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**STACY KEACH RETURNS TO WASHINGTON
TO STAR IN
King Lear
AT SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY
JUNE 16-JULY 19**

Remount of Critically-Acclaimed Production by Tony Award-winning Director Robert Falls

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Two theatre greats—actor Stacy Keach and director Robert Falls—have teamed up to bring one of the most powerful dramas in Western literature to the Shakespeare Theatre Company. Keach will star in Falls' remount of his critically-acclaimed production of *King Lear* at Sidney Harman Hall (610 F Street NW) from June 16 to July 19, 2009.

Tony Award-winning director Falls' provocative, graphic production captures both the stark violence and the devastating passion of Shakespeare's masterpiece. Seeking to place *King Lear* in "a very specific time and place," Falls chose war-torn 1990s Yugoslavia as the setting. "I wanted to challenge myself," says Falls, "into thinking about theatre and about life in a more immediate, contemporary, daring way."

When the production premiered at Chicago's Goodman Theatre in 2006, *The Chicago Tribune* called it "a colossal, eye-popping operatic production," and *The New York Times* proclaimed it one of the best productions of 2006. "It's the production I'm most proud of in my career," says Falls, "so I'm thrilled to be doing it at the Shakespeare Theatre Company."

Fresh off his Helen Hayes Award-winning performance in *Frost-Nixon*, Stacy Keach returns to STC to star as the tempestuous patriarch. "There's a reason that classic actors refer to Lear as the Mount Everest of roles," says Keach. "The passion of Lear is unmatched by any other character in any other play. This play should rip your heart out ... because it certainly rips *his* heart out."

The cast of thirty includes Edward Gero (Gloucester), Kim Martin-Cotton (Goneril), Kate Arrington (Regan), Laura Odeh (Cordelia), Joaquin Torres (Edgar) and Jonno Roberts (Edmund). For tickets please call 202. 547.1122 or visit ShakespeareTheatre.org.

KING LEAR CAST

Stacy Keach returns to STC to play Lear following his previous performances in *Macbeth* and *Richard III*. His New York credits include *Hamlet*, *Peer Gynt*, *Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2* at the New York Shakespeare Festival; *Danton's Death*, *The Country Wife*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* at Lincoln Center Repertory; *Indians*, *Deathtrap*, *Solitary Confinement* and *The Kentucky Cycle* for *King Lear* Broadway. Off-Broadway

Michael Kahn Artistic Director Michael R. Klein Chairman ShakespeareTheatre.org

credits include *MacBird!*, *The Niggerlovers* and *Long Day's Journey into Night*. Keach's regional work includes *Frost/Nixon* (Helen Hayes Award), *Hamlet*, *Sleuth*, *The King and I*, *Finishing The Picture*, *10 Unknowns*, *Camelot*, *White Xmas*, *Steiglitz Loves O'Keefe*, *Inspector Calls*, *King Lear*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Henry V*, *Love's Labor's Lost*, *Hamlet*, *The Three Sisters* and *O What a Lovely War*. He also has worked internationally for the National Theatre Great Britain in *Hughie*. His film work includes Oliver Stone's *W*, *Imbued*, *American History X*, *Escape from LA*, *Fat City*, *The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean*, *The Ninth Configuration*, *The Longriders*, *Luther*, *Doc*, *Brewster McCloud*, *That Championship Season*, *The New Centurions*. Keach's television credits include *Mike Hammer*, *Titus*, *Prison Break*, *Hemingway*, *Mistral's Daughter*, *The Blue and The Gray*, *Princess Daisy*, *The Wright Brothers*, *James Michener's Texas*, *Desolation Canyon*, *Ring of Death*, *Meteor*. Keach received STC's Millennium Recognition Award in 2000; Helen Hayes Best Actor Award in 2008; Golden Globe Best Performance by an Actor in a Mini-Series, Emmy nomination, Best Actor Hemingway, KCFCC Award Best Actor for *Fat City*; Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Oldenburg Film Festival, San Diego Film Festival and Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters. Keach is also the host of Twilight Zone Radio Dramas and Narrator for CNBC's *American Greed*, *The Pixar Story* and *World's Most Amazing Videos*. He received his training from the University of California, Berkeley, Yale Drama School, London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art as a Fulbright Scholar.

Kim Martin-Cotten returns to STC to play Goneril after appearing as Calphurnia in *Julius Caesar* and Charmian in *Antony and Cleopatra* in 2008. Her Off-Broadway credits include the premiere of *Mermaid* by Ellen McLaughlin, *States of Undress* and *A Great Place to Be From* by Norman Lasca. Martin-Cotten's regional credits include Goneril in *King Lear*, *Ghostwritten* by Naomi Iizuka at the Goodman Theatre; Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*, *Bake-off* (Humana Festival of New Plays) at Actors Theatre of Louisville; Paulina in *A Winter's Tale*, Isobelle in *Secret Rapture*, Elsa in *The Deputy*, Portia in *Julius Caesar* at Kansas City Repertory; Hermione in *A Winter's Tale*, Beatrice in *Much Ado about Nothing*, Olivia in *Twelfth Night*, Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Great River Shakespeare (where she was a company member) and Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible* at Perseverance Theatre. Her other credits include *The Laramie Project*, *Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *Duchess* in *The Duchess of Malfi*. She received a Drama Desk Award for her portrayal of Kate in *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Kate Arrington makes her STC debut as Regan. She has worked on Broadway in *The American Plan* and Off-Broadway in *When the Messenger is Hot*, *Far and Wide*, *Everett Beekin*, *Sexy Saint James*, *BOOM*, *Bluebeard* and *Other Less Grisley Tales of Love*. Arrington's regional work includes *The Violet Hour*, *The Well-Appointed Room*, *The Pain and the Itch*, *When the Messenger is Hot*, *Fake* and *A Parallelogram* (upcoming) as a Steppenwolf Theatre company member; *King Lear* at the Goodman Theatre; *The American Plan* and *Hold Please* at the Old Globe, and *The Violet Hour* at South Coast Repertory. She can be seen in the films *The Missing Person*, *The King of Irontown* and received her training from Northwestern University.

Laura Odeh joins STC for the first time to play Cordelia. Odeh's Broadway credits include *The Rivals* for Lincoln Center, and her Off-Broadway credits include *A Body of Water* at Primary Stages; *Aristocrats*, *Gaslight* and *Mrs. Warren's Profession* at the Irish Repertory Theatre; and *King Lear* at the Public Theatre. Her regional work includes *33 Variations* at La Jolla Playhouse and Arena Stage; *King Lear* at the Goodman Theatre; *The Cherry Orchard* at Yale Repertory; *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *The Quick Change Room* and *How I Learned to Drive* at the Actors Theatre; *Popcorn* at Pacific Alliance Stage; and *Heartbreak House* at the Cinnabar Theatre. Odeh has appeared in *Guiding Light* and the films *Love and Other Impossible Pursuits* and *Synecdoche, NY*. She received her training at NYU.

Edward Gero returns to STC to play Gloucester. Gero has appeared onstage with STC in over 70 productions including *King John*, *Macbeth*, *Henry IV* (Helen Hayes Award), *Richard II* (Helen Hayes Award), *Macbeth* (Helen Hayes Award), *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Much Ado about Nothing* and *The Beggar's Opera*. His New York credits include Classic Stage Company and South Street Theatre. Gero's regional credits include Horace Vandergelder in *The Matchmaker* at Center Stage; Gloucester in *King*

Lear at the Goodman Theatre; *Seafarer, John in Shining City* (Helen Hayes nomination) and *Skylight* (Helen Hayes Award) at Studio Theatre; Richard Nixon in *Nixon's Nixon* (Helen Hayes nomination) at Round House Theatre; *The Diaries* at Signature Theatre; Olney Theatre; Arena Stage; Theater J and Barter Theatre. His film credits include *Die Hard 2*, *Striking Distance* and he narrated *Before the Dinosaurs* for which he received an Emmy Award. Gero is a 12 time Helen Hayes Award nominee; four time recipient.

Andrew Long returns to STC to play Albany. Long has appeared as Fainall in *The Way of the World*, Mark Antony in *Julius Caesar* and *Antony and Cleopatra*, Bill Walker in *Major Barbara*, Cosroe in *Tamburlaine*, Mortimer in *Edward II*, Clarence in *Richard III*, Lord Windermere in *Lady Windermere's Fan*, Macduff in *Macbeth*, de Guiche in *Cyrano*, Pistol in *Henry IV, Part 2*, Hotspur in *Henry IV, Part 1*, Claudius in *Hamlet*, Bosola in *The Duchess of Malfi* (Helen Hayes Award nomination), Posa in *Don Carlos*, Bolingbroke in *Richard II*, Coriolanus in *Coriolanus*, Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Edmund in *King Lear* among other roles. Long appeared Off-Broadway as Ben Jonson in *Swansong* and his regional credits include Richard III in *Richard III* at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts; *Gross Indecency* at the Guthrie Theater; Enrico IV in *Enrico IV* (Kevin Kline Award nomination), *Copenhagen* and *Metamorphoses* at Repertory Theatre of St. Louis; *My Fair Lady* and *Saving Aimee* at Signature Theatre; Ralph in *Frozen* (Helen Hayes Award) at Studio Theatre; Arena Stage; Olney Theatre; Chautauqua Theater Company; Round House Theatre; Theater J; Folger Theatre; Cincinnati Playhouse; Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey; Illinois Shakespeare Festival; Alabama Shakespeare Festival; Oregon Shakespeare Festival and others.

