

PARK SQUARE theatre

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Three Women In Need of a Miracle: Park Square Theatre Presents John Pielmeier's *Agnes of God*

Saint Paul, MN—Actors Linda Kelsey and Colleen Hennen and director Mary Finnerty, who were responsible for Park Square's 2006 hit show *The O'Conner Girls*, reunite this month for John Pielmeier's gripping and mystical *Agnes of God*. Park Square veteran Alayne Hopkins joins them on stage in the title role. The show opens October 26 (previews begin October 19) and plays through November 11.

Agnes of God is the tale of three women, all in need of a miracle, who are drawn together by the death of an infant. When Dr. Martha Livingstone, a disillusioned ex-Catholic psychiatrist assigned to evaluate the baby's mother, meets Sister Agnes, the doctor is deeply moved by the young nun's gentleness and spiritual purity. Determined to circumvent the over-protective Mother Superior, Dr. Livingstone struggles to unearth the truth about the conception, birth and death of Agnes' child. As the story unfolds, Dr. Livingstone and the Mother Superior fight desperately to save Agnes and to find the miracle each of them needs.

"Linda Kelsey has explored a huge range of characters and genres in her nine seasons with Park Square," says Artistic Director Richard Cook. "When she phoned me last fall to suggest this show as a reunion project with Colleen and Mary, *Agnes* wasn't on my list. But this was one of those 'aha' ideas that immediately felt right: the perfect talent for this particular story."

Kelsey portrays Mother Superior, with Hennen as Livingstone and Hopkins as Agnes. Hennen has appeared in numerous Park Square shows, including *Steel Magnolias* and *Enchanted April*. She also received excellent notices last year for her role in Torch Theatre's *The Miracle Worker*. The five-time Emmy nominated Kelsey also has appeared frequently with Park Square, in *You Can't Take it With You*, *The Belle of Amherst*, *Dancing at Lughnasa* and numerous other shows. In addition to starring in TV's *The Lou Grant Show* for many years, Kelsey has been seen on the stages of Long Wharf Theatre, Kennedy Center, the Guthrie, and Children's Theatre Company. Hopkins appeared in Park Square's *The Triumph of Love* directed by Joel Sass, as well as in the popular *Noises Off* and *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, among others. She also has been seen on the stages of Ten Thousand Things, Illusion, Frank and the History Theatres.

Director Mary Finnerty has staged a recent string of Park Square hits, including *The O'Conner Girls*, *Steel Magnolias* and *Enchanted April*. Finnerty's production is designed by Rick Polenek (scenic), Michael P. Kittel (lighting), and Elin Anderson (costumes).

Agnes of God, a co-winner of the 1979 Great American Play Contest, premiered in 1980 at Actors Theater of Louisville and moved to Broadway in 1982 for a 17-month run. The play was made into a movie in 1985, starring Jane Fonda, Anne Bancroft and Meg Tilly. Bancroft and Tilly both received Academy Award nominations for their performances.

Playwright John Pielmeier is also the author of *Courage*, a play about *Peter Pan* author J.M. Barrie; the Vietnam War drama *The Boys of Winter*, which appeared on Broadway in 1985; and the thriller *Voices in the Dark*, which also had a Broadway run. He wrote several teleplays, including *Choices of the Heart*, *Sins of the Father* and *Living With the Dead*.

Performance Schedule & Ticket Information

Previews of *Agnes of God* are Friday, October 19, through Thursday, October 25; the show opens Friday, October 26, at 7:30 p.m. Performances are Thursdays–Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., with 2:00 p.m. matinees on Sundays through November 11. Tickets are \$20 for previews (with a 99¢ preview Tuesday, October 23); \$33 on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays; and \$36 on Saturdays. Tickets are available at 651-291-7005 or www.parksquaretheatre.org. All performances are in the company's intimate theatre in Saint Paul's historic Hamm Building.

Park Square Theatre's 2007–08 Season

Park Square Theatre's 2007–08 season continues in December with John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, followed by Lisa Kron's 2006 Broadway hit *Well*, directed by Michael Bigelow Dixon in his Park Square debut; the 2004 Tony nominee *Frozen* by Bryony Lavery; Lanie Robertson's *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*; and Stephen Dietz's retelling of *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*.

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AGNES OF GOD Performance Schedule

October 26–November 11 (*previews October 19-25*)

Historic Hamm Building, 20 West Seventh Place, downtown St. Paul

Tickets & Information: (651) 291-7005 or www.parksquaretheatre.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>OCTOBER</u>					19 (P) 7:30pm \$20	20 (P) 7:30pm \$20
21 (P) 2:00pm \$20		23 (P) 7:30pm 99¢	24 (P) 7:30pm \$20	25 (P) 7:30pm \$20	26 (O) 7:30pm \$33	27 7:30pm \$36
28 2:00pm \$33				1 (D) 7:30pm \$33	2 7:30pm \$33	3 (A) 7:30pm \$36
4 2:00pm \$33	<u>NOVEMBER</u>			8 7:30pm \$33	9 7:30pm \$33	10 7:30pm \$36
11 (C) 2:00pm \$33						

P=Preview O=Opening D=Post-show discussion A=ASL/AD C=Closing

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