



2015-2016
Season



Press Release

UT Department of Theatre • 206 McClung Tower • Knoxville, TN 37996

For more information contact: Robin Conklin, Marketing & Communications Director
rconkli1@utk.edu or 865-974-2497

Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" *to Play in the Clarence Brown Theatre's Carousel Theatre*

The American classic "Of Mice and Men" will run in the Clarence Brown Theatre's Carousel Theatre September 30 to October 18, 2015. A Pay What You Wish Preview performance will be held Wednesday, September 30, a talkback with the cast will take place Sunday, October 11 following the matinee, and an Open Captioned performance is Sunday, October 18 at 2:00 pm. The production is sponsored by The Clayton Foundation. Media sponsors are WUOT, WUTK, The Daily Beacon, Knoxville Mercury, and the Knoxville News Sentinel.

Adapted from John Steinbeck's own classic novel of the same name, the play follows friends, George and Lennie, who are California migrant workers searching for a better life during the Great Depression. Recognized as a masterpiece of literature, the relevance of the story still rings true today.

"I can think of no other work of American fiction that so perfectly captures the individual isolation and loneliness of the Great Depression. In the novel and its nearly verbatim stage form, Steinbeck turns his observational lens on a small group of men (and one woman), scratching out their lives over three days' time in the confines of a single ranch in California's Salinas Valley. What he gives us in something so specific is universal in scope. America has always been a nation of dreamers no matter how difficult our circumstances or how formidable the obstacles standing between us and our dreams -- especially our dreams of belonging, of finding and having a place of our own. Steinbeck's truth is all of our truths," said guest director Paul Barnes.

Paul Barnes (Director) returns to the Clarence Brown Theatre after a few-seasons absence. Previous assignments include "Man of La Mancha," "Major Barbara," "All The Way Home," "Romeo and Juliet," and "A Child's Christmas in Wales." He is a founding Producing Director and Artistic Director of the Great River Shakespeare Festival in Winona, Minnesota. Barnes has directed at numerous regional theaters and festivals around the country, and for many leading university actor training programs in America. He makes his home in Ashland, Oregon where he was Education Director at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival from 1979-1987.

The cast is comprised of actors from the community, UT graduate and undergraduate Theatre students, and UT Theatre faculty: **Jay Doolittle** (Candy) **Joseph Jaynes** (Boss); **Joshua Peterson** (Curley); **Jeff Dickamore** (Carlson); **Andrew Drake** (Crooks); **Kyle Maxwell** (Lennie Small); **Cynthia Anne Roser** (Curley's wife); **Steve Sherman** (George Milton); **Luke Atchley** (Ranch Hand); **Andrew Price Carlile** (Ranch Hand); **Andrew Henry**

(Ranch Hand); **Preston Alexander Raymer** (Whit); **Christopher Ward** (Ranch Hand); and **Jed Diamond** (Slim).

The creative team for the production includes: UT Theatre faculty **Marianne Custer** (Costume Designer) visiting guest artists **Matthew Tibbs** (Sound & Media Designer) and **Ron Keller** (Scenic Designer); UT MFA candidate **Tannis Kapell** (Lighting Designer); UT Theatre student **Caleb Cook** (Stage Manager) and visiting artist **Connor Wilson** (Assistant Director).

Two Previews for “Of Mice and Men” are Wednesday, September 30 and Thursday, October 1 followed by Opening Night Friday, October 2. The production runs through October 18. 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 “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://clarencebrowntheatre.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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