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Two River Theater Company
presents

Intimate
APPAREL

By Lynn Nottage
Directed by Seret Scott

September 21 – October 10, 2010

Red Bank, NJ—Two River Theater Co. is proud to present ***Intimate Apparel***, a powerful and moving play by Pulitzer Prize-winner Lynn Nottage, directed by Seret Scott.

Set in New York, at the turn of the last century, ***Intimate Apparel*** follows Esther, an African-American seamstress, who crafts beautiful lingerie for a range of clients, from the ladies of the Upper East Side, to the prostitutes of the infamous Tenderloin district. With the fabric she uses, Esther weaves exquisite garments for her clients, and with the vivid characters that inhabit the story, Nottage crafts a beautiful tale of self-discovery, acceptance, and independence.

Says the production's director, Seret Scott: "Lynn Nottage weaves beautifully complex stories about...beautiful, complex, challenging people. People who live in their mistakes, in their heartaches and victories, people who live with dignity, humor, and constant discovery."

"I'm thrilled that we're starting this season with Lynn Nottage's ***Intimate Apparel***. Lynn is a celebrated playwright who's crafted a universal and beautiful story about an extraordinary time in New York's immigrant history," adds Artistic Director John Dias. "We've gathered a great team of artists led by talented director Seret Scott. I'm excited to watch these powerful characters take shape under Seret's deft hand and to share this work with our audience."

Two River is thrilled to welcome back cast member Matthew Boston (*What the Butler Saw*), and introduce Two River audiences to **Elain Graham, Nikiya Mathis, Curtis McClarin, Stacey Sargeant, and Amy Lynn Stewart.**

Intimate Apparel begins previews on **Tuesday, September 21**, opens **Saturday, September 25**, and runs through **Sunday, October 10**.

Biographies

Seret Scott, Director: Ms. Scott has directed a dozen productions for the Old Globe Theatre as an Associate Artist. Off-Broadway, she premiered MUJERES Y HOMBRES at New Victory Theater, and directed BIRDIE BLUE and ZOOMAN AND THE SIGN for Second Stage, as well as YOHEN for Pan Asian Rep. Regional credits include: Arena Stage, Woolly Mammoth, Studio Theatre, Ford's Theatre, South Coast Rep, Tribute Productions, Geva Theater, Studio Arena, ACT-SF, Long Wharf, Hartford Stage, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Oregon Shakespeare, George Street, McCarter (outreach), Crossroads, Alliance, Indiana Rep, Alley, Philadelphia Theatre Co., National Black Theatre, New Mexico Rep. She has directed workshops for Roundabout, Pacific Playwrights, O'Neill Theatre Center, NY Stage and Film, Sundance, and NEW Harmony Project. She is a former Director in Residence at New Dramatists. Seret authored SECOND LINE, produced by Trenton's Passage Theater and D.C.'s Atlas Theatre, and is a Drama Desk Award-winning actress. Ms. Scott is a proud member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Union.

Matthew Boston*, Mr. Marks: Regional credits include *The Chosen* (Portland Center Stage); *The Seafarer* (George Street Playhouse); *A Thousand Clowns* and *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Intiman Theatre); *Black Snow* (Yale Rep); *The Real Thing* (Huntington Theatre Company); *The Beard of Avon*, *The Invention of Love* (American premiere), *Arcadia*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, and *The Matchmaker* (American Conservatory Theater); *The Violet Hour*, *Dancing at Lughnasa* and *All's Well That Ends Well* (Dallas Theater Center); *The Rainmaker* (Centerstage); the world premiere of Donald Margulies' adaptation of *God of Vengeance* (ACT); *Cloud Nine* (Trinity Rep); *Galileo and Pentecost* (Berkeley Rep); *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (Cleveland Play House); *Othello* (Great Lakes Theater Festival); *Julius Caesar* (New Jersey Shakespeare Festival); *Hamlet* (Northern Stage Company); *Holiday* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); *What the Butler Saw* (Two River Theater Company); *The Two of Us*, *Strangerhorse*, and *A Marriage Minuet* (The Kitchen Theatre); *The Ride Down Mt. Morgan* (Stamford Theatre Works) and *The Lion in Winter* (La Mirada Theater). NY credits include *Disconnect* (Working Theater), *Magic Hands Freddy* (SoHo Playhouse), *A Ritual of Faith* (Lion Theatre) and *That Damned Dykstra* (Access Theater). Mr. Boston's film and television credits include *Law & Order*, *Ghost Ship*, *Into the Blue*, *Camp Wilderness*, *One Life to Live* and *All My Children*.

