



## Press Release

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For immediate release:

### *Arthur Miller's "The Crucible"*

*in the Carousel Theatre September 28 – October 16*

Arthur Miller's classic "The Crucible" will play in the Clarence Brown Theatre's Carousel Theatre September 28 – October 16, 2016. A Pay What You Wish Preview performance will be held Wednesday, September 28. The second Preview will take place on Thursday, September 29 and Opening Night will take place on Friday September 30. The Talk Back with the cast will take place Sunday, October 9 following the matinee and the Open Captioned performance is Sunday, October 16 at 2:00 pm. A panel discussion about the impact of the play upon political discussions during its time and today will take place after the Sunday, October 16 matinee. Sponsors are Pilot Flying J, Merchant & Gould and support from the City of Knoxville and the Tennessee Arts Commission. Media sponsors are WUOT, WUTK, The Daily Beacon, the Knoxville Mercury, and the Knoxville News Sentinel.

Winner of the Tony Award for Best Play, "The Crucible" is an ageless tale of fear, greed and power written by one of the greatest American playwrights of all time. When teenage girls are discovered trying to conjure spirits, the 17th century town of Salem explodes with accusations of witchcraft. The vicious trials that follow expose a community paralyzed by terror, religious extremism and greed, and a marriage forever changed.

Miller composed "The Crucible" as a dramatization of the Salem Witch Trials, with the witch trials standing in for the anti-Communist "witch-hunts" of the 1950s during the McCarthy era. As with the alleged witches of Salem, suspected Communists were encouraged to confess and identify other Communist sympathizers in order to escape punishment. Many of those accused of Communism suffered loss of employment and/or destruction of their careers; some even suffered imprisonment.

"In my view, 'The Crucible' is a quintessential American play," said director Calvin MacLean. "Drawing on a moment of history in the founding of the American experiment, and steeped in a more recent political upheaval, it reveals the strengths and flaws of our national character – our independence of spirit and self-assurance, our pride; our struggles to accept people and ideas different from us, and our tendency to *demonize* people we fear. Sound familiar?"

**Calvin MacLean** (Director) is the CBT Producing Artistic Director and UT Theatre Department Head. CBT productions include: "The Open Hand," "The Threepenny Opera," "A Flea in Her Ear," "The Life of Galileo," "The Secret Rapture," "A Streetcar Named Desire" (with Dale Dickey), "Amadeus" (with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra), "Kiss Me, Kate," "Sweeney Todd" (with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra and Dale Dickey), and "Our Country's Good." Previously Head of Directing at Illinois State University, he also was the Artistic Director of the Illinois Shakespeare Festival for 11 seasons.

Professionally active in Chicago, his productions – mostly at the Famous Door Theatre – earned several prestigious Joseph Jefferson Awards for Outstanding Production and Outstanding Direction.

The cast is comprised of visiting guest artists, UT Theatre faculty and graduate and undergraduate students, as well as community actors.

Visiting guest artist **Grant Goodman** (John Proctor) is originally from Indiana and a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He previously performed at the CBT in "A Midsummer Night's Dream." He has performed Off-Broadway and regionally in theatres such as the Hartford Stage, Yale Repertory, Shakespeare Theatre Company (Washington, D.C.), Chicago Shakespeare Theater, The Old Globe (San Diego), Actors Theatre of Louisville, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Milwaukee Repertory, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and many others. Film and television credits include: "As the World Turns," "Sex and the City" and "Sleepers."

Visiting guest artist **Jenny McKnight** (Elizabeth Proctor) makes her Clarence Brown Theatre debut in "The Crucible." Chicago stage credits include the Goodman Theatre; Northlight Theatre; Steppenwolf Theatre; Remy Bumppo Theatre; Next Theatre; Victory Gardens, among others. A partial list of regional theatre work includes repeat appearances at Indiana Repertory Theatre, Actors' Theatre of Louisville, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, Kansas City Repertory, and Purple Rose Theatre. She is an MFA graduate of The University of Alabama, and teaches Acting at the University of Arkansas Department of Theatre.

Visiting Guest artist **Roderick Peeples** (Deputy-Governor Danforth) calls Chicago home. Previous CBT credits are "The Open Hand," "The Threepenny Opera," "Amadeus" and "The Life of Galileo." In Chicago, where he has been awarded the prestigious Joseph Jefferson Award, he has performed at Chicago Shakespeare, Goodman, Steppenwolf, Bumppo, Victory Gardens, Famous Door, Court, and Next theatres. He also has performed in regional theatres across the country. Film and television credits include: Robert Altman's "The Company," "Road to Perdition," "Novocaine," "The Hudsucker Proxy," "Prison Break," "ER," "Early Edition," and the "Untouchables."

UT Theatre professional, local professional and community actors include: **David Brian Alley** (Reverend John Hale); **Carol Mayo Jenkins** (Rebecca Nurse); Terry Weber (Reverend Samuel Parris); **Maria Kauffman** (Betty Parris); **Jay Doolittle** (Giles Corey); **Donald Thorne** (Francis Nurse); and **Bob Porter** (Ezekiel Cheever).

UT Theatre graduate and undergraduate actors include Carlène Pochette (Tituba); **Lauren Pennline** (Abigail Williams); **Emily Kicklighter** (Mrs. Ann Putnam/Sarah Good); **Jeffrey Dickamore** (Thomas Putnam); **Miguel A. Fana** (John Willard/Hopkins); **Aaron Orlov** (Judge Hawthorne); **Kadi Plemons-Brazil** (Susanna Wallcott); **Emily Helton** (Mercy Lewis); **Lauren Winder** (Elizabeth Hubbard); and **Gracie Belt** (Mary Warren).

The creative team for this production includes: visiting guest designer **Ron Keller** (Scenic Designer); UT MFA candidate **Olivia Trees** (Costume Designer); and UT Theatre faculty **Chris Pickart** (Scenic Designer), **Joe Payne** (Composer and Sound Designer) and **Kenton Yeager** (Lighting Designer). Also assisting are **Candace Moore** (Assistant Director), **Kate Field** (Assistant Scenic Designer), **Maranda DeBusk** and **Jordon Vera** (Assistant Lighting Designers); **Charles Miller** (Voice Coach), **Ross Jackson** (Production Stage Manager) and **Collin Hall** and **Delainie Rizer** (Assistant Stage Managers.)

Two Previews for "The Crucible" are Wednesday, September 28 and Thursday, September 29 followed by Opening Night Friday, September 30. The production runs through October 16. 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](http://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 September through May and features eight productions ranging from musicals to drama.

For more information, tickets or accessibility accommodation requests including Open Captioning, American Sign Language, and assistive technologies, please call the CBT Box Office at 865-974-5161 or visit us online at [clarencebrowntheatre.com/access](http://clarencebrowntheatre.com/access). Stay Connected to the Clarence Brown Theatre on Facebook (Clarence Brown Theatre), follow us on Twitter (@ClarenceBrown) (#CBT1617Season) and view Clarence Brown videos on YouTube (Clarence Bro).

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