



2015-2016
Season



Press Release

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For immediate release:

Hitchcock Farce “The 39 Steps”

Opens the Clarence Brown Theatre’s 2015/2016 Season

The Clarence Brown Theatre opens the 2015/2016 Season with the hilarious Hitchcock farce, “The 39 Steps,” September 9-27, 2015 on the CBT mainstage. A Pay What You Wish Preview performance will be held Wednesday, September 9, a tech talk with the designers will take place Sunday, September 13 following the matinee, a talkback with the cast will take place Sunday, September 20 following the matinee and, the Open Captioned performance is Sunday, September 27 at 2:00 pm. Sponsors for this fast-paced whodunit are Schaad Companies, Pilot Flying J, and Merrill Lynch. Media sponsors are WUOT, WUTK, B97.5, The Daily Beacon, Knox Mercury, Comcast, WBIR, and the Knoxville News Sentinel.

The popular, two-time Tony and Drama Desk Award-winner is packed with nonstop laughs, more than 100 zany characters played by a cast of four, inventive stagecraft, handcuffs, missing fingers and even some good old-fashioned romance! It’s fun for all ages and great for anyone who loves the magic of theatre.

“This production celebrates the film noir dramas of the 1930s and specifically Alfred Hitchcock’s film of the same name,” said director Kate Buckley. “But it also honors the complexity of the actor’s craft. The theatrical dance going on behind our soundstage door is zany complex requiring inventiveness, dexterity and precision from all.”

Kate Buckley (Director) is an associate professor in the UT Theatre Department. Some previous CBT productions include: “The Miracle Worker,” “The Trip to Bountiful,” “Antigone,” “Copenhagen,” “Charley’s Aunt,” “Merry Wives of Windsor,” “Moonlight and Magnolias” and “Black Pearl Sings.” She was a founding member of Chicago Shakespeare Theatre and served as Artistic Director of The Next Theatre in Evanston, Illinois. She has guest lectured on Shakespeare at universities and arts organizations abroad, including The National Theatre of Slovakia and Colla Marionette Company, Milan Italy. Directing credits include productions at The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, American Players Theatre, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, New Victory Theatre – NY, The Goodman Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Writer’s Theatre, and The Next Theatre. She received four Best Director nominations from the Joseph Jefferson Committee, her productions have won four consecutive Jefferson Awards for Best Ensemble and she has won two After Dark Awards for Outstanding Direction. She has received a

Distinguished Alumni Award from Aurora University, a UT Creative Research Award and is currently holding the Paul Soper Professorship in the theatre department, where she serves as an Associate Professor.

Cast members from the CBT's wildly successful 2013/2014 production of "Noises Off" return to work together again in "The 39 Steps."

David Brian Alley (Clown 1) is in his 16th season as a CBT Artist-In-Residence, having appeared in over 40 productions. Some CBT credits include: He was most recently seen in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Noises Off," "A Christmas Carol," "The Trip to Bountiful," "Kiss Me, Kate," "Fuddy Meers," "Moonlight and Magnolias," among others. Regionally, he has performed at The Mark Taper Forum, Playmaker's Repertory, Hollywood Actor's Theatre, The ImprovOlympic Theatre, and Chicago TheatreWorks. Regional: The Mark Taper Forum; Playmaker's Repertory; Hollywood Actor's Theatre; The ImprovOlympic Theatre; and Chicago TheatreWorks. He also has been seen in film and on television.

Katie Cunningham (Annabella Schmidt/ Pamela/Margaret) returns to CBT, where her previous credits include "Noises Off" and "Monty Python's Spamalot." She has performed at Asolo Rep, the American Place Theatre, NY Fringe, and in numerous regional theaters. She is a teaching artist at McCarter Theatre Center and alumna of UNC Chapel Hill (B.A.) and FSU/Asolo Conservatory (M.F.A.).

Brian Gligor (Richard Hannay) is a third year MFA Acting candidate. He has worked professionally in New York City, touring nationally and internationally, has performed in regional theaters across the country, and appeared on film, television, and in several independent features. His CBT credits include "The Threepenny Opera," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "A Christmas Carol," "Spamalot," and "Noises Off."

David Kortemeier (Clown 2) returns in his 10th season as a visiting guest artist at the CBT. Some CBT credits include: "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Noises Off," "A Christmas Carol," "Sweeney Todd," "Moonlight & Magnolias," "The Music Man," "Man of La Mancha," "Amadeus," "Oedipus the King," "Little Shop of Horrors," and "Love's Labour's Lost." His work also has been seen at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, the Great Lakes Theatre Festival in Cleveland, Drury Lane Theatre and Noble Fool Theatricals in Chicago as well as 13 seasons with the Illinois Shakespeare Festival in Bloomington. He holds an MFA in Acting from the University of Louisville.

The creative team for this production includes: UT Theatre faculty **Bill Black** (Costume Designer) and Joe Payne (Sound & Media Designer); visiting guest artist **Jaymi Lee Smith** (Lighting Designer); UT MFA candidate **Nevena Prodanovic** (Scenic Designer); visiting guest artist **Patrick Lanczki** (Stage Manager) and, UT Theatre faculty **Abigail Langham** (Voice Coach).

Two Previews for "The 39 Steps" are Wednesday, September 9 and Thursday, September 10 followed by Opening Night Friday, September 11. The production runs through September 27. UT faculty/staff, senior citizens, military personnel, children and students receive discounts. For tickets, call the Clarence Brown Theatre box office at 865-974-5161, Tickets Unlimited at 865-656-4444 or order online 24/7 at www.clarencebrowntheatre.com

With a dual mission to train the next generation of theatre artists and to provide top quality professional theatre, the Clarence Brown Theatre at the University of Tennessee Knoxville is one of only 13 academic LORT (League of Resident Theatre) institutions in the nation. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Calvin MacLean and Managing Director David B. Byrd, the CBT season runs from August through May and features eight productions ranging from musicals to drama.

The CBT provides a cultural resource for both the university and the larger East Tennessee community and affirms diversity and inclusivity in all their forms.

The 2015/2016 season includes "The 39 Steps," "Of Mice and Men," "Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play," "A Christmas Carol," "The Santaland Diaries," "Titus Andronicus," "A Lesson Before Dying The Open Hand and South Pacific. For more information or tickets, call the CBT Box Office at 865-974-5161 or visit us online at

<http://clarencbrowntheatre.com/>. Stay connected to the Clarence Brown Theatre on Facebook (Clarence Brown Theatre), follow us on Twitter (@ClarenceBrown) and view Clarence Brown videos on YouTube (Clarence Bro).

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