

ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Nicole Lane
nlane@artistsrep.org
503.241.9807x102(o) | 360.601.4298(c)

David Ives “translaptation” of French Comedy *The Liar* by Pierre Corneille Big laughs to close out Artists Rep’s 2014/15 season

WHO: Artists Repertory Theatre

WHAT: Mainstage production of *The Liar* by David Ives, adapted from the comedy by Pierre Corneille

WHEN: May 26 – June 21, 2015 | **Opening Night is FRIDAY, May 29***

WHERE: Artists Repertory Theatre – Alder Stage, 1516 SW Alder St. Portland, OR 97205

TICKETS: \$25-\$55; Students, under 25 tickets \$25

- Pay-What-You-Can first preview performance: Tuesday, May 26
- Preview performances: Tuesday – Friday, May 26 – May 28
- Regular run: Wednesday-Sunday at 7:30pm and Sundays at 2pm
- Additional performances: Wednesday, June 10 at 11am; Saturday, June 20 at 2pm (ASL interpreted performance)
- Buy tickets: 503.241.1278 or www.artistsrep.org

SHOW IMAGE: Attached. Photo by David Straub. Featuring Gilberto Martin Del Campo

PRODUCTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE: May 27

** Due to the Starlight Parade, Opening Night has been moved from Saturday to Friday for this production.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 11, 2015. Artists Repertory Theatre will bring its 2014/15 season to a close with *The Liar*, an adaptation of Pierre Cornielle’s 17th Century French comedy from the brilliant mind of David Ives, a playwright best known for hilarious adaptations and plays such as *All In The Timing* and *Venus in Fur*.

“My version of the play is what I call a ‘translaptation,’ i.e., a translation with a heavy dose of adaptation,” wrote Ives in the playbill for the 2010 world premiere production at Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, DC. “Everything about [this play] spoke to me. The rippling language. The rich simplicity of the premise. The gorgeousness of the set pieces. The seeming insouciance of the treatment alongside the classical rigor of the plotting. The way the play’s wide understanding and humanity was nicely seasoned with several large pinches of social satire.”

“Our purpose with *The Liar* is pure, irresistible fun – Ives finds a way to make iambic pentameter and rhyming couplets feel fresh, modern and effortlessly accessible,” said Dámaso Rodriguez, Artists Rep’s Artistic Director who is directing the play. “We’ve added to the mix a cast of some of the funniest and most charismatic young actors in Portland and a bold, totally irreverent design that’s one part Three Musketeers and a little bit Rock ‘n’ Roll.”

“Astonishingly fresh, funny, and totally appealing to modern audiences.” —Washington Examiner

“I laughed so hard that I was sore the next day... Mr. Ives has come up with a play in which the laughs flow freely and joyously.” —Wall Street Journal

ABOUT THE PLAY

From the brilliant, comedic mind of David Ives (*All in the Timing*, *Venus in Fur*) comes a hilarious “translaptation” of this 17th Century French romp, replete with wild misassumptions, mistaken identities and tangled truths. Played out in outrageously clever verse, expect lightning-fast pace, anachronistic twists and a hip cast, with plenty of nods to Corneille’s neo-classical original.

The Liar is a farcical play by Pierre Corneille that was first performed in 1644. It was based on *La Verdad Sospechosa* by the Spanish-American playwright Juan Ruíz de Alarcón, which was published in 1634. Davis Ives' adaptation made its world premiere in 2010 at Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, DC.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Pierre Corneille (June 6, 1606 – October 1, 1684) was a French tragedian, and one of the three great seventeenth-century French dramatists, along with Molière and Racine. As a young man, he earned the valuable patronage of Cardinal Richelieu, who was trying to promote classical tragedy along formal lines, but later quarrelled with him, especially over his best-known play *Le Cid* about a medieval Spanish warrior, which was denounced by the newly-formed *Académie française* for breaching the unities. He continued to write well-received tragedies for nearly 40 years.

