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TWO RIVER THEATER ANNOUNCES ITS SCHEDULE FOR 2011-12, THE FIRST SEASON CHOSEN BY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JOHN DIAS; PROGRAMMING WILL EXPAND TO EIGHT PLAYS ON BOTH STAGES OF THE TWO-THEATER COMPLEX

Season will launch with Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by Sam Buntrock and starring Michael Cumpsty, and will also include *No Child...*, written and performed by Nilaja Sun and directed by Hal Brooks; Ruben Santiago-Hudson's production of August Wilson's *Jitney*; Maureen McGovern starring in her musical memoir *Carry It On*, devised with and directed by Philip Himberg; and Alan Ayckbourn's *My Wonderful Day*, directed by Nicholas Martin, all in the Rechnitz Theater

Two new works developed at Two River during the current season—Madeleine George's play *Seven Homeless Mammoths Wander New England* and the musical *In This House*, written by Mike Reid, Sarah Schlesinger, and Jonathan Bernstein—will go on to full productions in the Marion Huber Theater

RED BANK, NJ— Two River Theater Company Artistic Director John Dias announces the lineup of plays for the theater's 2011-12 Season, the first chosen under his artistic leadership. Subscription packages are available now from www.trtc.org or 732.345.1400. The subscription season will include five productions in the Joan and Robert Rechnitz Theater and two productions in the Marion Huber Theater. In addition, Two River will present *Honk! A Musical Tale of The Ugly Duckling* its annual family production during the holiday season.

"This season will include the work of some of the most exceptional artists working in the theater today," says Dias. "We begin with Shakespeare, continuing this theater's tradition of great productions of the classics, and I'm excited to offer Two River's first-ever productions of plays by August Wilson and Alan Ayckbourn, and to bring Nilaja Sun and Maureen McGovern to our stage. I am also thrilled that two of the plays we have been developing in this season will go on to full productions in the Marion Huber Theater—our first use of this performance space for the subscription season."

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Sam Buntrock

September 10 – October 2, 2011

Joan and Robert Rechnitz Theater

Two River's season will launch with *Much Ado About Nothing*, Shakespeare's great and witty romantic comedy. The production will be directed by Tony Award-nominee Sam Buntrock and star acclaimed Shakespeare actor Michael Cumpsty (winner of an Obie for his performance as Hamlet at Classic Stage Company) as Benedick. Buntrock and Cumpsty have previously collaborated on the recent Broadway revival of *Sunday in the Park with George* and *Take Flight* at McCarter Theatre.

IN THIS HOUSE

Music by Mike Reid

Lyrics by Sarah Schlesinger

Book by Jonathan Bernstein and Sarah Schlesinger

October 15 – November 6, 2011

Marion Huber Theater

An intimate chamber musical, *In This House* is the fourth collaboration from the team of Sarah Schlesinger and Grammy Award-winning composer Mike Reid, a Nashville songwriter. The musical evokes the universal experience of being in love and the challenges and rewards of navigating a relationship, through the accidental meeting of two couples—one at the beginning, the other at the end of their time together.

NO CHILD...

Written and Performed by Nilaja Sun

Directed by Hal Brooks

November 1 – November 20, 2011

Joan and Robert Rechnitz Theater

Nilaja Sun will perform her play *No Child...*, a multi-award-winning, tour-de-force solo performance based on her experiences as a teaching artist in the New York public schools. Transforming herself into a multitude of characters, Sun captures the voices of students, teachers, parents, janitors and more, and shows—with tenderness, insight, and humor—the transformative power of art.

JITNEY

By August Wilson

Directed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson

January 31 – February 19, 2012

Joan and Robert Rechnitz Theater

Actor, director, and playwright Ruben Santiago-Hudson directs August Wilson's *Jitney*, the eighth in his cycle of plays about the African-American experience in the 20th century. *Jitney*, Wilson's first full-length play, is set in the 1970s, in a station for jitney (or unlicensed cab) drivers. As an actor, Santiago-Hudson's Broadway credits include Wilson's *Seven Guitars* (for which he won a Tony Award) and *Gem of the Ocean*; he later directed revivals of those plays for Signature Theatre and McCarter Theatre, respectively. He directed *Radio Golf* for the Kennedy Center's August Wilson's 20th Century celebration.

SEVEN HOMELESS MAMMOTHS WANDER NEW ENGLAND

By Madeleine George

March 3 – March 25, 2012

Marion Huber Theater

Seven Homeless Mammoths Wander New England, a new play by Madeleine George, is a satirical 'academic sex comedy' about tangled relationships in a New England college town. The recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including the Princess Grace Playwriting Award, George is a founding member of the Obie Award-winning playwrights' collective 13P (Thirteen Playwrights, Inc.).

Maureen McGovern in CARRY IT ON

Co-conceived and Written by Philip Himberg and Maureen McGovern

Directed by Philip Himberg

April 3 – April 22, 2012

Joan and Robert Rechnitz Theater

In a career spanning 40 years, two-time Grammy nominee Maureen McGovern has been hailed as the “Stradivarius Voice” and acclaimed for her concerts and Oscar-winning/Gold records, as well as her theatrical performances on Broadway. In her powerful musical memoir, *Carry It On*, she brings her story to life with extraordinary interpretations of the songs of her generation—music by the Beatles, Carole King, Joni Mitchell, James Taylor, and many others.

MY WONDERFUL DAY

By Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Nicholas Martin

May 15 – June 3, 2012

Joan and Robert Rechnitz Theater

Nicholas Martin directs Alan Ayckbourn’s acclaimed 2009 comedy about the British middle class, as seen through the eyes of a child. Winnie is an Anglo-Caribbean, nine-year-old girl with a school assignment to write an essay about her day—which, by chance, she is spending in the home of a minor television celebrity, where her mother is a cleaner. As Winnie quietly observes, Ayckbourn captures the foibles, and failed hopes and dreams, of the adults around her in what becomes an increasingly frenetic domestic farce.

Holiday Show:

HONK!

A Musical Tale of *The Ugly Duckling*

Music by George Stiles

Book and Lyrics by Anthony Drewe

Directed by Matt Pfeiffer

December 6, 2011 – January 1, 2012

Joan and Robert Rechnitz Theater

Based on Hans Christian Andersen’s “The Ugly Duckling,” *Honk!* tells the story of an odd-looking baby duck, Ugly, and his quest to find his mother after he is lured away from his home by a wily cat. Winner of the London’s Olivier Award for Best Musical, *Honk!* will be directed by Matt Pfeiffer, who previously staged Two River’s holiday productions of *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *Charlotte’s Web*.

Plays, artists, and dates are subject to change. For additional information, visit www.trtc.org.

Subscription packages are on sale now from www.trtc.org or 732.345.1400, ranging in price from \$217 to \$329 for a seven-play season. Two River Theater also offers three-, four-, five-, and six-play packages and a flexible Two River Pass for the convenience of its patrons.

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TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY, under the new artistic leadership of John Dias, is dedicated to producing great classics from the American and world stage, creating new plays and musicals for the American theater, and serving its diverse and multigenerational community through unique partnerships and education programs. Founded in 1994 by Joan and Dr. Robert M. Rechnitz, Two River Theater was designated a “Major Arts Institution” by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts in 2011. Two River Theater is a member of the League of Resident Theaters (LORT), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the New Jersey Theatre Alliance and ArtPride New Jersey.