

2018

CLARENCE BROWN THEATRE
at the University of Tennessee

2019



For Immediate Release:
Contact: Robin Conklin
rconkl1@utk.edu

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“King Charles III” to Play

On the Clarence Brown Mainstage Feb. 6- 24, 2019

The Clarence Brown Theatre kicks off the second half of the season with Michael Bartlett’s “King Charles III” running February 6 -24 on the CBT mainstage. The production is sponsored by Schaad Companies and Merchant & Gould with support from the City of Knoxville. Media sponsors are WUOT, WUTK, B97.5, the Daily Beacon, and the Knoxville News Sentinel.

A Pay What You Can Preview performance, where patrons can name their own price, will be Wednesday, Feb. 5th. A free preshow discussion with director John Sipes exploring the Shakespearean element will take place on Feb. 7th from 6:30-7:00 pm in the Lab Theatre. A panel discussion entitled “Enemy of the People” will take place following the February 17th 2:00 pm matinee. This discussion will revolved around the issues of freedom of the press, protection of privacy, government authority, and more. The Open Captioned performance is Sunday, Feb. 24th at 2:00 pm.

In this “modern future history” play, Queen Elizabeth has died. Charles, the “King-in-waiting” finally ascends the throne. Then, defying centuries of tradition, Charles boldly attempts to reassert the crown’s power in matters of government, landing himself – and his country – in a royal mess. Exploring power and betrayal, the drama reveals the people beneath the crowns as nuanced flesh and blood, and turns a Shakespearean lens on relationships in the world’s most famous and exposed family.

John Sipes (Director) is a 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 fifteen seasons. Prior to his residency at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, he was a Director and Movement Director for the Illinois Shakespeare Festival for twelve seasons and served as the Festival’s Artistic Director for five seasons. Directing credits include productions at the Clarence Brown Theatre, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Milwaukee Rep, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, the Illinois Shakespeare Festival and others.

The production features visiting guest professional actors, UT faculty and graduate students, and community professional actors.

Visiting guest artist **Michael Elich** (Tristan Evans, Prime Minister) is pleased to be back at the Clarence Brown Theatre where he was previously seen as Mark Rothko in “RED.” In 21 seasons with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, he has been seen in 47 productions in various roles. He also performed several roles in two seasons with the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Internationally he premiered David Edgar’s “Continental Divide” at London’s Barbican Theatre. A Juilliard graduate, Mr. Elich has appeared in

numerous Off-Broadway and Regional Theaters including, The Public Theatre, Playwrights Horizons, Hartford Stage, Milwaukee Rep, Syracuse Stage, Berkeley Rep, Dallas Theatre Co, and The Papermill Playhouse. TV credits include “One Life to Live” and “Ryan’s Hope.”

Visiting guest artist **Kurt Rhoads** (King Charles III) returns to the CBT where he previously starred as Titus in “Titus Andronicus.” He has performed on Broadway in “Julius Caesar.” Off-Broadway, he has performed at the Mint Theatre, Pearl Theatre, and NYU Director’s Lab. Regionally he has performed at Shakespeare Theatre, Arena Stage, Denver Center, Arvada Center, Playmakers Rep, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Arizona Theatre Co, Old Globe, Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, and for eight seasons as company member at Dallas Theatre Center. Additionally, he has performed and directed for 21 seasons at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. He received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago and his master’s degree from DePaul University.

Visiting guest artist **Abbey Siegworth** (Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge) is excited to return to the CBT after playing Titania in “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Originally from the Chicago area, she currently lives in Brooklyn, NY. Regionally, she has performed in such theaters as Titan Theatre Company, Three Day Hangover in New York City, Nebraska Repertory Theatre, American Players Theatre, Dallas Theater Center, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks/Schools, and several theaters in Milwaukee and Chicago. Abbey also stars in the independent film “Stolen Season,” out this summer.

Visiting guest artist **Nance Williamson** (Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall) is thrilled to make her debut at the CBT. She has been seen on Broadway in “Henry IV,” “Cyrano,” and “Broken Glass.” Off Broadway credit include: “Pride and Prejudice,” “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” “The Seagull,” “Marvin’s Room,” and others. Throughout her 34 year career, she has worked extensively around the country including 19 seasons at Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival and more than 30 productions as a company member at the Dallas Theater Company. Nance and her husband, Kurt Rhoads, will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary this year and “King Charles III” marks their 66 play together.

Faculty actors include **David Brian Alley** (James Reiss, Press Secretary to King Charles); **Brian Gligor** (William, Duke of Cambridge); and **Steve Sherman** (Mark Stevens, Leader of the Opposition).

Graduate and undergraduate theater students include: **Collin Andrews** (Prince Harry); **Brenda Orellana** (Jess); **Owen Squire Smith** (Paul/Terry/Ensemble); **Joshua Cormany** (Butler to Charles/Ensemble); **Emily Helton** (Ghost-Body); **Robert Parker Jenkins** (Cootsey/Nick/Ensemble); **Maddie Poeta** (Servant to William and Catherine/Ensemble); and **Justin Von Stein** (Butler to Charles/Ensemble).

Professional actors from the community include: **John Cherry** (Sir Michael, Head of the Metropolitan Police/Speaker of the House); **Nancy Duckles** (Sarah/Free Newspaper Woman/TV Producer); **Trevor Goble** (Butler to Charles/Ensemble); **Brendan Nicholas Hayes** (Spencer/Ensemble); and, **Donald Thorne** (Sir Gordon Chief of Defense/Archbishop of Canterbury).

The creative team for this production includes: **Lauren T. Roark** (Costume Designer); **Jelena Andzic** (Scenic Designer); **Joe Payne** (Sound Designer and Original Music); **Alice Trent** (Projections Designer); and **Kenton Yeager** (Lighting Designer). Also contributing to the production is **Sara Becker** (Voice Coach/Ghost-Voice); and, **Danny Kuenzel** (Stage Manager).

The Previews for “King Charles III” are Wednesday, February 6 and Thursday, February 7 followed by Opening Night Friday, February 8. The production runs through February 24. The Clarence Brown Theatre only sells tickets online through KnoxvilleTickets.com. For tickets, call the Clarence Brown Theatre Box Office at 865-974-5161 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 12 academic LORT (League of Resident Theatre) institutions in the nation. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Calvin MacLean and Managing Director Tom Cervone, 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 clarencbrowntheatre.com/access. Stay Connected to the Clarence Brown Theatre on Facebook (Clarence Brown Theatre), follow us on Twitter (@ClarenceBrown), Instagram (@clarencbrowntheatre) and view Clarence Brown videos on YouTube (Clarence Bro).