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**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY'S
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERIES PRESENTS
AURÉLIA'S ORATORIO
MARCH 4-7, 2010**

**Starring Aurélia Thierrée
Created and Directed by Victoria Thierrée Chaplin
Featuring Jaime Martinez**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Shakespeare Theatre Company presents *Aurélia's Oratorio*, starring **Aurélia Thierrée** and conceived and directed by **Victoria Thierrée Chaplin**, as part of its Youth and Family Series. *Aurélia's Oratorio* takes the audience through a surreal world of impossibilities and magical transformations. With dancing, puppetry, acrobatics and more, *Aurélia's Oratorio* is an inventive adventure set to a quirky score of chamber music and gypsy jazz. "She balances whimsy and wit, childlike wonder and adult élan, throughout her quietly magical show," says the *Boston Globe*. The *Daily Telegraph* calls it "an absolute spellbinder. Like most vivid reveries, it momentarily colors the way you see the waking world." The show runs from **March 4-7, 2010**, at the **Lansburgh Theatre** (450 7th Street NW).

Victoria Thierrée Chaplin also created Cirque Bonjour, Cirque Imaginaire and Cirque Invisible, troupes that inspired the renowned Cirque du Soleil. In this imaginative project with her mother, Aurélia Thierrée charms audiences in this dazzling display of stage illusion. *Aurélia's Oratorio* is recommended for ages eight and above.

***Aurélia's Oratorio* Cast**

Aurélia Thierrée has been performing on stage since childhood. She began her career in her parents' Cirque Imaginaire and Cirque Invisible troupes, which helped her to develop a balance between sensing

the surreal while maintaining the demands and discipline required of performance. Recently she has worked with an array of film artists, including Jacques Baratier, Milos Forman and Coline Serreau. She toured with the Tiger Lillies for several years in *The Tiger Lillies Circus*. She has also worked in cabaret and variety shows, primarily in Berlin. Thierrée collaborated with Victoria Thierrée Chaplin to create *Aurélia's Oratorio* for the stage, inspired by medieval drawings that depict worlds upside-down and inside-out.

Jaime Martinez received the 1998 New York Dance and Performance Bessie Award in honor of his achievements in dance. Martinez was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and was raised in Columbia, S.C., where he began his training with Ann Brodie and Naomi Calvert. He furthered his training with Dick Kuch, Dick Gain and Dianne Markham on a Nancy Reynold Scholarship at the North Carolina School of the Arts, as well as a scholarship from the American Dance Machine and American Dance Festival. Martinez was a founding member of The Parsons Dance Company in 1987 and has taught more than 400 master classes, including residencies at NCSA, SMU, SUNY Purchase, The Juilliard School and NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Martinez has also staged numerous works by David Parsons for such companies as Company C, Ballet du Rhin, Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal, Carte Blanche Dance Company of Norway, Ballet National de Nancy, Pennsylvania Ballet, New York City Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet and Roland Petit Ballet National de Marseille. He is a founding member of Mark Dendy Dance and Performance and has worked with Diane Martell, Pearl Lang, Ruby Shang, Douglas Wright, Uris/Barr and Dancers, Robin Becker, Lisa Giobbi and Pooh Kaye's Excentric Motions. Martinez has been a member of *Aurélia's Oratorio* since 2003.

The Director

In 1970, **Victoria Thierrée Chaplin** joined up with actor and director Jean Baptiste Thierrée, who dreamed up a new style of circus, and together they invented Cirque Bonjour. In 1971, Cirque Bonjour was invited to the Festival d'Avignon and toured France, with Thierrée Chaplin's participation gradually increasing. The couple then moved toward a more personal style of circus: Cirque Imaginaire began with just them and their two kids, Aurélia and James, on stage. Cirque Imaginaire toured the globe. Cirque Invisible, their next show, was also seen worldwide. Recently, Thierrée Chaplin worked with her son, James Thierrée, on the design and costumes for his productions *Au Revoir Parapluie*, *Junebug Symphony* and *La Viellée des Abysses*. Now, *Aurélia's Oratorio* is her creation with her daughter.

The Designers

The design team for *Aurélia's Oratorio* features sound and stage design by **Victoria Thierrée Chaplin**, lighting design by **Laura de Bernadis** and **Philippe Lacombe**, and costume design by **Victoria Thierrée Chaplin, Jacques Perdiguez, Veronique Grand** and **Monika Schwarzl**.

Youth and Family Series

The Youth and Family Series (YFS) introduces younger audiences to classic literature from around the world through engaging, age-appropriate productions. YFS performances are 60 to 90 minutes in length and are produced for school groups during the week and for families on the weekends. The productions provide connections to core content in social studies, language arts, history and theatre.

Developmentally appropriate workshops and materials are available through the Education Department.

The Youth and Family Series is supported by Judy and Leo Zickler and the Youth and Family Series Alliance.

FACT SHEET: *Aurélia's Oratorio*
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Featuring Jaime Martinez

The Shakespeare Theatre Company presents *Aurelia's Oratorio*, starring Aurelia Thierree and created and directed by Victoria Thierree Chaplin, at the **Lansburgh Theatre** (450 7th Street NW) from **March 4-7, 2010**. The production takes the audience through a surreal world of impossibilities and magical transformations. With dancing, puppetry, acrobatics and more, *Aurélia's Oratorio* is an inventive adventure set to a quirky score of chamber music and gypsy jazz.

DATES: March 4-7, 2010

LOCATION: Lansburgh Theatre, 450 7th Street NW

TIMES: March 4 at 11 a.m.; March 5 at 7 p.m.; March 6 at 7 p.m.; March 7 at 2 p.m.

TICKETS: \$20 - \$25

ACCESSIBILITY: The Lansburgh Theatre is accessible to persons with disabilities, offering wheelchair-accessible seating and restrooms, audio enhancement, and Braille and large print programs.

PARKING: Paid parking is available at the PMI parking garage on D Street, between Eighth and Ninth streets, and the Colonial Parking Garage in the Lansburgh building (at 450 7th Street between D and E streets).

METRO: Archives-Navy Mem'l- Penn Quarter station (Yellow and Green Lines) is one and one-half blocks south of the Lansburgh Theatre. Gallery Pl-Chinatown station (Red, Yellow and Green Lines) is one block north of the Lansburgh Theatre at the Verizon Center. For further information, call Metro at 202.637.7000.

Box Office: 202.547.1122 (voice) TTY: 202.638.3863 Toll Free: 877.487.8849
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