



August 25, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sara Marsh
651.226.6726
sara@darkstormy.org

NEWS RELEASE FROM DARK & STORMY PRODUCTIONS

UPDATE: DARK & STORMY PRODUCTIONS ANNOUNCES

VENUE AND PERFORMANCE DATES

FOR ITS UPCOMING PRODUCTION OF

The Hothouse
By Harold Pinter
A REGIONAL PREMIERE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ARTSPACE PROJECTS, INC

AT THE ARTSPACE GRAIN BELT 1906 BOTTLING HOUSE
79 13th AVENUE NE
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55413
IN THE ATRIUM

Friday, December 12, 2014 – Sunday, January 4, 2015
Previews Wednesday, December 10 and Thursday, December 11, 2014



Starring: Robert Dorfman*, Mark Benninghofen*, John Catron*, Sara Marsh*, Bill McCallum*, and Bruce Bohne*; Benjamin McGovern† to Direct

***Member, Actors' Equity Association**

†Member, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

Minneapolis, Minnesota – Dark & Stormy Productions today announces that they are partnering with **Artspace** (www.artspace.org) to present their upcoming regional premiere of ***The Hothouse* by Harold Pinter**. Previously, Dark & Stormy has presented ***Outside Providence* by Edward Allan Baker, *Speed-the-Plow* by David Mamet, *The Receptionist* by Adam Bock, and *The Drunken City* by Adam Bock.**

The **Artspace Grain Belt 1906 Bottling House** is owned and operated by **Artspace** in partnership with the artists who maintain studios in the building. The Northeast Minneapolis location is accessible to all patrons by bus and car, and is handicapped-accessible. Dark & Stormy continues their use of unusual stagings in nontraditional “found” spaces that best serve the production, by setting ***The Hothouse*** in the atrium of the main floor of Artspace’s Grain Belt 1906 Bottling House building.

ABOUT ARTSPACE

Artspace’s mission is, “to create, foster, and preserve affordable space for artists and arts organizations.” Established in 1979, Artspace owns and operates both residential and non-residential properties in more than 20 states across the nation, providing affordable, real property to low- and moderate-income artists to further the growth of the artistic community. Based in the Twin Cities, Artspace has offices in New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, New Orleans, and Washington DC, impacting artists on both a local and national level.

Dark & Stormy Productions’ Artistic Director **Sara Marsh** says,

We are thrilled to be partnering again with Artspace to present *The Hothouse*. With their mission and incredible commitment and contributions to both the artistic community and to individual artists, Artspace is a perfect partner for Dark & Stormy. I couldn’t be more excited to be working with them again, particularly given the success we had in our first



partnership, on *The Receptionist*, giving audiences a unique, immersive, and immediate experience. Our audiences can expect more of the same from *The Hothouse*.

ABOUT THE HOTHOUSE

Written in 1958, prior to *The Caretaker*, and then shelved by Harold Pinter himself until 1979, when he returned to it and deemed it worthy of production, ***The Hothouse*** is surprisingly charming, wildly funny, chilling, frightening, and thought-provoking. On Christmas Day, at an ambiguous institution (could it be a prison? A guarded mental hospital? An insane asylum?), the staff must determine how patient 6457 died, and how patient 6459 became pregnant – and what to do about it. Of producing *The Hothouse*, Artistic Director **Sara Marsh** says,

When Ben McGovern brought *The Hothouse* to my attention, we did a reading of it right away, and it took only minutes from the time the last word was spoken for me to decide to produce this play. Not only is it brilliantly written, not only do we have an out-of-this-world cast and creative team, but the themes inherent in this play – class division, rape, power and abuse of it, patient care (and abuse), coworker relationships, elitism, sexuality, the weak vs. the powerful, to name a few – are still prevalent issues today that dominate both the news and popular culture. And as is typical of Pinter, there is a great deal of humor mixed in with the horror: *The Hothouse* is like a farcical and macabre mash-up of “**Orange is the New Black**” and ***One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest***, right down to the character names (Roote, Lush, Cutts, Lamb), and it all takes place on Christmas Day. This rarely produced gem is the perfect anti-holiday holiday show, and after two plays from a terrific new playwright, I am excited to mix things up and bring work from a brilliant classic playwright back to our audiences.

The Hothouse director, **Benjamin McGovern**, says,

In *The Hothouse*, Pinter uses the sly humor of a vaudevillian and the scalpel of a keen political observer to give us a story about an institution that is comically dystopian and eerily familiar. I have been interested in directing this play since I first read it while researching a production of *The Dumb Waiter* years ago. I am thrilled to be able to work with this heavy-hitting cast to put a Dark & Stormy spin on the work of one of my favorite playwrights.

