



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two River Theater Company
Presents
The World Premiere of
The Charlatan's Séance
Created by **Todd Robbins**
October 2 – October 31, 2007

May be too intense for audiences under 13 years.

Red Bank, NJ – Two River Theater Company ushers in the Halloween season with a creepy world premiere event: ***The Charlatan's Séance***. Created and performed by Coney Island's deceptionist extraordinaire **Todd Robbins**, ***The Charlatan's Séance*** is a scary exposé that demystifies the séance while seducing audiences right back into a haunting disbelief. Part *magic*, part *mentalism*, part *shamanism*, and all *sham*. This spine-chilling participatory thrill-ride explores the séance experience as hearts rattle, bells ring, apparitions appear and poltergeists pounce in a haunting and hilarious spiritual chicanery. Performed in the Marion Huber Theater, TRTC's intimate black box venue, ***The Charlatan's Séance*** is slated to run from October 2 through October 31 with performances at 7pm and 10pm plus two midnight performances (Saturday, October 27 and Wednesday, October 31).

"Todd Robbins is a unique impresario who has spent his career exploring the fringes, cul-de-sacs, sideshows and backrooms of performance," explains Aaron Posner, Two River Theater Company's Artistic Director. "He is a walking treasure trove of arcane information and a true connoisseur of the magical, the mystical and the macabre. He is fascinated by those things that mystify us and make us marvel. We are thrilled to have him here."

Creator and Performer TODD ROBBINS, the self-proclaimed post-modern master of the sideshow, has performed on more than 100 television shows including the late night talkfests of Letterman, Leno and Conan O'Brien and the NBC special, *Extreme Variety*. Robbins can be seen on the History Channel, providing insight on a wide range of topics including sideshows, séances, con artists and various arcane forms of vice. Howard Stern has said Robbins "is truly an amazing talent" and Penn and Teller say, "Todd Robbins is a god!"

Robbins, a well known authority on all things deceptive, created the awarding winning off-Broadway show, *Carnival Knowledge*. His discourse on fraud, scams and flimflam, *The Pros of Con*, has been well received in the corporate and college market. A producer of New York's longest running magic show, *Monday Night Magic*, Robbins is often seen there as a featured act or as Master of Ceremonies.

In addition, Robbins has been the ringmaster and star of the Big Apple Circus. And in the world of music, he plays piano with Woody Allen's Jazz Band at the legendary Café Carlyle and has recorded two albums with this group.

The creative team includes scenic designer **WILLIAM BARCLAY** (Broadway: *Solitary Confinement*, *Sally Marr and Her Escorts*. Off-Broadway: *A Shayna Maidel*, *Goblin Market*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, and revivals *Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill*, *Hello Muddah*, *Hello Fadduh*), lighting designer **TYLER MICOLEAU** (Off-Broadway: *Carnival Knowledge*, *Gutenberg! The Musical!*, *At Least It's Pink*, *Hell House*), and sound designer **ZACHARY WILLIAMSON** (TRTC's *Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, *House of Blue Leave*. New York: *Sive*, *The Great White Hope*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*).

GAZOOONIE'S CAFFEINE FIX, TRTC's new lobby **coffee shop**, has been created specifically for the run of *The Charlatan's Séance* and will be open on show nights for the month of October. In addition to coffee and dessert, Gazoonie's Caffeine Fix will feature **live acoustic music** performed by local musicians. Mattel's version of Abe Bookman's 1946 fortune-telling novelty creations will be available for consultation regarding life's most difficult questions. **Gazoonie's Caffeine Fix** will be open an hour before curtain, between shows, and a ½ hour post-performance.

Performances of *The Charlatan's Séance* are Tuesday, October 2 through Sunday, October 7 at 7pm; for the weeks of October 8, 15, and 22 performances are Wednesdays through Sundays at 7pm, with 10pm shows on Friday and Saturday nights; there are performances at 7pm and 10pm on Tuesday and Wednesday October 30 and 31. Plus two midnight performances are scheduled: Saturday, October 27 and Halloween night Wednesday, October 31. Midnight performances are for patrons 18 years and older. **All performances may be too intense for audiences under 13 years.**

The Charlatan's Séance begins previews on Tuesday, October 2; opens Saturday, October 6; and runs through Wednesday, October 31. **Tickets are \$20 - \$30** and are available by calling the TRTC Box Office at **732.345.1400**, online at **www.trtc.org** or by visiting the Box Office at 21 Bridge Avenue in Red Bank. **Discounted group rates** and **dinner / theater packages** are available through the Box Office or by calling TRTC's Sales Line at 732.345.1400 ext 813.

TRTC is accessible to people with disabilities, including wheelchair accessibility, assisted listening devices and large print programs at every performance. Accessible seating is available by reservation. For more information call the Box Office at **732.345.1400**.

WHERE:

Two River Theater Company
21 Bridge Street
Red Bank, NJ 07701

WHEN:

October 2 – October 31, 2007

Members of the reviewing press are invited to the opening night performance of *The Charlatan's Séance* on Saturday, October 6 at 7pm. (NOTE: 7pm performance time!) Please schedule tickets through Jayme Powers, Director of Communications, by phone at **732.345.1400 ext. 830** or via email at **jpowers@trtc.org**.

WHO:Created by **Todd Robbins**Performed by **Todd Robbins**Scenic Design by **William Barclay**Lighting Design by **Tyler Micoleau**Sound Design by **Zachary Williamson**

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TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY is a professional not-for-profit regional theater company, providing outstanding plays and educational programs for audiences of central New Jersey and beyond. TRTC was founded in 1994 by Robert and Joan Rechnitz as Monmouth County's first professional regional theater in 30 years, and over the past 13 seasons has grown into one of the most vital and dynamic arts organizations in the region. Since opening its new theater in May of 2005, TRTC has hosted a number of luminaries and award winners, including Bruce Springsteen, Olympia Dukakis, Jackson Browne, Jon Bon Jovi, Edward Albee, and Sheldon Harnick. In 2006, the company received "Theatre of the Year" awards from both *The Star-Ledger* and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance. TRTC is supported in part by grants from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and contributions from hundreds of local and national corporations, foundations, businesses and individuals. Two River Theater Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance.