

For Immediate Release
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**STYLE AND SUBSTANCE TAKE CENTER STAGE
AT SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY'S
DESIGN FOR LIVING
BY NOËL COWARD
DIRECTED BY MICHAEL KAHN**

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Style meets substance in Shakespeare Theatre Company's upcoming production of **Noël Coward's *Design for Living*** directed by **Michael Kahn** at the Lansburgh Theatre (450 7th Street NW). *Design for Living* follows three glamorous 1920s Bohemians—Otto, Leo and Gilda—as they fall in and out of love with each other. Moving restlessly from Paris to London to New York, the three both pursue and repel each other in an ever-more-maddening love triangle. The master of 20th-century English comedy, Coward is at his best in *Design for Living*, a hilarious and sophisticated look at love, friendship and the joys and perils of fame. “I think the play is one of Coward's most profound,” says Kahn. “In *Design for Living* Coward brilliantly coated his investigation of society and relationships with an extraordinary glittering surface.” For this production sumptuous costumes and glorious art deco sets combine with Coward's trademark wit. The cast is sure to sparkle too, with **Gretchen Egolf** as Gilda, **Tom Story** as Otto, **Robert Sella** as Leo and **Kevin Hogan** as Ernest. The show runs **May 12 through June 28**. For tickets please call 202. 547.1122 or visit ShakespeareTheatre.org.

DESIGN FOR LIVING CAST

Gretchen Egolf joins the Company for the first time to play Gilda. She has appeared on Broadway in *Jackie* and *Ring Round the Moon* at Lincoln Center and Off-Broadway in many productions including *All This Intimacy*, *Modern Orthodox*, *Getting into Heaven*, *More Lies about Jerzy*, *Speed-the-Plow* and *Crocodiles in the Potomac*. Egolf's regional credits include *Private Lives*, *A Picasso*, *Marriage*, *Resurrection Blues*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Indiscretions*, *Hay Fever*, *Keely and Du*, *Four Dogs and a Bone*, *The Illusion*. She has appeared in London in *Jackie*. Her film and television credits include *The Namesake*, *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, *Quiz Show*, *Social Grace*, *Nicolas*, *Criminal Minds*, *Ghost Whisperer*, *Law and Order*, *Law and Order: SVU*, *Knight Rider*, *The Two Mr. Kissels* (Lifetime movie), *NCIS*, *Medium*, *Nero Wolfe*, *Roswell* (recurring role), *Century City*, *Without a Trace*, *Gleason* (CBS movie), *Cosby*, *Cracker* as well as *Journeyman* and *Martial Law* on which she was a series regular. Egolf received her training at The Juilliard School.

Robert Sella returns to STC to play Leo, having previously appeared in *Mourning Becomes Electra* (Helen Hayes Award) and *Don Carlos*. His Broadway credits include *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Cabaret*, *Sideman*, *My Fair Lady* and Sella has appeared Off-Broadway in *Stuff Happens* (Drama Desk Award Best Ensemble), *Kit Marlowe*, *Five by Tenn*, *The Water Children*, *Boys and Girls*, *Home of the Brave*, *Music in the Air*. Sella's regional credits include *Amadeus*, *Chick*, *The Great Ostram*, *Safe in Hell*, *Pericles*, *Black Coffee*, *The Glass Menagerie*. He was also part of the first national tour of *Angels in America*. Internationally he has been in: *The Lady from Dubuque* in London. Sella's film and television credits include *Diary of a City Priest*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *The Astronaut's Wife*, *Law and Order* and *Gossip Girl*. He has received the following awards Michel St. Denis Award, Clarence Derwent Award, Drama League Citation, Fox Foundation Fellowship and was trained at UCLA and The Juilliard School.

Tom Story returns to STC to play Otto. Story has been in numerous production at STC including *Twelfth Night* (2008, Helen Hayes nomination), *Major Barbara*, *The Rivals*, *Twelfth Night* (1995 Free For All) and *Measure for Measure*. His New York credits include working Off-Broadway in *The Singing*, *Fresh Faces*, *Rutherford and Son*, *Hello Meatman* and *Measure for Measure*. Story's regional credits include *Tartuffe*, *The Book Club Play*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Amadeus*, *Secret Lives of the Sexists* (Berkshire

Eagle Award), *The Heidi Chronicles* (Berkshire Eagle Award), *The Misanthrope*, *Moby Dick-Rehearsed*, *Camelot*, *Life's a Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *Loot*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Gross Indecency*, *The Lion in Winter*, *A Girl Called Dusty*, *The Invention of Love* (Helen Hayes nomination), *Prometheus*, *The York Realist*, *Ivanov*, *A Number* (Helen Hayes nomination), *The Pillowman*, *The School for Scandal*, *Henry IV, Part 1*, *The Book Club Play*, *The Crowd You're in With*. Story has appeared in the Tribeca Film Festival in *Piece of Cake* and *Shiner*. Trained at Duke University and The Juilliard School, he has is a recipient of the Fox Foundation Fellowship.

