



Press Contact:  
Stephanie Coen, Associate Artistic Director  
scoen@trtc.org or 732.345.1400 ext. 1829  
Box Office: 732.345.1400 or www.trtc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF *IN THIS HOUSE*, A NEW CHAMBER MUSICAL BY MIKE REID, SARAH SCHLESINGER, AND JONATHAN BERNSTEIN**

**Featured in the company are Chuck Cooper, Jeff Kready, Brenda Pressley, and Margo Seibert; James Sampliner is the music director and May Adrales directs**

**Performances: Sunday, March 4 - Sunday, April 8 in the Marion Huber Theater**  
**Press Opening: Saturday, March 17 at 8pm**

RED BANK, NJ— Two River Theater Company, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, continues its season with the **world premiere** of *In This House*, a new musical by **Mike Reid** (composer, co-bookwriter), a Grammy Award-winning Nashville songwriter and musical theater composer, **Sarah Schlesinger** (lyricist, co-bookwriter), and **Jonathan Bernstein** (co-bookwriter). The music director is **James Sampliner** and the director is **May Adrales**. Performances will begin in Two River's Marion Huber Theater, 21 Bridge Avenue, on **Sunday, March 4** and continue through **Sunday, April 8**, which includes a two-week extension due to audience demand. The press performance is **Saturday, March 17 at 8pm**.

Tickets are available from 732.345.1400 or [www.trtc.org](http://www.trtc.org). Single ticket prices start at \$45. Discounts are available for groups, seniors, students, and patrons aged 30 and under. *In This House* is sponsored by Rumson-Fair Haven Bank.

This intimate chamber musical has been developed at Two River Theater over the past year through a workshop and writers' retreat. Orchestrated for piano, cello, violin, and reeds, it tells the story of two couples—one at the beginning, the other at the end of their time together—who meet accidentally and spend an evening together in a deserted house on New Year's Eve. The company includes Tony Award-winner **Chuck Cooper** (now starring at Two River as Becker in August Wilson's *Jitney*, Broadway's *The Life*) and **Brenda Pressley** (the original Broadway cast of *Dreamgirls*, Nicky Silver's *The Lyons*) as the older couple, Henry and Luisa. **Jeff Kready** (Broadway's *Billy Elliott* and *Les Misérables*) and **Margo Seibert** (the world premiere of *Orestes: A Tragic Romp* at Two River Theater, Mary Zimmerman's production of *Candide*) play the younger couple, Johnny and Annie.

Says Artistic Director John Dias, "*In This House* includes what I think are some of the most beautiful and uniquely American songs written for the contemporary musical theater. This show is the fourth collaboration between Mike Reid and Sarah Schlesinger, two artists I have known for many years. I'm thrilled to have them, and their co-writer Jonathan Bernstein, in Red Bank to develop and premiere it. Director May Adrales has assembled an exquisite cast and a fantastic design team, who will bring our audiences inside the intimacy of this generations-spanning story."

**Mike Reid** (Composer, Co-Bookwriter) and **Sarah Schlesinger** (Lyricist, Co-Bookwriter) wrote *The Ballad of Little Jo*, which was produced by Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago as its first musical and was subsequently produced at the Bridewell Theatre in London. They have written the score for *Casanova Returns*, a new musical based on the life of Casanova, which won the Global Search for New Musicals. The team's opera *Different Fields* was commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera Guild and has recently been on tour in Australia.

Reid is a Grammy Award-winning songwriter with more than 30 Top-Ten pop and country hits recorded by many artists including Bonnie Raitt ("I Can't Make You Love Me"), Anita Baker, Bette Midler, Prince, George Michael, Nancy Wilson, Etta James, Kenny Rogers, Anne Murray, Wynonna Judd, Alabama, Joe Cocker, Tanya Tucker, Willie Nelson, and Tim McGraw. He has been the recipient of ASCAP's "Songwriter of the Year" Award and received his Grammy for "Stranger in My House," recorded by Ronnie Milsap. In 2005, he was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. Reid and Schlesinger have received the Kleban Award, the Richard Rodgers Award, a Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Theater Foundation Award, the Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award, and Chicago's Jeff Award for best original musical. Schlesinger is the Chair of the Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Co-bookwriter **Jonathan Bernstein's** plays and musicals have been produced all over the country. He is the Artistic Director of The Performing Arts Project, a theater training intensive that works with students from all over the world.

