

TWO RIVER THEATER

20 TH ANNIVERSARY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 7, 2014

**TWO RIVER THEATER CONTINUES ITS 2013/2014 SEASON WITH SHAKESPEARE'S
ROMANTIC COMEDY AS YOU LIKE IT, DIRECTED BY MICHAEL SEXTON, WITH SONGS
COMPOSED BY BEN TOTH PERFORMED LIVE BY THE COMPANY**

**Two River will also launch a new program, *A Little Shakespeare*, with a 75-minute
version of *As You Like It* performed by high-school students for audiences ages 9 and
up in the Marion Huber Theater from February 4-8**

**Free *Inside Two River* events for *As You Like It* include an Open Rehearsal on Thursday,
January 16; Shakespeare 101 with Artistic Director John Dias on Thursday, January 23; and a
post-play talk by Mary Bly—a scholar also known as the romance novelist Eloisa James—on
Sunday, February 9 following the 3pm matinee; other free events include a screening of Joss
Whedon's film version of *Much Ado About Nothing* on January 13, a Shakespeare-themed
Loser Slam open-mic poetry night on January 27, and Two River's Book Club on February 2**

**Performances: January 25 — February 16 in the Rechnitz Theater
Opening Night: Friday, January 31 at 8pm**

RED BANK, NJ— Two River Theater Company, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, continues its 2013/2014 Season with Shakespeare's romantic comedy *As You Like it*, directed by **Michael Sexton** (Two River's *Henry V*), the Artistic Director of the Shakespeare Society in New York. Performances will begin in Two River's Rechnitz Theater, 21 Bridge Avenue, on **Saturday, January 25**, with the opening night on **Friday, January 31 at 8pm**. The production must close on **Sunday, February 16**. Tickets are available from 732.345.1400 or tworivertheater.org. The lead production sponsor is Monmouth University.

Shakespeare's comedy of cross-dressing heroines and triumphant heroes stars **Miriam A. Hyman** as Rosalind and **Jacob Fishel** (returning to Two River after his highly acclaimed performance as Henry V last season) as Orlando. As the characters of the play move from the constrained world of the Duke's court

into the Forest of Arden, they must learn to confront their own fears and limitations—and surrender to romance. Sexton’s production will showcase the transformative abilities of the acting company, who will also perform original songs composed by **Ben Toth** (*Sleepless in Seattle* at the Pasadena Playhouse) live on stage.

The cast also includes **Matt Bittner** (First Lord/Silvius), **Leighton Bryan** (Le Beau/Phoebe), **Ben Diskant** (Oliver/William), **Philip Goodwin** (Duke Frederick/Duke Senior), **Geoffrey Owens** (Jacques), **Myra Lucretia Taylor** (Adam/Audrey), **Brendan Titley** (Touchstone), **Sara Topham** (Celia/Sir Oliver Martext), and **J.D. Webster** (Charles/Amiens/Corin/Hymen).

The creative team includes scenic designer **Brett J. Banakis**; costume designer **Tilly Grimes**; lighting designer **Seth Reiser**; sound designer **Brandon Wolcott**; music director **Sarah Taylor Ellis**; vocal coach **Deborah Hecht**; and fight director **J. Steven White**. The casting is by **Samantha Barrie, CSA** and the stage manager is **Terri K. Kohler**.

“I first thought of *As You Like It* for this season as a great play for Michael Sexton and Jacob Fishel, who collaborated so beautifully last year on our production of *Henry V*. And, I wanted to bring our audiences a romantic comedy and a bit of lightness,” says Artistic Director John Dias. “With our new *A Little Shakespeare* program and the breadth of events we are offering through *Inside Two River*, we affirm our commitment to foster a love for Shakespeare among all audiences. My grand ambition is to have some Shakespeare resonating in every corner of our theater and to get everyone in our community turned on to the thrill of his exquisite language.”

Ticket Information

Ticket prices range from \$37 to \$65, with discounts available for groups, seniors, and U.S. military personnel, their families, and veterans. A limited number of \$20 tickets are available for every performance; \$20 tickets may be partial view. Tickets for patrons under 30 are \$24 and include the best available seats at every performance. Tickets are available from tworivertheater.org or 732.345.1400.

A Little Shakespeare

From February 4-8, during the run of *As You Like It*, Two River will present a 75-minute version of the play adapted and directed by Jason McDowell-Green in its black-box Marion Huber Theater for audiences ages 9 and up. The production, performed by high-school students, will also feature live original music. In addition to four student matinees, there will be performances open to the general public on Friday, February 7 at 7pm and Saturday, February 8 at 12pm and 4pm.

Inside Two River

Inside Two River is a series of free events specially curated for each Two River Theater production. For more information or to reserve seats, patrons should visit tworivertheater.org or call 732.345.1400.

Film Screening: *Much Ado About Nothing* on Monday, January 13 at 7:30pm in the Rechnitz Theater
Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* (seen on Two River's stage in 2011/12) gets a sly and sparkling modern retelling in this 2012 release, adapted and directed by Joss Whedon.