THE HOTHOUSE CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

Sara Marsh, *Artistic Director*
Dark & Stormy Productions

Jill A. Anderson, *Chair*
General Manager, Eugene O’Neill Theater Center



Robert Dorfman* (*Roote*) makes his Dark & Stormy debut in ***The Hothouse***. Dorfman most recently appeared in Thornton Wilder's ***Our Town***, directed by Gordon Edelstein for **Long Wharf Theatre's** 50th Anniversary season. This past year in Minneapolis, he played The Old Man in Barry Kornhauser's ***Balloonacy***, directed by Peter Brosius for the Children's Theater Company, and appeared in the **Guthrie Theater** productions of Mark St. Germain's *Freud's Last Session*, directed by Rob Melrose, and Chekov's *Uncle Vanya*, directed by Joe Dowling. Dorfman has appeared on **Broadway** in: *To Be or Not to Be*, *The Lion King*, *Social Security*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (first national tour). **Off-Broadway**, he has appeared with Classic Stage Company, Manhattan Theatre Club, Playwrights' Horizons, Public Theater, and Second Stage. **Regionally**, he has performed with: Arena Stage, Portland's Center Stage, Dallas Theater Center, Geffen Playhouse, Goodman Theatre, Huntington Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Mark Taper Forum, DC's Shakespeare Theatre Company, South Coast Rep, Virginia Stage Company, Wilma Theater, and Baltimore's CenterStage, where he was a longtime associate artist. Dorfman's **Film/Television** credits include: "Boardwalk Empire" (HBO), "Fool's Fire" (Julie Taymor, director), and *It Could Happen to You* (Andrew Bergman, director), among others.

Mark Benninghofen* (*Gibbs*) makes his debut with Dark & Stormy Productions in ***The Hothouse***. Benninghofen has appeared at the Guthrie Theater in *Born Yesterday*, *Appomattox*, *Time Stands Still*, *The intelligent Homosexual...*, *Pravda*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Saint Joan*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Great Expectations* (and tour). He has been seen **Off-Broadway** at WPA Theatre in *Asian Shade* and *Wild Horses*, and at Lincoln Center Theater in *Twelfth Night*. Local theater credits include: History Theatre (*Incredible Season of Ronnie Rabinovitz*, *Tyrone and Ralph*, *Meet Me at the Fair*); The Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company (*Compulsion or the House Behind*); New Classic Theatre (*The Weir*). **Film/Television** credits include: *Older Than America*, *Color of Money*, *La Stanza Accanto*, *Herman USA*, "Chicago Hope," "Movie Stars," "The Drew Carey Show," "The Larry Sanders Show," "Frasier," several pilots, thousands of voiceover spots, and the leading role of David Dixon in Patrick Coyle's upcoming feature ***The Public Domain***, among others. Benninghofen received an **LA Circle Critics Award** for Lee Blessing's *Riches*. Benninghofen graduated from NYU's Tisch School for the Performing Arts.

John Catron* (*Lamb*) returns to Dark & Stormy Productions in ***The Hothouse*** after appearing in the 2013 staged reading of Adam Bock's ***The Thugs***. Most recently, Catron played Morris Townsend in the Jungle Theater's production of ***The Heiress***.



Catron's other credits include: **Guthrie Theater** (*Othello*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Long Day's Journey into Night*, *Hay Fever*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *Master Butchers Singing Club*); Frank Theatre (*Misterman*, *Metamorphosis*); Pillsbury House Theatre (*In the Red and Brown Water*, *Bulrusher*, *Bug*); Theater Latte Da (*All is Calm*); Park Square Theatre (*The School for Lies*); Illusion Theater: (*My Antonia*); Torch Theater (*Dancing at Lughnasa*); Jon Ferguson Theater: (*Animal Farm*, *Or the White Whale*). Regional theater includes Actors Theatre of Louisville: *The Faculty Room*. Catron's training includes Grinnell College, St. Petersburg State Theatre Arts Academy, and The National Theatre Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center.