Elain Graham* Mrs. Dickson: Ms. Graham was last seen as Lena Younger in The VSC production of *A Raisin in the Sun*. She received critical acclaim for her performance as The Woman in Lynn Nottage's, *Banana Beer Bath* at The River Crosses Rivers Festival. Broadway credits include: Mama Benin in *Playboy of the West Indies*, Lois in *The Talented Tenth*, Inacent in *Inacent Black*, The Chorus in *The Bacchae*. She has performed with The Negro Ensemble Company in New York: as Jesse Innes James in *The Waiting Room*, Patti Mae Wells in *Home*, Ophelia in *Louie and Ophelia*, Sheleah in *Henrietta*. She was Lois in *The Dance on Widows' Row* at The New Federal Theater, and Claire Reed in Cassandra Medley's *Relativity*. Regional credits include: Ella Franklin in *Permanent Collections*, Bernice in August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson* (*Best Actress, Detroit Free Press Award*) Rose in *Fences*; Portia in *Julius Caesar* at Hartford Stage and Philadelphia Drama Guild. She performed in *From the Mississippi Delta* at the North Carolina Theater Festival. Film credits include: *Across the Universe*; Winnie Mandela in *Arthur! A Celebration of Life*. TV credits include: *The City Teacher*; *Turn it Up*; *Mortal*

Thoughts; Law & Order; Law & Order: SVU; Third Watch; The Juror; Oz; 100 Centre Street; and Spencer: For Hire. Ms. Graham was also Etta Mae Burrell on the NBC Daytime Drama *Another World*.

Nikiya Mathis*, **Mayme**: Ms. Mathis holds a BA in Theater & Communications from Temple University and an MFA from New York University's Graduate Acting Program. She played the roles of Shun and Shaunta Iyun in the premiere of The Brother/Sister Plays: *In the Red & Brown Water* and *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet* at the Public Theater and the McCarter Theater Center. Her other roles include Maima in *Eclipsed* (McCarter Theater Center); Latonya in *Seed* (Classical Theater of Harlem); Juliet and Tybalt in the Continuum Company's *Romeo & Juliet* (Classic Stage Company and Villa La Pietra in Florence, Italy); Ernestine in *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* and Laura in *The Glass Menagerie* (New Century Theater); and *Sparkle: the Musical* (New Freedom Theater).

Curtis McClarin*, **George**: – Broadway: *Bring in 'Da Noise Bring in 'Da Funk*. Off-Broadway: *The Good Negro*, Public Theater; *Dust*, West Side Theater; *King Hedley II*, Signature Theater; *The Exonerated*, Bleecker Street Theater; *Tartuffe* and *East Texas Hot Links*, Public Theater. Regional Theater: *Lobby Hero*, Pittsburgh Public Theater; *Elmina's Kitchen*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, Baltimore Centerstage; *Jitney*, Crossroads Theatre. Television: *The Good Wife*, *Damages*, *Rescue Me*, *The Wire*, *Law & Order*, and *Law Order SVU*. Movies: *The Oranges*, *The Occupant*, *The Happening*, *Path to War*.