Kevin Hogan joins STC for the first time to play Ernest. Hogan's New York credits include *Impossible Marriage* (with Holly Hunter) on Broadway and Off-Broadway *Her First Roman*, *Cannibal's Waltz*, *Gun Club*, *School for Wives*. Hogan has appeared in a number of regional productions: *The Dinner Party*, *The Emancipation of Valet Du Chambre* (premiere), *Infinite Regress of Human Vanity* (premiere), *Design for Living*, *The Goat*, *Chewing Mother's Bones* (premiere), *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Terra Nova*, *Tom Jones*, *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, *The War of the Roses*, *Measure for Measure*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *King John*, *Hamlet*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Pericles*, *As You Like It*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Hogan can be seen in *Frank the Rat* (2009 Palm Springs Film Festival) as well as on *Law and Order: Trial by Jury*, *All My Children* and the Onion News Network (webisode). He was trained at NYU and the Stella Adler Conservatory by Ms. Adler.

Design for Living also features **Sherri L. Edelen** as Grace Torrence, **Catherine Flye** as Miss Hodge, **Rebecca Kaasa** as Helen Carver, **Todd Scofield** as Mr. Birbeck, **Richard Thieriot** as Henry Carver with **Nathan Bennett**.

THE DIRECTOR

Michael Kahn's extensive credits include over 45 productions at STC, most recently *The Way of the World*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Tamburlaine*, *Hamlet*, *Richard III*, *The Beaux' Stratagem*, *Love's Labor's Lost*, *Othello*, *Lorenzaccio*. His credits on Broadway include *Show Boat* (Tony nomination), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Whodunnit*, *Night of the Tribades*, *Death of Bessie Smith*, *Here's Where I Belong*, *Othello*, *Henry V*; Off-Broadway: Manhattan Theatre Club: *Five By Tenn*, *Sleep Deprivation Chamber*, *Funnyhouse of a Negro*, *The Rimers of Eldritch*, *Three by Thornton Wilder*, *A Month in the Country*, *Hedda Gabler*, *The Señorita from Tacna*, *Ten by Tennessee*; New York Shakespeare Festival: *Measure for Measure* (Saturday Review Award). Kahn was the artistic director of The Acting Company from 1978–1988 and has been a faculty member Juilliard Drama Division since 1967. He also teaches for the Shakespeare Theatre Company Academy for Classical Acting at the George Washington University and has worked at New York University, Circle in the Square Theatre School, Princeton University, British American Drama Academy, and was the founder of the Chautauqua Theatre Conservatory. Regionally, Kahn's credits include *A Touch of the Poet* at Arena Stage, *Otabenga* at Signature Theatre, *The Duchess of Malfi* at the Guthrie Theater, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* at American Repertory Theatre and more than 20 productions at American Shakespeare Theatre where he served as the Artistic Director for 10 years. Kahn was also the artistic director for McCarter Theatre for five seasons during which time he directed *Beyond the Horizon*, filmed for PBS. His work at the Chautauqua Theatre, where he was also the artistic director, included *The Glass Menagerie* with Tom Hulce, Kahn also directed *Old Times* (MacArthur Award), *The Tooth of Crime* (Jefferson nomination) at the Goodman Theatre and *Eleanor* at Ford's Theatre. Opera credits include *Vanessa* for the New York City Opera (2007), *Lysistrata* or *The Nude Goddess* for Houston Grand Opera and New York City Opera, *Vanessa* for Washington Opera and Dallas Opera, *Show Boat* for Houston Grand Opera, *Carmen* for Houston and Washington Operas, *Carousel* for Miami Opera and *Julius Caesar* for San Francisco Spring Opera. Kahn has worked internationally directing *Love's Labor's Lost* at the Royal Shakespeare Company's Complete Works Festival, *The Oedipus Plays* at the Athens Festival, *Five by Tenn* for The Acting Company's tour of Eastern Europe, *Show Boat* for the National Cultural Center Opera House in Cairo and *The White Devil* for the Adelaide Festival. Kahn is on the board of numerous groups including Theatre Communications Group, New York State Council on the Arts, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, Opera America's 80s and Beyond. He has been recognized with seven Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Director, 2007 Mayor's Arts Award Special Recognition for Shakespeare in Washington, 2007 Stephen and Christine Schwarzman Award for Excellence in Theatre,

2007 Sir John Gielgud Award for Excellence in the Dramatic Arts, 2005 Person of the Year from the National Theatre Conference, 2004 Shakespeare Society Medal, 2002 William Shakespeare Award for Classical Theatre, 2002 Distinguished Washingtonian Award from The University Club, 2002 GLAAD Capitol Award, 1997 Mayor's Arts Award for Excellence in an Artistic Discipline, 1996 Opera Music Theater International's Bravo Award, 1990 First Annual Shakespeare's Globe Award, 1989 *Washingtonian Magazine* Washingtonian of the Year, 1989 *Washington Post* Award for Distinguished Community Service, 1988 John Houseman Award. Kahn has also received honorary degrees from the University of South Carolina, Kean College, The Juilliard School and The American University.

THE DESIGNERS

Michael Kahn has collaborated with his design team to create a striking world onstage that expertly blends the period with the contemporary as the play moves from Paris to London to New York City. Set designer **James Noone** returns to the Company after designing the sets for the Roman Repertory and *Major Barbara* last season. **Robert Perdziola's** costumes with traditional '20s feel that are adjusted to highlight the change in the characters as they become more financially successful over time. The design team for *Design for Living* also includes Lighting Design by **Mark McCullough**, Sound Design by **Martin Desjardins**, Voice, Text and Dialect Coaching by **Gary Logan**, Stage Manager **M. William Shiner** and Assistant Stage Manager **Colleen Martin**.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

There will be audio-described performances of *Design for Living* on Thursday, June 11, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, June 20, at 2 p.m. Sign-Interpreted performances are Saturday, June 6, at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, June 9, at 8 p.m.

MASTERS OF THE THEATRE AND THE POWER OF PERFORMANCE Behind the Scenes at the Shakespeare Theatre Company

Co-sponsored with The Smithsonian Associates

The Shakespeare Theatre Company opens its backstage door to let enhance the theatrical experience. Hear actors speak candidly about how the rehearsal process shapes their performance. Explore how the director's vision is translated to the stage. Discover how a stage comes alive through a production's technical elements.

First, Artistic Director Michael Kahn talks with Stacy Keach and other members of the cast about their roles in the Company's production of *King Lear*, directed by Robert Falls, opening on June 22. Then, sit in as Dandyism.net blogger Robert Sacheli interviews Kahn and actors Egolf, Sella and Story one week after the opening of their production of Noël Coward's *Design for Living*. Through discussion of the play's themes and interpretation as well as the acting process, participants will be able to watch the play with a more critical eye.

June 8	Michael Kahn talks with Stacy Keach about <i>King Lear</i>
June 16	Performance of <i>King Lear</i>
June 23	Performance of <i>Design for Living</i>
June 29	Discussion with <i>Design for Living</i> cast and crew

PRICING

With tickets to *King Lear*

Code: 1M2-450

Two lectures and one performance

Resident Members \$105; Senior Members \$99; Gen. Admission \$125

With tickets to *Design for Living*

Code: 1M2-451

Two lectures and one performance

Resident Members \$114; Senior Members \$108; Gen. Admission \$134

With tickets to *King Lear* and *Design for Living*

Code: 1M2-452

Two lectures and two performances

Resident Members \$160; Senior Members \$153; Gen. Admission \$180

Without performance tickets:

Code: 1M2-449

Two lectures

Resident Members \$60; Senior Members \$54; Gen. Admission \$80

Note: The performance of *King Lear* is at Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F St. NW.

Discussions and performance of *Design for Living* are at the Lansburgh Theatre, 450 7th St NW.

Tickets to lectures with performances must be purchased by May 29.

STC subscribers will receive the Smithsonian Member rate for the lectures.

Call the Smithsonian Associates box office to buy the tickets 202.633.3030.

FACT SHEET: *Design for Living*
by Noël Coward * Directed by Michael Kahn

The Shakespeare Theatre Company continues its 2008-2009 season with Noël Coward's ***Design for Living*** directed by **Michael Kahn** at the Lansburgh Theatre (450 7th Street NW) from **May 12 to June 28, 2009**. *Design for Living* follows three glamorous Bohemians—Otto, Leo and Gilda—as they fall in and out of love with each other. Moving restlessly from Paris to London to New York, the three both pursue and repel each other in an ever-more-maddening love triangle.

DATES: May 12–June 28, 2009
Press Night: Sunday, May 17, 2009
Opening Night: Monday, May 18, 2009

LOCATION: Lansburgh Theatre, 450 7th Street NW

TIMES: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m.; matinee at noon on March 25.

TICKETS: \$35.50-\$84.75 with discounts available for students, seniors and members of the military.

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

- There will be audio-described performances of *Design for Living* on Thursday, June 11, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, June 20, at 2 p.m. Sign-Interpreted performances are Saturday, June 6, at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, June 9, at 8 p.m.
- On Sunday, May 17, at 1 p.m., Literary Associate Akiva Fox along with Dandyism.net blogger Bob Sacheil and members of the artistic staff will lead a lively Windows discussion on *Design for Living*. All are welcome. Call 202.547.1122 and press 4 or visit ShakespeareTheatre.org to reserve a space.
- Following the evening performance of *Design for Living* on Wednesday, May 20 18, all are welcome to the Lansburgh Theatre for a post-show discussion. Those attending the performance are guaranteed seats. Additional seating is available on a first-come basis. Call 202.547.1122 for the approximate start time. No reservations required.
- On Saturday, June 6, following the 2 p.m. matinee, STC hosts a Classics in Context round table discussion about *Design for Living* with local bloggers, scholars and artists. Call 202.547.1122, option 4, or visit ShakespeareTheatre.org to reserve a space.

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
ShakespeareTheatre.org