Sara Marsh* (*Miss Cutts*) returns to Dark & Stormy in ***The Hothouse*** after appearing in ***The Drunken City***, ***The Receptionist***, ***Speed-the-Plow***, and ***Outside Providence***, as well as the staged readings of ***The Thugs*** and ***The Drunken City***. Most recently, Marsh starred in *boom* by Peter Sinn Nachtrieb, staged by Day In, Day Out Productions for the MN Fringe Festival. Marsh has also appeared in productions and staged readings with Park Square Theatre, History Theatre, Old Log Theater, Pillsbury House Theatre, Jungle Theater, Thirst Theater, Gremlin Theatre, Theatre L'Homme Dieu, and The Playwrights' Center, among others. **Film/Television** credits include: *Best Man Down*, *Rosie* (2014 Cannes Short Film Selection), *How to Kill a Mockingbird*, among others; the leading role of Lucy in **New Line Cinema's** feature film ***Sugar & Spice***, the leading role of Lana Boulet in Patrick Coyle's upcoming feature ***The Public Domain***, the role of Kayla (series regular) on the web series ***Theater People***, and hundreds of voiceover spots. She graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Medieval European History. Marsh is the founding Artistic Director of Dark & Stormy Productions.

Bill McCallum* (*Lush*) returns to Dark & Stormy Productions in ***The Hothouse*** after previously directing ***The Drunken City*** and appearing onstage in ***Speed-the-Plow*** and ***The Receptionist***. McCallum has appeared in over 40 productions at the **Guthrie Theater**, including *Clybourne Park*, ***Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*** (with Patrick Stewart and Mercedes Ruhl), *Othello* (2014 & 2004 National Tour), *Death of a Salesman* (Guthrie Theater and Dublin International Theater Festival), *The Glass Menagerie*, *Peer Gynt*, *MacBeth*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *God of Carnage*, *Skiing on Broken Glass*, and *Time Stands Still*. McCallum has also performed with American Players Theatre, Goodman Theater, Northlight Theater, History Theater, Minnesota Festival Theater, Theatre L'Homme Dieu, and The Playwrights' Center, among others. His film work includes ***The Straight Story*** and ***Meet***



Joe Somebody. McCallum is the Associate Artistic Director of Dark & Stormy Productions, and graduated from the North Carolina Conservatory for the Arts.

Bruce Bohne* (*Tubb; Lobb*) makes his debut with Dark & Stormy Productions with **The Hothouse**. Bohne has a 30-year professional career on Twin Cities stages including 9 years as a member of the **Guthrie Theater** company under Garland Wright. He created the role of Stanley in the 2002 world premiere of **Arthur Miller's Resurrection Blues** at the Guthrie, and reprised the role at San Diego's Old Globe Theater. He has worked at Park Square Theatre, Torch Theater, Mixed Blood and many more. A role in the movie **Fargo** gave him a start in the film and television industry, and he has since appeared in over a dozen feature films including *Dawn of the Dead*, *Man of Steel*, and **Patch Adams**. He recently finished filming two Minnesota-made features: *Heart of Wilderness* and *Strange Nature*. Television credits include *Star Trek: Voyager* and *Law & Order: SVU* among others.

Ben McGovern[†] directs **The Hothouse** for Dark & Stormy Productions after performing in **The Drunken City** and directing Dark & Stormy's 2013 productions of **The Receptionist** and **Speed-the-Plow**. McGovern was the **Associate Director of Studio Programming at the Guthrie Theater** until 2011, where he directed *The Edge of Our Bodies*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *The Ugly One*, and *The Caretaker*. He was also the associate director of Brian Friel's **Faith Healer**, with director Joe Dowling in the role of Frank Harding, and recently directed the critically-acclaimed **An Iliad** (starring Stephen Yoakam).

Prior to the Guthrie, McGovern worked with **Theatre de la Jeune Lune** as an assistant director, actor, stage manager, writer, and more. Jeune Lune productions include *Children of Paradise: Shooting a Dream*; *Crusoe*, *Friday and the Island of Hope*; *Scapin*; *Queen*; *The Man Who Laughs*; *Yang Zen Froggs*; *Cyrano de Bergerac*; *Tartuffe*; *3 Musketeers*; *The Deception*, and *Antigone*. McGovern also served as **Artistic Director of the Bryant-Lake Bowl Theater**, where he directed *Leonce and Lena* and *7 Blowjobs*, among others. Other directing credits include *Thirty Days in Frogtown*, *The Dumb Waiter*, *The Bald Soprano*, *Skin of Our Teeth*, *Camino Real*, and *Flesh and the Desert*.

The Hothouse creative team also includes: **Katie Hawkinson*** (Production Stage Manager), **Mary Shabatura** (Lighting & Sound Designer), **Lisa Jones** (Costume Designer), **Mel Day** (Assistant Director), and **Jeremy Ellarby** (Assistant Lighting Designer, Assistant Stage Manager, Front of House Manager, Electrician).



