



Press Contact:
Stephanie Coen, Associate Artistic Director
scoen@trtc.org or 732.345.1400 ext. 1829
Box Office: 732.345.1400 or www.trtc.org

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TWO RIVER THEATER IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR ITS 2012-2013 METRO SCHOLARS PROGRAM, A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH-SCHOOL JUNIORS TO ASSIST THE THEATER'S STAFF, TAKE MASTER CLASSES, AND SEE EVERY SHOW IN THE SEASON FOR FREE

RED BANK, NJ— Two River Theater Company, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, is accepting applications through Wednesday, May 2 for its Metro Scholars program, a year-long opportunity for high school students from across the state of New Jersey to be part of the work of Two River Theater. The program, which is free for participating students, is open to current high school sophomores who will be juniors during the 2012-13 school year.

“The Metro Scholars program engages a wide range of students with many different interests, but who all want to learn about the professional theater,” says Kate Cordaro, Two River’s Director of Education. “Many of our past Metro Scholars have gone on to attend some of the country’s best training programs and pursue a career in the performing arts; others just enjoy the creative opportunities of working behind the scenes. All of the students make a significant contribution to Two River during their time here, and enjoy the benefits of conversations with artists, learning from theater professionals, and being part of the daily work of the theater.”

Each season, the Metro Scholars assist Two River Theater’s staff in departments including Artistic, Development, Marketing, and Production. In addition to seeing every show at Two River for free, the students participate in moderated conversations following each production, and take specially designed master classes with professionals working at the theater.

In 2011-12, the Metro Scholar master classes included workshops on Shakespeare with classical actor Michel Cumpsty, who played Benedick in Two River’s production of *Much Ado About Nothing*; creating a solo theater piece with Nilaja Sun, the writer and performer of *No Child...*; analyzing the plays of August Wilson with Kamilah Forbes, the assistant director of *Jitney*; and “acting a song” with Chuck Cooper, star of both *Jitney* and the new musical *In This House*. In connection with the theater’s holiday show, the Metro Scholars explored props, puppetry, and family theater with teaching artist Morgan Eckert.

To apply, interested students should write a statement of purpose, submit a recommendation from a teacher or guidance counselor, and take part in an audition/interview focused on one of the following categories: acting, design, or technical theater/stage management. Details about the applications requirements are available on http://www.trtc.org/education/metro_scholars.php.

The deadline for applications is Wednesday, May 2 at 6pm. Auditions and interviews will take place on Wednesday, May 9 and Thursday, May 10 from 4pm-8pm. Applicants will be notified via email to schedule a specific audition date and time.

In addition to the Metro Scholars program, Two River Theater offers numerous education initiatives for students from grades K-12 that introduce young people to the theater and foster opportunities for them to engage with artists. Affiliated teaching artists help support academic achievement through classroom residencies, and productions created by students are regularly performed at Two River before audiences of invited guests, the public, and their peers. To support a new generation of theater-goers, Two River offers discounted or subsidized tickets for youth to attend its productions. The theater also contributes to the growth of the field through innovative training opportunities for young people and emerging artists.

Two River Theater's education programs are sponsored in part by The Stone Foundation of New Jersey and Bank of America Foundation.

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TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY is under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst. Founded in 1994 by Joan and Dr. Robert M. Rechnitz, 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 www.trtc.org.