Open Rehearsal: Thursday, January 16 at 7:30pm in the Rechnitz Theater

Director Michael Sexton and actors Jacob Fishel (Orlando) and Miriam A. Hyman (Rosalind) will give audiences insight into how they approach Shakespeare's text and language in a free open rehearsal, followed by coffee and dessert.

Shakespeare 101 with Artistic Director John Dias: Thursday, January 23 at 7:30pm in the Victoria J. Mastrobuono Library

Artistic Director John Dias will discuss how directors and designers make choices about sets and costumes, and how actors learn to speak Shakespeare's heightened language in a way that makes it accessible to audiences. Questions may be submitted in advance on Two River's Facebook Page.

Shakespearian Lose Slam Poetry Event: Monday, January 27 at 7:00pm in the Victoria J. Mastrobuono Library

Two River Theater is hosting Loser Slam open-mic nights throughout the season. In connection with *As You Like It*, the public is invited to attend to perform or to listen to poets and spoken-word artists perform original work on the subject of romance—or something creatively Bard-themed.

Book Club: *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern; Sunday, February 2 at 6:00pm in the Victoria Mastrobuono Library

Literary Manager Anika Chapin will lead a discussion of *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern, and how its themes of love, disguise, and finding one's own true self overlap with *As You Like It*.

Guest Speaker: Mary Bly/Eloisa James, Sunday, February 9 following the 3pm matinee performance in the Rechnitz Theater

Mary Bly is a professor of Shakespeare at Fordham University —and, under the pen name Eloisa James, a bestselling romance novelist. She'll discuss love and drama in a special post-play discussion.

Lobby Display: Shakespeare Starts of the Jersey Shore

Local historian Karen L. Schnitzspahn will curate a special lobby display of memorabilia about great Shakespearean actors who summered in Monmouth County during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Audience Extras

Before Play: Audiences are invited to attend a free lecture about this production that will take place in the lobby 45 minutes before every performance.

Post-Play Conversations: Discussions with the cast will take place following the performances on Wednesday, February 5 at 7pm and Wednesday, February 12 at 1pm.

Accessibility

Working with Google, Two River has created and launched a virtual tour of its facility, which lives on Google Maps and tworivertheater.org. This virtual tour provides an additional level of support and benefit for patrons who use wheelchairs or require other assistance by allowing them to virtually come through the theater's front doors and view the space in detail in advance of their visit.

An audio-described performance is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12 at 1pm; tickets to this performance are offered at the discounted rate of \$25 for patrons needing audio description. An **open-captioned performance** is scheduled for Saturday, February 16 at 3pm. Tickets to this performance are offered at the discounted rate of \$25 for patrons needing open captions. To reserve wheelchair-accessible seating or tickets for a performance listed above, patrons should call 732.345.1400.

Full Performance Calendar

Saturday, January 25 at 8pm
Sunday, January 26 at 3pm
Tuesday, January 28 at 8pm
Wednesday, January 29 at 7pm
Thursday, January 30 at 8pm
Friday, January 31 at 8pm (opening)
Saturday, February 1 at 3pm and 8pm
Sunday, February 2 at 3pm
Wednesday, February 5 at 1pm and 7pm
Thursday, February 6 at 10 am (student matinee) and 8pm
Friday, February 7 at 8pm
Saturday, February 8 at 3pm and 8pm
Sunday, February 9 at 3pm
Wednesday, February 12 at 1pm and 7pm
Thursday, February 13 at 10 am (student matinee) and 8pm
Friday, February 14 at 8pm
Saturday, February 15 at 3pm and 8pm
Sunday, February 16 at 3pm

Sponsors

The Lead Production Sponsor of *As You Like It* is Monmouth University. The Lead Family Program Sponsor of *A Little Shakespeare* is the Unterberg Children's Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center. *Inside Two River* is sponsored by The William T. Morris Foundation. The *Before Play* series is sponsored by Zager Fuchs, PC.

Two River Theater's 20th Anniversary Season is supported in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a division within the Department of State and a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Chicago Community Trust, The Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, Jewish Communal Fund, New Tamarind Fund, The Columbus Foundation, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Stone Foundation of New Jersey, Monmouth University, The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, Durso Wealth Management Group at Morgan Stanley, Wells Fargo, Investors Bank, Monmouth Medical Center, The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, Springpoint Senior Living Foundation at the Atrium at Navesink Harbor, and many other generous foundations, corporations and individuals.

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Two River Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, is celebrating its 20th Anniversary of creating great American theater by developing and producing new works and world masterpieces. We cultivate an audience that cherishes the intimate joy of theater, enriched when shared by a community of others. Two River Theater supports adventurous theater artists and the development of new work making a sustained investment in the creative process, and cultivates a new generation of theatergoers through arts education programs. Two River Theater is a member of the League of Resident Theaters (LORT), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, and ArtPride New Jersey, and has been designated a "Major Arts Institution" by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. For more information, visit tworivertheater.org.