



PARK SQUARE
T H E A T R E

FOR RELEASE
March 3, 2009

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***PARK SQUARE THEATRE plums the range of human emotions
in its 2009-2010 season***

(SAINT PAUL, Minn.) -- James A. Williams, the Star Tribune's 2008 Artist-of-the-Year, will star as "Othello" in Park Square Theatre's second play of the 2009-2010 season, Artistic Director Richard Cook announced today. The season, which reinforces Park Square's aim to have top Twin Cities talent stage compelling new stories and fresh interpretations of classic tales, includes four area premieres.

"We're also really proud to announce that we're standing up to the recession. This season we've hired more actors than ever before. With many theaters scaling back, we're glad we can contribute to the local economy by investing in our very gifted acting pool," said Cook.

"As one of our heroines notes: 'life is for the living.' That's the pulse behind this season. It's full of deep breathing – from gasps to laughs, from recognition to surprise, from running to dancing."

"It begins with an up-to-the minute comedy that is all about 'change' (a new car means a new life). The season concludes with an imaginative romp that unites Sherlock Holmes with Oscar Wilde, Lillie Langtry AND an incarnation of Lady Bracknell," Cook continued. "The season in-between is as ambitious as our new President and meant to unite our artists (starting with all 75 actors!) and audiences in moments of deeply shared feelings. The range of writing is as diverse and as intense as our times. If there is a common thread, perhaps it is the profound effect of the genuine human touch."

Park Square rounds out the season with Twin Cities premieres of Tom Stoppard's *Rock 'n' Roll* and *Dead Man's Cell Phone* by Sarah Ruhl; an off-Broadway hit by Tina Howe; a new take on Sherlock Holmes by Katie Forgette (who wrote *The O'Conner Girls*, a Park Square 2006 audience favorite); and a reprise of the 2008 holiday hit, *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*. Special limited-run public performances of *Of Mice and Men*, featuring Terry Hempleman (the Pioneer Press' "Top Ten of 2007"), and *The Diary of Anne Frank*, complete the program.

continued

Becky's New Car (Midwest premiere)
September 11 – October 4, 2009

Playful and painful, wacky and wistful, *Becky's New Car* maps out a road trip that lets the audience ride shotgun in a way most plays don't dare. In this life-affirming play about the road not taken, Becky – without really planning to – takes the chance to test drive another life.

By Steven Dietz
Directed by Peter Moore

Othello
October 16 – November 8, 2009

Shakespeare's great tragedy features some of the Twin Cities' finest actors including James A. Williams (*Star Tribune* 2008 Artist-of-the-Year) in the title role, Stacia Rice as Desdemona, and Steve Hendrickson as Iago. The all-star cast also includes Bruce Bohne, Shawn Patrick Boyd, Virginia Burke, James Cada, John Catron, Katrina Hawley, Dan Hopman, Craig Johnson, Stephen Pearce, Sid Solomon, Alan Sorenson and Edwin Strout.

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Richard Cook

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol
November 25 - December 20, 2009

The 2008 holiday hit returns with Jim Lichtscheidl reprising his amazing solo performance bringing to life Marley and Ebenezer Scrooge - along with a netherworld-sprite named Bogle and a supporting cast of 16 other characters - with gentle humor and heartfelt emotion.

By Tom Mula
Directed by Richard Cook

Rock 'n' Roll (Area premiere)
January 15 – February 7, 2010

Tom Stoppard's sweeping and passionate play spans two countries, three generations and 22 turbulent years, at the end of which, love remains — and so does rock 'n' roll.

By Tom Stoppard (Four-time Tony Award® winner)
Directed by Mary M. Finnerty

Painting Churches
Feb. 26 – March 21, 2010

When artist Mags Church comes home to paint a portrait of her aging parents and help them pack up their Boston townhome, it's more than a moving experience.

By Tina Howe
Directed by Jon Cranney
Featuring Katherine Ferrand and Richard Ooms

continued

Dead Man's Cell Phone (Area premiere)
April 9 – May 2, 2010

Jean is sleepwalking through her life until she answers a dead man's cell phone. It turns out to be a wake-up call that sends her on a date with the dead man's brother, a drinking binge with his wife, a mysterious rendezvous with his mistress, and trips to the afterlife and black market. In this quirky modern adventure, Jean re-connects to her own spirit and learns that life is for the living.

By Sarah Ruhl (*Eurydice* and *The Clean House*)
Directed by Matt Sciple
Featuring Linda Kelsey and Carolyn Pool

Sherlock Holmes and The Case of the Jersey Lily (Midwest premiere)
May 28 – June 23, 2010

It's Homes and Watson as they've never been seen! During a small matter involving blackmail and missing jewels, Watson pines for the beautiful Lillie Langtry, Holmes chases the infernal Moriarity, and Oscar Wilde gets some of the best lines. The wit and wisdom of Wilde, Arthur Conan Doyle and even William Shakespeare combine to offer up a delightful escapade that includes seduction and secrets, lies and lilies, mistresses and mayhem.

By Katie Forgette (*The O'Conner Girls*)
Directed by Michael Bigelow Dixon

SPECIAL LIMITED-RUN PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

Of Mice and Men
November 19, 21, December 5

This Pioneer Press "Top Ten" show returns! Its powerful cast and "from the heart" storytelling plunge audiences into the flipside of the American Dream.

By John Steinbeck
Directed by Richard Cook
Featuring Terry Hempleman, Warren C. Bowles and Carolyn Pool

The Diary of Anne Frank
March 26, 27, April 24

This marks the 11th season for Park Square to stage this compelling main stage show for students. In 2010, the production will have been performed more than 700 times and seen by over 130,000 Twin Cities students.

By Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett
Directed by Scott Rubsam

All performances are in the company's intimate theater in St. Paul's historic Hamm Building, 20 W. Seventh Place. Season tickets go on sale April 5 and are available at 651-291-7005 or online at www.parksquaretheatre.org.