Music Director **James Sampliner** has served as music director for Broadway productions including *The Wedding Singer* and *Legally Blonde*. Most recently, he has been involved in the development and first two productions of *Sleeping Beauty Wakes*, at McCarter Theatre and La Jolla Playhouse.

Director **May Adrales** has directed the world premieres of *Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them* at Actors Theater of Louisville; *Mary* at the Goodman Theatre; *Our Lot* by W. David Hancock and Kristin Newbom at Clubbed Thumb; and other plays. Her other recent credits include *Yellowman* at Milwaukee Repertory Theater. The recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, she has served as an Artistic Associate at The Public Theater.

The creative team includes scenic designer **Lee Savage**, costume designer **Camille Assaf**, lighting designer **Gina Scherr**, and sound designer **Nevin Steinberg**. The orchestrations are by **Danny Larsen**, the casting is by **Tara Rubin Casting**, and the stage manager is **Whitney McAnally**.

The musicians for *In This House*, who will perform live and on stage, are **Marisol Espada** (cello), **Henry Hernandez** (reeds), **Jens Kramer** (violin), and **James Sampliner** (piano).

**For complete biographies of the company, visit [www.trtc.org](http://www.trtc.org).**

### **Discussions and Accessibility**

**After Play:** During the run of *In This House*, Two River Theater will host its new post-play discussion series, **After Play**, following every performance (not including March 4, March 10, March 17 at 8pm, and April 7 at 8pm). Members of the audience are invited to stay to discuss the production, the themes and ideas it inspires, and the process of developing and producing a new musical. The After Play series is sponsored by Zager Fuchs, PC.

**Accessibility:** Two River Theater is fully wheelchair accessible and offers assisted-listening devices and large-print programs at every performance. **Audio-described performances** are scheduled for **Wednesday, March 28** at 1pm; **Saturday, March 31** at 8pm; and **Wednesday, April 4** at 1pm. Tickets are \$15 for patrons needing audio description. An **open-captioned performance** is scheduled for **Saturday, March 31** at 3pm. Tickets are \$15 for patrons needing open captions. To reserve wheelchair-accessible seating or tickets for a performance listed above, patrons should call 732.345.1400.

### Performance Calendar

Sunday, March 4 at 3pm  
Tuesday, March 6 at 8pm  
Wednesday, March 7 at 7pm  
Thursday, March 8 at 8pm  
Friday, March 9 at 8pm  
Saturday, March 10 at 8pm  
Sunday, March 11 at 3pm  
Wednesday, March 14 at 1pm and 7pm  
Thursday, March 15 at 1pm and 8pm  
Friday, March 16 at 8pm  
Saturday, March 17 at 3pm and 8pm (Press Opening)  
Sunday, March 18 at 3pm  
Wednesday, March 21 at 1pm and 7pm  
Thursday, March 22 at 1pm and 8pm  
Friday, March 23 at 8pm  
Saturday, March 24 at 3pm and 8pm  
Sunday, March 25 at 3pm  
Wednesday, March 28 at 1pm (Audio Described) and 7pm  
Thursday, March 29 at 8pm  
Friday, March 30 at 8pm  
Saturday, March 31 at 3pm (Open Captioned) and 8pm (Audio Described)  
Sunday, April 1 at 3pm  
Wednesday, April 4 at 1pm and 7pm  
Thursday, April 5 at 8pm  
Friday, April 6 at 8pm  
Saturday, April 7 at 3pm and 8pm  
Sunday, April 8 at 3pm

Two River Theater is supported in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Hickory Foundation, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The Stone Foundation of New Jersey, Molly Pitcher Inn/Oyster Point Hotel, The Shubert Foundation, Flowerful Events, et al fine food & events, and many other foundations, corporations, and sponsors.

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**TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY** is under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst. Founded in 1994 by Joan and Dr. Robert M. Rechnitz, Two River Theater is a member of the League of Resident Theaters (LORT), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, and ArtPride New Jersey, and has been designated a "Major Arts Institution" by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. For more information, visit [www.trtc.org](http://www.trtc.org).