



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two River Theater Company
presents
Garden of Earthly Delights

Conceived and directed by **Martha Clarke**
Music composed by **Richard Peaslee**
Flying by **Foy**

September 3 – September 14, 2008

Red Bank, NJ – Two River Theater Company opens the 2008/2009 season with ***Garden of Earthly Delights*** – a provocative remounting of visionary artist Martha Clarke’s masterpiece. In a breathtaking flight of imaginative genius, Hieronymus Bosch’s provocative painting comes to life in this groundbreaking exploration of heaven, hell, and the seven deadly sins. Hailed by Robert Brustein of *The New Republic* as “one of the most significant works of postwar American theatrical art,” this magnificent masterwork is sexy, stunning, disturbing, and evocative. ***Garden of Earthly Delights*** runs for a limited engagement in Red Bank from **Wednesday, September 3** through **Sunday, September 14** before heading straight to New York City for an open-ended run at the Minetta Lane Theatre.

“I am thrilled to have creative artists of this caliber working here. The performers are some of the best in the country,” says TRTC Artistic Director **Aaron Posner**. “Martha Clarke is a true visionary and innovator, and the designers she has assembled might be the most prestigious group of designers to work at a regional theater in America this season. It is a gift and joy to have them here, and we are proud to offer them the playground and crucible they need to mount this remarkably provocative performance.”

"The triptych depicts the progression of sin from creation to hell, as well as a journey from innocence to chaos," says **Director Martha Clarke**. "Its visceral theatricality presents an astonishing spectrum of human experience and emotion. *Garden of Earthly Delights*, with its eroticism and apocalyptic vision, is certainly as meaningful today as when Bosch created it."

Clarke's multi-faceted career spans theater, dance, and opera. Honored with the prestigious MacArthur Genius Award, Clarke has also received grants from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. She won the Drama Desk Award, two Obie Awards, and the L.A. Critics Award. She has been the subject of a film for PBS, *Martha Clarke, Light and Dark*, and her *Garden of Earthly Delights* was filmed by the BBC. Her *Kaos*, presented at New York Theatre Workshop, was awarded the first Tony Randall Foundation Award in 2006. As a director, Clarke's original productions include *Vienna: Lusthaus*, *Miracolo d'amore*, *Endangered Species*, *An Uncertain Hour*, *The Hunger Artist*, and *Vers la flame*. She directed Christopher Hampton's *Alice's Adventures Underground* at the Royal National Theatre in London. She also directed *The Magic Flute* for the Glimmerglass Opera and the Canadian Opera Company; Tan Dun's *Marco Polo* for the Munich Biennale, the Hong-Kong Festival and the New York City Opera; and Gluck's *Orfeo and Euridice* for the English National Opera and the New York City Opera. Clarke was a founding member of Pilobolus Dance Theatre and has choreographed for the Nederlands Dans Theater, the Joffrey Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Rambert Dance Company, and The Martha Graham Company.

The work of **Composer Richard Peaslee**, Obie Award winner for *Garden of Earthly Delights*, includes *The Marat/Sade*, *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, *Oedipus and US* for Peter Brook and the Royal Shakespeare Company, *Animal Farm* for Sir Peter Hall and London's Royal National Theatre, *Vienna Lusthaus* and *Miracolo d'Amore* for Martha Clarke.

Both **Scenic Design** and **Lighting Design** are by Tony Award winner **Christopher Akerlind** who has worked with Martha Clarke on a number of projects including *Kaos*, *Sueno*, and *Belle Epoch*. His work on Broadway includes *110 In The Shade*, *Talk Radio*, *Shining City*, *Well, Awake and Sing* (Tony nomination), *Rabbit Hole*, *In My Life*, *The Light In The Piazza* (Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle Awards), *Reckless*, *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*, *Seven Guitars* (Tony nomination), *Philadelphia, Here I Come!*, and *The Piano Lesson*. In

addition to the Tony Award, Akerlind has received an Obie for Sustained Excellence and the Michael Merritt Award for Design and Collaboration.