Stacey Sargeant*, **Esther**: Ms. Sargeant was last seen in the Yale Rep debut of *Eclipsed* in the role of Helena, which she performed in the McCarter Theater Center workshop. Other theater credits include *Legally Blonde: The Musical* (1st National Tour); *Passing Strange*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (The Public Theater); *The Exonerated* (Off-Broadway); *Damn Yankees*, *Purlie* (City Center Encores!); George C. Wolfe's *Harlem Song* (Harlem's Apollo Theater); *Little Ham* (AUDELCO Award nomination); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (McCarter Theater Center, Paper Mill Playhouse); *Kiss Me, Kate* (Paper Mill Playhouse); *The Color Purple* (Alliance Theater); *Rent* (Weston Playhouse). Her television appearances include *Law & Order: SVU* and *Guiding Light*. www.staceysargeant.com

Amy Lynn Stewart*, **Mrs. Van Buren**: NY Credits Include: *Viral* (Outstanding Performance, NYC Fringe 2009), *Emilie's Voltaire* (Off-Broadway), *Rattlers* (Flux Theatre Ensemble) Regional: Julia in *Fallen Angels* (Dorset Theatre Festival), Maggie in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Germany/Switzerland), *Fiction* (Florida Studio Theatre), *Intimate Apparel* (Indiana Rep/Syracuse Stage), *Hazard County* (Actor's Express), *Beauty* (La Jolla Playhouse) Film: *Throttle*, *Jesus Maria*, *There Will be Peace When You are Done* MFA, UCSD. Thanks to Seret and Two River Theater. Love to Family & Friends.

*Denotes a member of Actors' Equity Association.

The creative team is made up of **Tony Cisek** (set designer), who was most recently at Two River Theater Company with *Heartbreak House* and *A Murder, A Mystery, & A Marriage*, **Olivera Gajic** (costumes), who's most recent productions include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, **Burke Brown** (lighting designer), and **David Margolin Lawson** (sound design).

Intimate Apparel is scheduled to run **Tuesday, September 21** through **Sunday, October 10**. **Tickets start at \$35**. 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: 12pm-5pm.

Award-winning journalist, author, fashion stylist, educator, and community activist Gilda Rogers will lead **Before Play**. This **pre-show discussion series** is scheduled 45 minutes prior to every performance and will offer a glimpse into the historical moment within which the production exists.

Post-show discussions are scheduled following the 8pm performance on **Wednesday, September 29** and following the **Sunday matinees: October 3** and **October 10** at 3pm, as well as **Wednesday, October 6** at 1pm. There is one **student matinee performance** scheduled on **Tuesday, October 5** at 10am. **Discounted group rates** are available through the Box Office.

Two River Theater Company 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 *Intimate Apparel*:

Tuesday, September 21 – Community preview performance. More than 100 members of area civic and community organizations will be treated to the first public performance.

Saturday, September 25 – Opening Night performance of *Intimate Apparel* and post-show celebration.

Wednesday, September 29, 8pm; Sunday October 3, 3pm; Wednesday, October 6, 1pm; Sunday October 10, 3pm – **Post-show discussions** led by a member of the artistic staff will follow each performance.

Wednesday, September 6, 1pm – An **audio-described performance** is scheduled at 1pm. Tickets are \$15 for those needing audio-description. Call 732.345.1400.

Saturday, October 9, 3pm – An **open-captioned performance** is scheduled at 3pm. Tickets are \$15 for those needing open-captioning. Call 732.345.1400.

Members of the press are invited to the opening night performance of *Intimate Apparel* on **Saturday, September 25 at 8pm**. Please schedule tickets through Deeksha Gaur, Director of PR and Marketing, by phone at **732.345.1400 ext. 1830** or via email at dgaur@trtc.org.

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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. Two River was founded in 1994 by Joan and Robert Rechnitz and over the past 16 seasons has grown into one of the most vital and dynamic arts organizations in the region. The theater has co-produced plays with theaters around the country and received “Theatre of the Year” awards from the New Jersey Theatre Alliance and The Star-Ledger. Two River is a member of the League of Resident Theaters (LORT), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), The New Jersey Theatre Alliance and ArtPride New Jersey.