



2015-2016
Season



Press Release

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For immediate release:

Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus *on the CBT Mainstage in February*

William Shakespeare's "Titus Andronicus" will play on the CBT mainstage February 10 – 28 with 7:30 pm and 2:00 pm performances. A Pay What You Wish Preview performance will be held Wednesday, February 10, a talk back with the actors will take place Sunday, February 21 following the matinee, and the Open Captioned performance is Sunday, February 28 at 2:00 pm. The production, which is for mature audiences only, is sponsored by Schaad Companies. Media sponsors are WUOT, WUTK, B97.5, the Knoxville News Sentinel, the Daily Beacon, and the Knoxville Mercury. Free and convenient parking is available in the McClung Tower Garage on Volunteer Boulevard for every performance.

Believed to be Shakespeare's first tragedy and most graphically violent, "Titus Andronicus" was created as a crowd-pleasing shocker, full of murder, intrigue, betrayal, and revenge. Returning victorious from war, Titus has lost many sons in battle. And he has no idea that his worst nightmare is yet to take place. His prisoner of war, Tamora, Queen of the Goths, is bent on getting revenge for the loss of her son at Titus' hands. The two become tangled in a cruel cycle of revenge in which they lose more than either one could ever imagine. Although the tragedy is consistently popular, it is rarely performed.

"The central idea in the play is that when justice and rule of law is subverted by man's pursuit of revenge, man is capable of unspeakable violence. Even the most principled and civilized man (like Titus) can become barbaric," said Director John Sipes.

John Sipes (Director) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre at the University of Tennessee. Before joining the UT faculty, he was a Director and the Resident Movement Director for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for 15 seasons. Prior to his residency at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, he was a Director and Movement Director for the Illinois Shakespeare Festival for 12 seasons, and served as the Festival's Artistic Director for five seasons. Recent directing credits include: "I Am My Own Wife", "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "The Whipping Man", "RED", "Fuddy Meers", and "Woyzeck" among others. He also has directed in regional theatres across the country.

The production features visiting professional guest actors, UT faculty, graduate and undergraduate student actors, and actors from the community.

"It is impossible to underestimate the value to training theater students in producing anything by William Shakespeare. The Clarence Brown's production of this rarely seen play will stretch our students' range of expression and their facility with language. Moreover, our audiences will be treated to a story of political intrigue and moral turpitude that still has power after four centuries," said Calvin MacLean, CBT Artistic Director and Department Head.

Visiting guest actor **Carol Halstead** (Tamora) lives in New York City and teaches Yoga and Meditation for emerging artists with the Chautauqua Theatre Company. She has performed on Broadway, Off-Broadway and in regional theatres across the country including Portland Center Stage, Barrington Stage, Fulton Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, San Jose Repertory Theatre and the Denver Center Theatre Company, among others.

Charles Pasternak (Saturninus) is the Artistic Director of The Porters of Hellsgate Theatre Company in Los Angeles, CA. He has performed in regional theatre across the country including Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Shakespeare Theatre New Jersey, Indiana Rep, and the Denver Center Theatre Company.

Kurt Rhoads (Titus Andronicus) has acted and directed at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival for 17 seasons. On Broadway he appeared in Julius Caesar with Denzel Washington. He also has worked at many regional theaters across the country including Arena Stage, Dallas Theater Center, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, New Stage Theatre, Milwaukee Rep, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, and the Utah Shakespeare Festival.

UT Theatre faculty actors include **David Brian Alley** (Lucius) and **Terry Weber** (Marcus Andronicus). Community actors are **Jacques DuRand** (Aemilius/Senator) and **Jonathan Tison** (Young Lucius).

UT Theatre graduate actors include: **Jeff Dickamore** (Quintas/Goth Soldier); **Andrew Drake** (Aaron); **Miguel A. Fana** (Martius/Goth Soldier); **Brian Gligor** (Bassianus); **Kyle Maxwell** (Chiron); **Lindsay Nance** (Lavinia); **Aaron Orlov** (Mitius/Judge/Goth Soldier); **Lauren Pennline** (Nurse); and **Steve Sherman** (Demetrius).

Undergraduate student actors include: **Luke Atchley** (Citizen/Roman Soldier); **Jackson Burnette** (Tribune/Citizen/Senator/Saturninus); **Kirk Edwards** (Citizen/Roman Soldier); **Trevor Goble** (Roman Citizen/Goth Soldier/Judge/Titus Servant/Saturninus Attendant); **Andrew Henry** (Sempronius/Messenger/Judge or Senator); **Maddie Poeta** (Ditizen/Judge or Senator/Titus Servant/Saturninus Attendant); **Preston Alexander Raymer** (Alarbus/Citizen/Judge or Senator/Goth Soldier); **Ethan Roeder** (Caius/Judge or Senator); **Scott Serro** (Valentine/Judge or Senator); and **Christopher Ward** (Publius/Judge or Senator).

The creative team for this production includes: **Bill Black** (Costume Designer); **Kenton Yeager** (Lighting Designer); **Joe Payne** (Composer and Sound Designer); **Tannis Kappel** (Projection/Media Designer), and **Christopher Pickart** (Scenic Designer). Also contributing to the production are **Abigail Langham** (Voice Coach), and **Ian Paul Messersmith** (Stage Manager).

Previews for “Titus Andronicus” are Wednesday, February 10 and Thursday, February 11 followed by Opening Night Friday, February 12. The show runs through February 28. UT faculty/staff, senior citizens, veterans 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 remaining season productions include: “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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