March 7 – March 25, 2007

Members of the press: Are invited to the opening night performance on Saturday, March 10.

Please schedule tickets through Jayme Powers, Interim Director of Marketing and Public Relations, at 732.345.1400 x830 or via email at jpowers@trtc.org.

WHO:
Written by **Sam Shepard**
Directed by **Robert M. Rechnitz**
Scenic Design by **Neil Prince**
Costume Design by **Deborah J. Caney**
Lighting Design by **Brenda M. Veltre**
Sound Design by **Karin Graybash**

CAST:
Saul Kimmer – **David Colacci**
Mom – **Sonja Lanzener**
Austin – **Wayne Maugans**
Lee – **Rob Sedgwick**

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