King Lear also features **Norman Aronovic** in the ensemble, **David Blixt** as Captain, **Aubrey Deeker** as the King of France, **Conrad Feininger** as Medic, **Chris Genebach** as Cornwall, **Dieterich Gray** as Oswald, **Gary Neal Johnson** as Knight, **Hugh Nees** as Old Man, **Jonno Roberts** as Edmund, **Joaquin Torres** as Edgar and **Howard Witt** as Fool with Stacey Cabaj, Billy Finn, Dan Istrate, Dan Lawrence, William LeDent, Matt Baxter Luceno, Brian MacDonald, Carol Randolph, Jeffrey Scott, Amanda Tudor, Scott Hamilton Westerman.

THE DIRECTOR

Robert Falls has been the artistic director of Goodman Theatre since 1986. Most recently, he directed *Desire Under the Elms* on Broadway and for the Goodman Theatre's critically acclaimed festival "An Exploration: Eugene O'Neill in the 21st Century." His Broadway productions of *Death of a Salesman* and *Long Day's Journey into Night* were honored with seven Tony Awards and three Drama Desk Awards. Last season, he remounted his Tony-nominated Broadway production of *Shining City* for the Goodman and Huntington Theatres. Prior to that, he directed the Tony-nominated Broadway revival of *Talk Radio*. Other Goodman productions include world premieres of *Finishing the Picture*, *Blue Surge*, *Dollhouse*, *Griller*, *Book of the Night*, *The Speed of Darkness*, *On the Open Road* and *Riverview: A Melodrama with Music*, the American premiere of *House and Garden*, *Three Sisters*, *The Night of the Iguana*, *The Misanthrope*, *Pal Joey*, *The Tempest* and a series of landmark collaborations with Brian Dennehy that include *The Iceman Cometh*, *A Touch of the Poet*, *Hughie* and *Galileo*. Other productions include Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida*, *The Young Man from Atlanta* and *The Speed of Darkness* on Broadway; *subUrbia* at Lincoln Center Theater (Obie Award); *The Rose Tattoo* at Circle in the Square; *The Iceman Cometh* at Dublin's Abbey Theatre; and *The Night of the Iguana* at Roundabout Theatre. Falls has also directed for the Guthrie Theater, La Jolla Playhouse, Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Metropolitan Opera and the Grande Théâtre de Genève. In 2003, under Falls' direction, the Goodman was honored by *Time* magazine as the "number one regional theatre in the United States."

THE DESIGNERS

Robert Falls has collaborated with his design team to create a brooding, Eastern European backdrop to this apocalyptic drama. Set designer **Walt Spangler** masterfully presents the grandeur and decay of a dying regime, and **Ana Kuzmanic** designs Serbo-Croatian inspired costumes. The design

team for *King Lear* also includes Lighting Design by **Michael Philippi**, Sound Design by **Richard Woodbury**, Fight Direction by Rick Sordelet, Voice and Text Coaching by **Ellen O'Brien**, Stage Manager **Lloyd Davis, Jr.** and Assistant Stage Manager **Benjamin Royer**.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

There will be **sign-interpreted performances of *King Lear* Saturday, July 11, at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, July 14, at 7:30 p.m. and audio-described performances of *King Lear* Thursday, July 16, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, July 18, at 2 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 you experience theatre through the eyes of its artists. 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 Gretchen Egolf, Robert Sella and Tom Story one week after the opening of their production of Noël Coward's uproarious *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: *King Lear*
by William Shakespeare * Directed by Robert Falls

The Shakespeare Theatre Company concludes its 2008-2009 season with William Shakespeare's ***King Lear*** directed by **Robert Falls** at Sidney Harman Hall (610 F Street NW) from **June 16 to July 19, 2009**. *King Lear* is both an intimate family drama and an explosive political epic. Beginning with a monarch's division of his kingdom amongst his three daughters, Lear explores the most basic questions of human existence: love and duty, power and loss, good and evil. Tony Award winner Robert Falls remounts his 2006 production, which captures both the stark violence and devastating passion of Shakespeare's masterpiece. Stacy Keach will play the title role, returning to STC for the first time since *Macbeth* in 1995.

DATES: June 16–July 19, 2009
Press Night: Sunday, June 21, 2009
Opening Night: Monday, June 22, 2009

LOCATION: Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F 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 July 1.

TICKETS: Prices start at \$35 with discounts available for students, seniors and members of the military.

ACCESSIBILITY: Sidney Harman Hall 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 *King Lear* on Thursday, July 16, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, July 18, at 2 p.m. Sign-Interpreted performances are Saturday, July 11, at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, July 14, at 8 p.m.
- On Sunday, June 21, at 1 p.m., Literary Associate Akiva Fox and members of the artistic staff will lead a lively Windows discussion on *King Lear*. All are welcome. Call 202.547.1122 and press 4 or visit ShakespeareTheatre.org to reserve a space.
- Following the evening performance of *King Lear* on Wednesday, June 24, all are welcome to Sidney Harman Hall 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, July 11, following the 2 p.m. matinee, STC hosts a Classics in Context round table discussion about *King Lear* 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