



NEWS RELEASE

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The Winter's Tale Marks Final Performance of Graduate Ensemble Class of 2012

Geoff Bullen from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London to Direct

March 7 - 17, 2012

Calendar Editors: See Fact Sheet for Performance Schedule

CLEVELAND, OH (February 21, 2012) – The Case Western Reserve University/Cleveland Play House MFA Acting Program will present Shakespeare's play *The Winter's Tale* in the new Helen Rosenfeld Lewis Bialosky Lab Theatre at PlayhouseSquare from March 7 – 17, 2012. Directed by **Geoff Bullen** from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, Shakespeare's late play leaps from darkest tragedy to lighthearted romance and a truly magical conclusion, and is performed by the talented CWRU/CPH MFA Acting Program's third year Graduate Ensemble. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for currently enrolled students (under age 25 with a valid ID) and are on sale now by calling 216.241.6000 or online at www.clevelandplayhouse.com.

ABOUT THE PLAY and DIRECTOR

In *The Winter's Tale*, King Leontes is consumed with jealousy, believing his pregnant wife Hermione has been having an affair with his childhood friend King Polixenes. He orders one be poisoned, another imprisoned and the baby exiled. What will become of the child as her true origins are revealed?

The Winter's Tale marks the final public production of the members of the CWRU/CPH MFA Acting Program, Class of 2012, also known as the Graduate Ensemble. Their next stop is an agents' showcase in New York City, and then on to the world of full-time professional theatre. *The Winter's Tale* is a chance to work with visiting artist Geoff Bullen. As associate director of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) and an in-demand London director, Bullen brings an exceptional range of talents to the CWRU/CPH MFA Acting Program. A significant contributor to the curriculum since 2002, he teaches a three week Shakespeare Text Intensive in the Graduate Ensemble's second year and then returns to direct a third year Classical Ensemble production with the same class.

ABOUT THE MFA ACTING PROGRAM

Since 1996, Cleveland Play House (CPH) has partnered with Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) to offer a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree in Acting. In 2003, it became a conservatory program completely housed at Cleveland Play House.

Every two years, the MFA Acting Program accepts a class of eight actors into its three-year program. All three years are spent in residency at Cleveland Play House, providing students with unique access to its vast facilities and the professional expertise of its staff.

The program is designed to instill the physical, mental, and practical techniques needed by today's successful theatre artists. Its intimate class size enables the curriculum and performance experiences to be tailored to suit the specific training needs of each class and individual student. Together, instructors in acting, voice, speech, and movement work to train and assess the progress of each student, integrating the various disciplines in ways that will create maximum flexibility, freedom of expression, and dynamic range, with the ultimate goal of instilling the skills, discipline, and an aesthetic of craft necessary to develop a distinctive and effective actor capable of encompassing the full range of professional demands.

THE WINTER'S TALE cast:

With the exception of CWRU undergraduate senior student Kathryn Metzger, the actors in this production are members of the Case Western Reserve University/Cleveland Play House Master of Fine Arts Acting Program, Class of 2012, also known as the Graduate Ensemble.

Eva Gil (Hermione/Mopsa) recently appeared for several performances as the columnist Daria Chase in the CPH production of Ken Ludwig's *The Games Afoot (or Holmes for the Holidays)* – Gil was an understudy for the role. She also appeared in CPH's production of *The Life of Galileo*; in a staged reading of Lauren Gunderson's *Silent Sky* during FusionFest 2011; and in Graduate Ensemble productions of *Present Laughter*, *An Orchard* and *Cloud Nine*.

Andrew Gorell (Leontes/Old Shepherd) appeared in the CPH production of *The Life of Galileo* this season, and portrayed Albert Porter in a staged reading of *Three Voyages of the Lobotomobile* during FusionFest 2011. Gorell appeared in Graduate Ensemble productions of *Present Laughter*, *An Orchard* and *Cloud Nine*.

Dan Hendrock (Polixenes/Young Shepherd) was most recently seen at CPH in *The Life of Galileo*. He also participated in a staged reading of Lauren Gunderson's *Silent Sky* during FusionFest 2011 and performed in Graduate Ensemble productions of *Present Laughter*, *An Orchard* and *Cloud Nine*.

Michael Herbert (Antigonus/Florizel) recently appeared in the CPH production of *The Life of Galileo* and in Graduate Ensemble productions of *Present Laughter*, *An Orchard* and *Cloud Nine*.

Kim Krane (Mamillius/Peridta) appeared as Virginia Galilei in the CPH production of *The Life of Galileo* and in a staged reading of Lauren Gunderson's *Silent Sky* during FusionFest 2011. She was also featured in Graduate Ensemble productions of *Present Laughter*, *An Orchard* and *Cloud Nine*.

Kelli Ruttle (Paulina/Dorcas) was recently seen at CPH in an acclaimed performance as Uta Hagen in *Ten Chimneys*. Other CPH appearances were *The Life of Galileo*; FusionFest 2011 staged readings *Silent Sky* and *Eyes Forward* (with The Mandel Jewish Community Center); *Bill W. and Dr. Bob* as a performing understudy; and Graduate Ensemble productions of *Present Laughter*, *An Orchard* and *Cloud Nine*.

