



advancing theatre, enlivening culture

NEWS RELEASE CALENDAR LISTING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 14, 2009

CONTACTS: LISE BOHN
713. 527. 0220 x 207
lbohn@stages theatre.com

EVA LAPORTE
713. 527. 0220 x 208
elaporte@stages theatre.com

STAGES AND ACLU OF TEXAS PARTNER TO PRESENT SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

Houston, TX – Stages Repertory Theatre and the ACLU of Texas will partner for the 2009-2010 season to offer a special Civil Liberties subscription series that includes a ticket to each MainStage play plus a private post-performance discussion with a leading scholar/lecturer, moderated by Stages' Producing Artistic Director Kenn McLaughlin. Light refreshments are also included.

"Packages like this are innovative and rewarding for all parties involved, and we're thrilled to collaborate with diverse partners in the community," McLaughlin said. "The ACLU represents an important constituency in American communities and we're glad to support an intersection between art and the ACLU."

"Part of personal freedom is the freedom of expression, and part of freedom of expression is the freedom to create and enjoy the arts in their myriads forms," said Maida Asofsky, Houston Regional Director of the ACLU of Texas. "Not only does the ACLU represent people whose procedural rights have been violated, but the ACLU represents those whose rights to express themselves has been violated."

The ACLU subscription is \$175 per person and is open for purchase by the public, regardless of ACLU membership. Subscriptions may be purchased through the Stages Box Office, 713.527.0123 or subs@stages theatre.com.

ACLU SUBSCRIPTION SCHEDULE

Southern Rapture

By Eric Coble

ACLU Night: October 7, 2009

Speaker: William K. Diehl, Jr., Attorney, James, McElroy & Daniel, PA, Charlotte, NC.

A pointed comedy about what can happen when drama behind the scenes overshadows the art presented on stage, *Southern Rapture* was inspired by the real-life cultural controversy surrounding Charlotte Repertory Theatre's now infamous 1996 production of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*. Opponents of the play sought legal recourse to prevent it from being performed, and in a dramatic down-to-the-wire court battle, a last-minute injunction—obtained by the theatre just hours before the production's scheduled opening—finally allowed the play to proceed. Speaker William K. Diehl, Jr., a North Carolina attorney, argued the original case on behalf of Charlotte Repertory Theatre.

A Picasso

By Jeffrey Hatcher

ACLU Night: January 27, 2010

Speaker: Bill Arning, Director, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

It's 1941, the Nazis have rolled into Paris, and Pablo Picasso has been ushered into a storage vault to authenticate three works of art the Germans have recently "acquired." Picasso faces off with an enigmatic young female officer and suddenly finds himself forced to choose between art and politics, creativity and survival. Contemporary Arts Museum Director Bill Arning comes to the conflicts of art and politics directly from the "culture wars" of New York.

Speech and Debate

By Stephen Karam

ACLU Night: March 17, 2010

Speaker: Dr. Richard Pesikoff, board certified in child and adolescent psychiatry

Teen misfits Solomon, Diwata and Howie discover each other online and build a tentative alliance in the form of their high school's first speech and debate team. This winning, fiercely funny dark comedy is part *Breakfast Club*, part Arthur Miller, and was hailed in its 2007 Off-Broadway run as a brilliant look at the modern teenager. Dr. Pesikoff, who is a practicing psychiatrist and professor at Baylor School of Medicine, deals regularly with teenagers, conformist and nonconformist.

Man from Nebraska

By Tracy Letts

ACLU Night: April 21, 2010

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Belinda Windham, Senior Pastor, New Hope Presbyterian Church

Ken Carpenter is a good husband and father who awakens one night to realize that he no longer believes in God. As his family grapples with this shock to their orderly lives, Ken follows his pastor's advice and strikes out on a quest for his faith that leads him through the wild world of London counterculture and ultimately back home to a new beginning. A masterpiece of subtlety and grace by Pulitzer Prize-winner Tracy Letts (*August, Osage County*), this moving, funny play reveals yearning and deep emotion beneath the surface of seemingly mundane lives. Rev. Windham, as the senior pastor of an important congregation in Katy, deals regularly with congregants facing crises of faith and crises of life.

The Complete History of America (abridged)

By Adam Long, Reed Martin & Austin Tichenor

ACLU Night: June 2, 2010

Speaker: TBA

600 years of history in 6000 seconds! From Washington to Watergate, yea verily from the Bering Straits to Baghdad, from New World to New World Order, three clownish cultural guerillas will take you on a rollercoaster ride through the glorious quagmire that is American History.

Stages Repertory Theatre

Characterized by courage, generosity, ingenuity, and intimacy, Stages Repertory Theatre advances theatre and enlivens culture by producing new work, interpreting established work in new ways, and nurturing talent for the performing arts field. In addition to its MainStage season of plays, Stages presents the EarlyStages series, introducing young audiences to the power and magic of live theatre. Stages also offers a range of additional education and outreach programs that encourage conversation about important ideas and issues, provide insight into other cultures and viewpoints, and help develop each new generation of citizens, artists and audiences. Now entering its 31st season, Stages is a member of the Fresh Arts Coalition and a constituent of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national service organization for not-for-profit theatres. Stages operates under an agreement with Actor's Equity Association (AEA), the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

The ACLU of Texas

The ACLU of Texas is an affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, with chapters throughout the state. Sustained by a handful of paid employees and numerous dedicated volunteers, the ACLU of Texas has been in the forefront of the fight for civil liberties in this state since 1938. The ACLU of Texas advocates personal privacy, freedom from unreasonable searches, religious liberty, humane treatment of prisoners, reproductive choice, and freedom from unconstitutional discrimination.

(###)

Stages Repertory Theatre
3201 Allen Parkway, Suite 101
Houston, TX 77019
p. 713-527-0220 f. 713-527-8669
www.stagestheatre.com