ABOUT THE ADAPTOR

David Ives first came to wide notice in the theatre with his one-act plays, of which he has written over three dozen both for theatre and the radio. The greater part of them are collected in the anthologies *All In The Timing* (originally an evening of six one-acts that won of the Outer Critics Circle Playwriting Award), *Time Flies*, and *The Other Woman and Other Short Plays*. He has been included in the Best Short Plays series seven times to date. His full-length plays include *Venus In Fur*; *The Liar* (adapted from Corneille’s comedy, and winner of the Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play); *The Heir Apparent* (adapted from J-F. Regnard’s comedy); *New Jerusalem: The Interrogation of Baruch de Spinoza* (winner of the Hull-Warriner Award); *The School for Lies* (adapted from Molière’s *The Misanthrope*); *Is He Dead?* (adapted from Mark Twain); *Irving Berlin’s White Christmas*; *Ancient History*; *Don Juan in Chicago*; *The Land of Cockaigne*; and *Polish Joke*. He has translated Feydeau’s *A Flea In Her Ear* (winner of a Joseph Jefferson Award) as well as Yasmina Reza’s *A Spanish Play*, wrote the libretto of an opera (*The Secret Garden*, with music by Greg Pliska, which premiered at the Pennsylvania Opera Theatre in 1991), and has adapted 32 shows for New York’s celebrated Encores! series of American musicals in concert. He is also the author of three young-adult novels: *Monsieur Eek*, *Scrib*, and *Voss*. A former Guggenheim Fellow in playwriting and a graduate of Yale School of Drama, he lives in New York City. He is on the Council of the Dramatists Guild of America.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Dámaso Rodriguez is in his second year as Artistic Director of Artists Rep. He is a Co-Founder of the Los Angeles-based Furious Theatre Company, where he served as Co-Artistic Director from 2001-2012. From 2007-2010 he served as Associate Artistic Director of the Pasadena Playhouse. His directing credits include work at Artists Rep, the Pasadena Playhouse, Intiman Theatre, South Coast Repertory, Laguna Playhouse, A Noise Within, The Theatre@Boston Court, Naked Angels and Furious Theatre. Dámaso is a recipient of the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award, the Back Stage Garland Award, the NAACP Theatre Award, and the Pasadena Arts Council's Gold Crown Award, and his productions have been nominated for multiple LA Weekly Theatre Awards and LA Stage Alliance Ovation Awards. In 2012, he was honored by the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation as a Finalist for the Zelda Fichandler Award. He is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC). Recent directorial credits at Artists Rep include Nina Raine's *Tribes, Exiles* by Carlos Lácámara, the U.S. Premiere of Dawn King's *Foxfinder*, and the West Coast premieres of Dan LeFranc's *The Big Meal* and Jeffrey Hatcher's *Ten Chimneys*. Other credits include Ruth & Augustus Goetz' *The Heiress* (starring Richard Chamberlain), Lillian Hellman's *The Little Foxes* (starring Kelly McGillis) and Austin Pendleton's *Orson's Shadow* (starring Sharon Lawrence) at the Pasadena Playhouse; the reading of Steven Drukman's *The Prince of Atlantis* for the Pacific Playwrights Festival at South Coast Repertory, Clifford Odets' *Paradise Lost* at Intiman Theatre; Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit*, Tennessee Williams' *The Eccentricities of a Nightingale*, Eugene O'Neill's *Desire Under the Elms*, Bernard Shaw's *The Doctor's Dilemma* at A Noise Within. Furious Theatre credits include the Los Angeles premieres of Craig Wright's *Grace*, Peter Sinn Nachtrieb's *Boom* and *Hunter Gatherers*, Bruce Norris' *The Pain and the Itch*, Yussef El Guindi's *Back of the Throat*, Richard Bean's *The God Botherers*, Neil LaBute's *The Shape of Things*, and the world premieres of Alex Jones' *Canned Peaches in Syrup* and Matt Pelfrey's *An Impending Rupture of the Belly* and *No Good Deed*, among others. More information at www.damasorodriguez.com/.

CAST

Chris Murray* – Dorante
Allen Nause^* – Geronte
John San Nicolas^* – Cliton
Amy Newman^* – Clarice
Chantal DeGroat* – Lucrece
Gilberto Martin del Campo^+ – Alcippe
Vin Shambry^* – Philiste
Val Landrum^* – Isabelle/Sabine

CREATIVE TEAM

Dámaso Rodriguez – Director
Susan Gratch – Scenic Designer
Bobby Brewer Wallin – Costume Designer
Brent J. Sullivan – Lighting Designer
Rodolfo Ortega^ – Composer/ Sound Designer
Natalie Rae Heikkinen – Props Designer
Jonathan Cole – Fight Director
Carol Ann Wohlmutter* – Production Stage Manager
Linda Alper^* – Assistant Director
Jessica Evans Irvine – Production Assistant
Board Op – Dave Petersen

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers

+ Equity Membership Candidate

^ Artists Rep Resident Artist

ABOUT ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

Portland's premiere mid-size regional theatre company is led by Artistic Director Dámaso Rodriguez and Managing Director Sarah Horton. Founded in 1982, Artists Repertory Theatre is the longest-running professional theatre company in Portland. For the 2014/15 season Artists Rep will offer eight bold and entertaining plays written by internationally acclaimed playwrights, and guided by esteemed directors. Artists Rep productions will feature the work of a core group of accomplished Resident Artists, each with a shared history and a shorthand for collaboration, working alongside guest artists from Portland and beyond.

Artists Rep's mission is to engage diverse audiences in fresh, thought-provoking and intimate theatre. We are committed to world-class acting, directing, design and stagecraft that support new playwriting and aspire to embody great literature, moving audiences to truly feel — to *experience* — storytelling in a way that only the best live theatre can.

The 2014/15 Artists Repertory Theatre season is presented by Ronni Lacroute/WillaKenzie Estate. *The Liar* is presented at Artists Rep with support from Bob & Janet Conklin, Maletis Beverage and Mark Spencer Hotel. Our season media sponsors are The Oregonian and KINK. Other season support comes from the Regional Arts Culture Council, The Oregon Community Foundation, the Collins Foundation, the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation and Rafati's Catering.

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