Costume Designer Jane Greenwood has been designing on Broadway for more than 40 years. Nominated for 14 Tony Awards, Ms. Greenwood has received the Irene Sharaff Lifetime Achievement Award, the Maharam Award, two Lortel Awards, and the Helen Hayes Life Achievement Award. She was inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame in 2003. Productions include *Prelude to a Kiss*, *Our Leading Lady*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *On Golden Pond*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Retreat From Moscow*, *The Violet Hour*, *Salome*, *Tartuffe*, *Fortune's Fool*, *Mornings at Seven*, *Major Barbara*, *The Pimpernel*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *Master Class*, *Passion*, *She Loves Me!*, *The Heiress*, *The Sisters Rosensweig*, *Plenty*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Medea*, *Burton's Hamlet*, and *The Ballad of the Sad Café*. Operas include *Dialogue of the Carmelites* and *The Great Gatsby* for the Metropolitan, and *Nabucco* and *Rigoletto* for the Chicago Lyric. Films include *Arthur*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, and *Oleanna*. She is also a professor at the Yale School of Drama.

Flying By Foy has provided theatrical flying effects for thousands of stage productions, musicals, operas, ballets, rock concerts, film and television shows worldwide. The company has flown three Broadway productions of *Peter Pan* (with Mary Martin in 1954, Sandy Duncan in 1979, and Cathy Rigby in 1990) and originated the flying for *Angels in America*, *Tommy*, *Aida* and *The Lion King*, among others. Foy flew Nadia Comaneci from the NASDAQ Building 170' over Times Square for the 2004 Olympic Torch Relay Event in New York. Recent Broadway projects include *Man of LaMancha* and *Dracula the Musical*.

The cast of eleven includes **Kurt Froman** (Broadway and National Tour of Twyla Tharp's *Movin' Out*), **Gener I McArthur Hambrick** (Broadway and National touring companies of *Cats*, *Miss Saigon*, and *Phantom of the Opera*), **Marjorie Folkman** (former member of the Mark Morris Dance Group), **Jennifer Nugent** (former member of David Dorman Dance), former principal and soloist with The Joffrey Ballet **Jenny Sandler**, **Isadora Wolfe** (Berkshire Theatre Festival's *Peter Pan*), **Benjamin G. Bowman**, **Sophie Bortolusi** (Martha Clarke's *Kaos*), **Gabrielle Malone** (Twyla Tharp, the Metropolitan Opera Ballet), **Whitney V. Hunter** (Martha Graham Dance Company, plus theater *Delusion of the Fury*, *Orunmila*), and California native **Matt Rivera** (National Tours of *Movin' Out* and *Swing!*). **Full cast bios are included at the end of this release.**

Percussionist **Arthur Solari** serves as Musical Director for the band. Solari specializes in avant-garde music and is a member of the New Jersey Percussion Ensemble, New Jersey New Music Ensemble, The Left Hand Path Ensemble, and the electro-acoustic group Amalgam. Wind instruments will be played by Cirque du Soleil musician **Wayne Hankin** (*Varekai*, *Solstrum*, *Delirium*; Broadway: *Band in Berlin*) and international jazz clarinetist **Bohdan Hilash**. New York **Cellist Egil Rostad**, who has performed with the Alvin Ailey II Company and appeared on PBS, rounds out the four-piece ensemble.

Garden of Earthly Delights will run **Wednesday, September 3** through **Sunday, September 14**. Tickets are \$45 - \$55. Subscriptions and single tickets for the 2008/2009 season are now on sale. Subscription prices range from \$136 - \$240 and are discounted at least **20%**. For more information, call **732.345.1400**, visit www.trtc.org or visit the **Two River Theater Company Box Office**, located at 21 Bridge Avenue in Red Bank. Box Office Hours: Monday-Saturday: 10am-6pm; Sunday: Noon-5pm

Post-show discussions are scheduled following the matinee performances on Sunday, September 7 at 3pm and Wednesday, September 10 at 1pm; and following the evening performance on Friday, September 12 at 8pm. **Discounted group rates** and **dinner / theater packages** are available through the Box Office or by calling TRTC's Community Relations Manager, Brian Holland, 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**.

Garden of Earthly Delights is produced by arrangement with **Alan Schuster, Margaret Cotter, Martin Davis, Davo Entertainment LLC, and Barbara Foy**. *Garden of Earthly Delights* was made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts' American Masterpieces: Dance initiative, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts. Funding is provided in part by the Neptune Marriott/Residence Inn.

CALENDAR NOTICE Special Events for *Garden of Earthly Delights*:

Friday, September 5 – Opening Night performance of *Garden of Earthly Delights* at 8pm followed by a post-show celebration in the theater's lobby (or weather permitting, outside on the plaza).

Saturday, September 6 at 5pm – *Artist Insight Exploring Garden of Earthly Delights* panel discussion with featured guest **Martha Clarke** moderated by **Deborah Jowitt**. Free and open to the public, reservations recommended.

Sunday, September 7, 3pm; Wednesday, September 10, 1pm; Friday, September 12, 8pm – Post-show discussions led by a member of the artistic staff will follow each performance. Martha Clarke will be a featured guest at the discussions on **September 7** and **September 12**.

Wednesday, September 10 at 2:15pm – *Artist Insight Exploring Garden of Earthly Delights* panel discussion with featured guest **Martha Clarke** moderated by **Elizabeth Zimmer**. Held at **Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University**, New Brunswick, Nicholas Music Center Theater, Room 110. Free and open to the public, reservations recommended.

Members of the press are invited to the opening night performance of *Garden of Earthly Delights* on **Friday, September 5 at 8pm**. Please schedule tickets through Jayme Powers, Director of Communications, by phone at **732.345.1400 ext. 830** or via email at jpowers@trtc.org.

WHERE:

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

WHEN:

September 3 – September 14, 2008

WHO:

Conceived, directed and choreographed by **Martha Clarke**
Music composed by **Richard Peaslee**
Scenic Design and Lighting Design by **Christopher Akerlind**
Costume Design by **Jane Greenwood**
Flying by **Foy**
Flying Consultant **David Hale**
Musical Direction by **Arthur Solari**
Production Stage Management by **Sarah Izzo**

Performers

Sophie Bortolussi
Benjamin G. Bowman
Marjorie Folkman
Kurt Froman
General McArthur Hambrick
Whitney V. Hunter
Gabrielle Malone
Jennifer Nugent
Matt Rivera
Jenny Sandler
Isadora Wolfe

Musicians

Wayne Hankin
Bohdan Hilash
Egil Rostad
Arthur Solari

Understudies

Ann Chiaverini
Gino Grenek

Swing

Luke Hillard Miller

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Cast bios:

Sophie Bortolusi was born in France where she began her training in modern, contemporary and improvisation dance. In New York, she has danced for Spring Lake Productions / Martha Clarke, the Martha Graham Dance Company, Drastic Action, Nu Dance Theater, AMDaT, the Martha Graham Dance Ensemble and Tysan Dance. Sophie has been working with Martha Clarke for three years, and in addition to *Garden of Earthly Delights*, she has performed in *Kaos* at the New York Theater Workshop. Ms. Bortolussi has a degree in Philosophy from University of Paris 8, France.

Benjamin G. Bowman received his dance training at the North Carolina School of the Arts, the School of American Ballet, the San Francisco Ballet School and Coaching from Eckhart Heidrich. His professional credits include tenures with the Kansas City Ballet, Fort Worth Ballet, New York City Ballet and Twyla Tharp Dance. Other performing credits include musical theater with Casa Manana, North Shore Music Theater, Ogunquit Playhouse and the Cape Playhouse. He has also appeared in plays at Theater Row (NYC) and portrayed Danny "The Gainesville Ripper" Rolling for TK Digital Productions' *World's Amazing Stories*.

Marjorie Folkman danced as a member of the Mark Morris Dance Group for nine years. She also performed with choreographers Sara Rudner, Kraig Patterson, Amy Spencer and Richard Colton, Neta Pulvermacher, and Sally Hess, among others. A *summa cum laude* graduate of Barnard College, Folkman is completing research for a Masters degree in American history at Columbia University. Recent projects of her own choreography include Opéra Français de New York's *Mephisto Project*, Bargemusic's *Fandango Quintet*, and for 2009, Boston Baroque's *Pygmalion*.

Kurt Froman, a Texas native and identical twin, was the first recipient of the Rudolf Nureyev Scholarship for promising male dancers. New York City Ballet for over seven years performing internationally in over 65 ballets; leading role in both the Broadway and National Tour of Twyla Tharp's *Movin' Out*; performed the featured role in the City Center Encores! production of *Juno* directed by Gary Hynes, performed principal roles with the Suzanne Farrell Ballet at the Kennedy Center Opera House; danced with the Metropolitan Opera and Little Orchestra Society in Lincoln Center; leading role in the 2006 NYMF show *Common Grounds* and *DanceBreak '07*; featured dancer in the *National City Stars of Ballet and Broadway*; various TV and commercials (*SNL*, *Ugly Betty*, *Guiding Light*, *Temps* pilot, several *Live From Lincoln Center* telecasts); various film (*Across the Universe* directed by Julie Taymor, *Center Stage*); various print (ads for Converse and Pfizer, NYTimes Magazine, Vogue Italia, City Magazine, Shape Magazine), and featured story in the book *Twins* by Ruth and Rachel Sandweiss.

Genera I McArthur Hambrick, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, has his BFA from Texas Christian University. Dance companies include Fort Worth Ballet, Hartford Ballet, and Minnesota Dance Theatre. His musical theater credits include both the Broadway and National touring companies of *Cats*, *Miss Saigon*, *Phantom of the Opera*. He has also toured as Richie in *A Chorus Line*. His television credits include guest vocalist with Della Reese in the PBS special *With Ozzie and Ruby: Life Is*.

Whitney V. Hunter has a BFA in Theatre Arts/Dance from Howard University. He has danced with Kankouran West African Dance Company, Reggie Wilson, Rod Rodgers, Pascal Rioult, and Martha Graham Dance Company. His work in theater includes *Delusion of the Fury* / The Japan Society '07, Adam in *Garden of Earthly Delights* / ADF, '07, Ogun in *Orunmila* / National Black Theatre, '08. He is also the Artistic Director of HUNTERDance Theater.

Gabrielle Malone trained at The New World School of the Arts in Miami under the direction of Danny Lewis. In Florida, Gabrielle worked with Mary Street Dance Theater, Gerri Houlihan and Dancers, and Gary Lunds Dance Waves. In New York, she performed with Twyla Tharp, Irene Hultman, Jamie Bishton, Stephen Petronio, Lar Lubavitch, Martha Clarke, and the Metropolitan Opera Ballet.

Jennifer Nugent is originally from Miami, Florida. She was a member of David Dorman Dance from 1999-2007, receiving a BESSIE in 2006 for her performing work with the company. Jennifer has worked with Daniel Lepkoff, Lisa Race, Bill Young, Colleen Thomas, Shen Wei, Nina Winthrop, Yin Mei, Gerri Houlihan & Dancers, and Mary Street Dance Theatre. Jennifer continuously collaborates with Paul Matteson and is a 2008–2009 Artist in Residence through Movement Research.

Matt Rivera grew up in Long Beach, CA. First National Tours of *Movin' Out* and *Swing!* and the fourth National Tour of *Cats*. He has performed Off-Broadway in *Romola* and *Nijinsky* at Primary Stages. He has danced with Hubbard St Dance Chicago, Feld Ballets/NY, and Twyla Tharp's THARP! This spring Matt was seen in New York City Opera's production of *Candide* and was most recently seen in North Shore Music Theater's production of *Contact*.

Jenny Sandler was born and raised in New York City where she trained at the School of American Ballet and the Joffrey Ballet School. She danced principal and soloist roles with The Joffrey Ballet for eight years. She has also danced with Boston Ballet, Ballet Hispanico, Naomi Goldberg, Margo Sappington and The Metropolitan Opera. Ms. Sandler was rehearsal assistant to director/ choreographer Karole Armitage for Gotham Chamber Opera's production of *Ariadne Unhinged* and performed in Brian Kulick's production of *The Winter's Tale* in The Public Theater's Shakespeare in The Park.

Isadora Wolfe, of Lowell, Massachusetts, trained with the Boston Ballet School before graduating from NYU with the JS Seidman Award. She has performed nationally and internationally with choreographers such as Gerald Casel, Mark Dendy, Fiona Marcotty, Neta Pulvermacher, Colleen Thomas, Tami Stronach, and Johannes Wieland. She was a guest artist with the Staatstheater Kassel in Germany last year. Isadora has acted in several productions, including the title role in Berkshire Theatre Festival's *Peter Pan*.

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 and over the past 14 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, Sheldon Harnick, and the African Children's Choir. The company received Theatre of the Year awards from the New Jersey Theatre Alliance in 2006, and from *The Star-Ledger* in both 2006 and 2008. 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. Continental Airlines is TRTC's official airline. Two River Theater Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance.