



Monmouth County's Leading Professional Theatre Company

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2002

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Two River Theatre Company Presents OLD WICKED SONGS

The Pulitzer Prize-Nominated Play with Music

RED BANK, NJ – On October 3, Two River Theatre Company will open its 2002-2003 season with the Pulitzer Prize-nominated play, *Old Wicked Songs*. In this deeply moving drama by Jon Marans, a young American musical prodigy, in the middle of a promising career, begins to suffer from creative burnout and finds he can no longer play the piano. Perhaps he never really felt true joy from playing. He journeys to Vienna to study under a world-renowned pianist. There he finds himself confronting his inner demons and the ghosts of the Holocaust. Performing at the *Algonquin Arts Theatre* located at 171 Main Street in Manasquan, the production runs through October 20th.

The year is 1986 and Kurt Waldheim is running for president of Austria. A new wave of anti-Semitism is sweeping the nation. The young pianist comes under the tutelage of Professor Mashkan, who is sly, jovial, witty, and an anti-Semite. *Old Wicked Songs* is a finely nuanced and heartfelt study of the contentious relationship between the two men, who are both forced to confront their particular dark secrets. The play is intertwined with the music of Robert Schumann, creating a lush – almost operatic – dramatic experience.

The young American will be played by Aaron Serotsky, who has appeared in numerous plays at top regional theatres, including Denver Center Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse, and Alliance Theatre, as well as in the national tour of *Titanic*. David Rogers will play the rascally Mashkan. Mr. Rogers has appeared on Broadway and has performed lead roles at Denver Center for the

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Performing Arts, Cincinnati Playhouse, Virginia Stage Company, and other top regional theatres. The play will be directed by TRTC artistic director Jonathan Fox, whose productions with the company include *La Bête* and *Machinal*.

“The play is a wonderful mixture of joy and sorrow, of clever humor and intense dramatic moments,” said Mr. Fox. “The music is brilliantly interwoven through the play, giving it a heightened and thrilling theatricality. It’s a wonderful beginning for our new season.”

Tickets are on sale now for *Old Wicked Songs* at the Algonquin Arts Theatre, 171 Main Street, Manasquan, NJ, running October 3-20, 2002. Tickets range from \$19 to \$35, with prices varying by performance. Senior citizens receive a \$2 discount and tickets for anyone under the age of 26 are \$11 (not available for Saturday evening performances). To order tickets, or for more information, call 732-345-1400 or visit our website at www.tworivertheatre.org.

This program is made possible in part by funds from the NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional funding provided by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Stone Foundation of New Jersey, Ocean First, as well as gifts from many generous individuals and corporations. WBGO/JAZZ 88 is the media sponsor for this series.

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