Yan Tual (Camillo/Autolycus) recently appeared in the CPH production of *The Life of Galileo* and in Graduate Ensemble productions of *Present Laughter*, *An Orchard* and *Cloud Nine*.

Kathryn Metzger (Emilia/Amaryllis) is a fourth-year Theater and English major at Case Western Reserve University, graduating in May of 2012. She was recently seen on the Eldred Theater's mainstage in *Top Girls*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, and *Laundry and Bourbon* and *Lone Star*.

For a complete list of cast bios, go online at <http://www.clevelandplayhouse.com/cwru-cph-mfa/the-winters-tale>

THE WINTER'S TALE Creative Team:

Geoff Bullen (*Director*) is the associate director of England's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, where he specializes in teaching Shakespeare. As translator and adaptor – notably of the work of Feydeau and Steinbeck – and as the author of numerous plays on social issues for schools, his work has been performed around the world; and he is a visiting professor at Case Western Reserve University. He has worked extensively in the United Kingdom in the commercial, subsidized and community theatre. Recent productions include *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Tosca* for Magdala Opera; the premieres of *Beside Picasso* (Brian McAvera) and *Bacon* (Pip Utton), both at the Edinburgh Festival, Scotland; David Rudkin's *Red Sun* for a national tour; *Into the Woods*, *Assassins*, and *Little Women – The Musical* at RADA; and *The Tempest* at the Stadsschouwburg in Amsterdam. In 2008 his production of *Chaplin* took the Grand Prix at 5th UNESCO International Festival in Minsk. His adaptation of *The Tempest* is touring England. He is currently director of *The Mousetrap*, the world's longest-running play, in London's West End, and he has come to Cleveland straight from RADA, where last month he opened *Saturday Night*, the first musical by Stephen Sondheim

The **design team** for *The Winter's Tale* includes Cameron Caley Michalak (Scenic Design), Michael Boll (Lighting Design), Jeffrey Van Curtis (Costume Design), and Kevin Montgomery (Sound Design). Also on the team: Lisa G. Palinkas (Stage Manager); Ron Wilson (Movement Coach), Cyrus O. Taylor (Dramaturg). For a complete list of design team bios, go online at <http://www.clevelandplayhouse.com/cwru-cph-mfa/the-winters-tale>

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for currently enrolled student under age 25 with a valid ID, and are on sale now by calling 216.241.6000 or online at www.clevelandplayhouse.com.

Founded in 1915, Cleveland Play House is America's first professional regional theatre. Throughout its rich history, Cleveland Play House has remained dedicated to its mission to inspire, stimulate and entertain diverse audiences in Northeast Ohio by producing plays and theatre education programs of the highest professional standards. It has produced more than 100 American and/or World Premieres, and over the 95+ years more than 11 million people have attended approximately 1,300 productions. Today, under the leadership of Artistic Director Michael Bloom and Managing Director Kevin Moore, Cleveland Play House looks toward its centennial while performing in three state-of-the-art venues at PlayhouseSquare in downtown Cleveland.

Cleveland Play House is funded through the generosity of Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, and The Ohio Arts Council helps to fund Cleveland Play House with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.

Case Western Reserve University is among the nation's leading research institutions. Founded in 1826 and shaped by the unique merger of the Case Institute of Technology and Western Reserve University, Case Western Reserve is distinguished by its strengths in education, research, service, and experiential learning. Located in Cleveland, Case Western Reserve offers nationally recognized programs in the Arts and Sciences, Dental Medicine, Engineering, Law, Management, Medicine, Nursing, and Social Work.

THE WINTER'S TALE FACT SHEET

What: **The Winter's Tale**, by William Shakespeare

Directed by Geoff Bullen

King Leontes is consumed with jealousy, believing his pregnant wife Hermione has been having an affair with his childhood friend King Polixenes. He orders one be poisoned, another imprisoned and the baby exiled. What will become of the child as her true origins are revealed?

Where: Helen Rosenfeld Lewis Bialosky Lab Theatre, PlayhouseSquare, 1407 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH

When: **Opening Night:** **Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at 7:30 pm**

Performances: March 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 & 17, 2012 at 7:30 pm

Matinees: March 10 & 17, 2012 at 3:00 pm

Who: **Cast**

Eva Gil Hermoine/Mopsa
Andrew Gorell Leontes/Old Shepherd
Dan Hendrock..... Polixenes/Young Shepherd
Michael Herbert Antigonus/Florizel
Kim Krane Mamillius/Peridta
Kelli Ruttle Paulina/Dorcas
Yan Tual..... Camillo/Autolycus
Kathryn Metzger Emilia/Amaryllis

Creative Team

Playwright William Shakespeare
Director Geoff Bullen
Scenic Designer Cameron Michalak
Costume Designer Jeffrey Van Curtis
Lighting Designer Michael Boll
Sound Designer Kevin Montgomery
Choreographer Ron Wilson

Prices: Tickets are \$15 for adults, and \$7.50 for currently enrolled student under age 25 with a valid ID.

For Single Tickets: Call 216.241.6000, or visit www.clevelandplayhouse.com.

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