*Member, Actors' Equity Association

†Member, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

ABOUT DARK & STORMY PRODUCTIONS

Founded in February 2012 by Artistic Director **Sara Marsh, Dark & Stormy Productions** is committed to creating artistically excellent, exciting, and accessible theater for all audiences. Dark & Stormy Productions' mission is three-fold: develop the next generation of theatergoers; provide current audiences with new and exciting ways to experience the theater by producing short, relevant, intimate productions in found spaces that emphasize the immediacy of the artist-to-audience connection, using the top talent in the Twin Cities; and sustain and support the rich community of artists in the Twin Cities by providing them with collaborative, engaging, artistically challenging and exciting opportunities in between productions at larger theaters that allow them to utilize and exercise a different, intimate performance-style skill set than they employ working in larger houses.

PRODUCTION HISTORY

Dark & Stormy's first production, ***Outside Providence*** (2012), was celebrated by audiences and artists, and drew in theatergoers of all ages with its unconventional performance venue and unusual, intimate staging. In January of 2013, Dark & Stormy became an Actors' Equity Association Small Professional Theater (SPT), and began their first Equity season with **David Mamet's *Speed-the-Plow***. The production, directed by **Benjamin McGovern**[†] and featuring veteran actors **Bill McCallum***, **Kris L. Nelson***, and **Sara Marsh***, was a hit with audiences and critics, and named one of the Top Ten Productions of 2013 by Rohan Preston of the *Star Tribune*.

To close their inaugural Equity season, Dark & Stormy produced ***The Receptionist*** by **Adam Bock**, directed by **Benjamin McGovern**[†] and featuring **Sally Wingert*** in the title role, with **Sara Marsh***, **Bill McCallum***, and **Harry Waters Jr.*** *The Receptionist* played to a remarkable 98% capacity and nearly sold out its entire run, and was named one of the Top Ten Productions of 2013 by *City Pages* theater critic Ed Huyck.

To open their second season, Dark & Stormy followed the success of *The Receptionist* with another **Adam Bock** play: ***The Drunken City***, directed by **Bill McCallum*** and



featuring **Paul de Cordova***, **Tracey Maloney***, **Sara Marsh***, **Benjamin McGovern†**, **Kris L. Nelson***, and **Adelin Phelps**. The show was again a hit with audiences and critics, performing well above projections and receiving rave reviews. *The Drunken City* was named a top production of 2014 thus far by both Graydon Royce and Rohan Preston of the *Star Tribune*.

Dark & Stormy's **Production Stage Manager, Katie Hawkinson***, says,

Dark & Stormy's work is adventurous from start to finish. I love the whole process of building a show from the ground up – from choosing the script to finding the right actors to exploring a fresh performance space and presenting the finished product to an enthusiastic crowd. It is a highly collaborative and creative experience, and one that is truly unique to our theater community.

The regional premiere of ***The Hothouse* by Harold Pinter**, running **December 10, 2014 – January 4, 2015**, concludes Dark & Stormy Productions' second season.

Tickets for ***The Hothouse*** are currently available for purchase online at www.darkstormy.org or by calling 612.724.5685. Tickets are \$25, with discounts for patrons under the age of 30 and for preview performances. All shows are 7:30pm.

For interviews with ***The Hothouse*** director **Benjamin McGovern** or the cast (**Robert Dorfman, Mark Benninghofen, John Catron, Sara Marsh, Bill McCallum, and Bruce Bohne**), please contact Sara Marsh at 651.226.6726 or sara@darkstormy.org.

For interviews with **Dark & Stormy Productions' Board Chair, Jill A. Anderson**, please contact Jill A. Anderson at 860.382.8688 or janderson@theoneill.org.

For more information about Dark & Stormy Productions, please visit www.darkstormy.org, or email Artistic Director Sara Marsh at sara@darkstormy.org or Associate Artistic Director Bill McCallum at bill@darkstormy.org.

Please see the next page for a performance schedule.



The Hothouse Performance Schedule

(Calendar excludes Tuesdays – no Tuesday performances)

December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		10 Preview 7:30pm	11 Preview 7:30pm	12 OPENING NIGHT 7:30pm	13 NO Performance
14 Performance 7:30pm	15 Performance 7:30pm	17	18 Performance 7:30pm	19 Performance 7:30pm	20 Performance 7:30pm
21	22	24	25	26 Performance 7:30pm	27 Performance 7:30pm
28 Performance 7:30pm	29 Performance 7:30pm	31	1	2	3

(Calendar cont'd on next page)



January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	31	1 Performance 7:30pm	2 Performance 7:30pm	3 Performance 7:30pm
4 CLOSING NIGHT 7:30pm	5	7	8	9	10



Sara Marsh, *Artistic Director*
Dark & Stormy Productions

Jill A. Anderson, *Chair*
General Manager, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center