

For Immediate Release
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Press Contact: Lauren Beyea
202.547.3230 x 2314
LaurenBeyea@ShakespeareTheatre.org

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY'S
2008-2009 SEASON CONTINUES WITH
The Way of the World
BY WILLIAM CONGREVE
DIRECTED BY MICHAEL KAHN**

Production features Veanne Cox and Christopher Innvar

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Shakespeare Theatre Company continues its 2008-2009 season with William Congreve's *The Way of the World* directed by **Michael Kahn** at the Lansburgh Theatre (450 7th Street NW) from **September 30 to November 16, 2008**. Featuring witty repartee in the grand tradition of *The Country Wife* and *The Beaux' Stratagem*, Congreve's delicious comedy of manners reflects on courtship and marriage. Kahn directs a cast that includes **Veanne Cox** as Millamant, **Christopher Innvar** as Mirabell, **Floyd King** as Witwoud, **Andrew Long** as Fainall and **Nancy Robinette** as Lady Wishfort.

"*The Way of the World* is about money, sex, power, appearances and deception, and finally, love," said Michael Kahn. "Mirabell and Millamant love each other, but they endlessly deceive other people, and each other, in order to achieve that love. And that is probably the truest relationship in the play! It's a huge comedy of deception, set in a society that really has money and sex at the heart of its concerns."

Amid the gossip and frivolous love affairs of fashionable London society, the clever and conniving lovers Millamant and Mirabell are determined to pursue a "marriage of true minds." But Millamant's jealous guardian stands in their way. The only way to achieve their goal is to beat the fops, the fools and the resentful rivals at their own game—through double-dealing and outrageous deception.

The Way of the World is sponsored in part by **The Artistic Leadership Fund**. **Washington Flyer** provides promotional support throughout the run.

THE WAY OF THE WORLD CAST

Veanne Cox returns to STC for the first time since *The Beaux' Stratagem*. Cox's Broadway credits include the roles of Rose Stopnick Gellman in *Caroline, or Change*, *Yvonne*

Fouchet in The Dinner Party, Amy in Company (for which she received both Tony and Drama Desk nominations) and Sandra-Kay Macaffee in Smile. Her Off-Broadway credits include performances of A Mother, A Daughter, And A Gun (with Olympia Dukakis); House/Garden; Last Easter (Drama Desk Nomination); The Vagina Monologues; The Altruists; Freedomland; Labor Day; The Batting Cage; A Question of Mercy; The Waiting Room; The Food Chain; and Flora, the Red Menace. Other regional credits include performances with the Kennedy Center, Yale Repertory, Long Wharf Theatre, Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, Actors Theatre of Louisville and others.

Christopher Innvar returns to STC to play Mirabell. Innvar's STC roles include Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew* (Helen Hayes nomination) and Jack Archer in *The Beaux' Stratagem*. His Broadway credits include *110° in the Shade*, several years as Javert in *Les Misérables* and roles in *Victor/Victoria* and *The Threepenny Opera*. His many other New York credits include the title role in Adam Guettel's *Floyd Collins*, *The Fantasticks*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *A Hatful of Rain*, *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* and William Finn's *A New Brain*. Innvar also has performed at such regional theatres as Barrington Stage Company, Atlantic Theatre Company, Steppenwolf, Guthrie Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre and McCarter Theatre, among others.

The Way of the World also features **Colleen Delany** as Foible, **Julie-Ann Elliott** as Mincing, **Barbara Garrick** as Mrs. Fainall and **Deanne Lorette** as Miss Marwood, with **Peter Boyer**, **Stephen J. Hoochuk**, **Doug Rees**, **Todd Scofield** and **J. Fred Shiffman**.

THE DESIGNERS

Michael Kahn and his designers have created a color palate of greens and creams for *The Way of the World*. Tony Award winning costume designer **Jane Greenwood** (*Ghosts*, *Mourning Becomes Electra*) returns to the Shakespeare Theatre Company to design for the production. Greenwood's costumes represent the characters' focus on desire and wealth with lush varying textures and shades of green. Topiary trees add bursts of color to Set Designer **Wilson Chin**'s monochromatic cream-colored set. The slightly toy-like scale of the production's neoclassical chocolate house and sitting rooms was inspired by dollhouses of the 1700s. *The Way of the World* design team also includes Original Music by **Adam Wernick**, Lighting Design by **Charlie Morrison** and Text Coaching by **Gary Logan**.

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PRODUCTION SPONSORS

The Shakespeare Theatre Company is pleased to acknowledge **The Artistic Leadership Fund** as production sponsors for *The Way of the World*. The Artistic Leadership Fund was established by STC Board Chairman Michael R. Klein in order to provide the Shakespeare Theatre Company with the financial support necessary to fulfill its mission to become the nation's leading force in the presentation and preservation of classical theatre. Klein started the fund with a challenge grant of \$200,000, to be matched by gifts of \$25,000 and above, from generous donors who share Michael Kahn and Klein's uncompromising commitment to quality.

MEDIA SPONSOR

For the third year running, **Washington Flyer** magazine has proudly partnered with the Shakespeare Theatre Company. Covering the arts, dining, shopping, sports, local development, bold-faced names, the best in international destinations and more, *Flyer* is both a city guide and a travel magazine, catering to the most cultured audience in the world.

Distributed at both Reagan National and Washington Dulles airports, regional hotel, and to every office on the Hill, *Flyer* reaches a projected readership of 300,000-plus affluent and influential frequent travelers. Flyer's in-airport media platform includes the FLYERTV network, interactive touch-screen information kiosks, and an online travel portal site, washingtonflyer.com. *Washington Flyer* is published by The Magazine Group on behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

There will be audio-described performances of *The Way of the World* on Saturday, October 30, at 8 p.m. and Thursday, November 8, at 2 p.m. Sign-Interpreted performances are Saturday, October 25, at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, October 28, at 7:30 p.m.

On Sunday, October 5 at 1 p.m., members of STC's Artistic staff, Education Department and scholars will lead a lively Windows discussion on *The Way of the World*. All are welcome. Call 202.547.1122 and press 4 or visit ShakespeareTheatre.org to reserve a space.

Following the evening performance of *The Way of the World* on Wednesday, October 8, 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, October 25 following the 2 p.m. matinee, STC sponsors a Classics in Context discussion about *The Way of the World* with local scholars and artists. Call 202.547.1122 and press 4 or visit ShakespeareTheatre.org to reserve a space.

FACT SHEET: *The Way of the World*
By William Congreve * Directed by Michael Kahn

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DATES: September 30-November 16, 2008
Press Night: Sunday, October 5, 2008
Opening Night: Monday, October 6, 2008

LOCATION: Lansburgh Theatre, 450 7th Street NW

TIMES: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (except October 7 and November 4); Thursdays Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. (except October 5); matinee at noon on November 5.

TICKETS: \$23.50-\$79.75 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.

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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