

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 2018

MEDIA CONTACT:

Nicholas Peterson

617-576-9278 x205

The Nora Theatre Company presents Christopher Hampton's

Les Liaisons Dangereuses

May 31 - July 1, 2018

Money. Mayhem. Men.

CAMBRIDGE, MA – The Nora Theatre Company is proud to present **Christopher Hampton's *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*** from **May 31 to July 1, 2018** and is directed by **Artistic Director Lee Mikeska Gardner**. The press performance is **Monday, June 4 at 7:30PM**.

France, before the revolution. Two decadent, aristocratic ex-lovers conspire in drawing rooms and boudoirs, swooping down on the innocent and naïve, and playfully keeping score of their depravity with delicious ribald wit. **Lee Mikeska Gardner** helmed the play in Washington DC with an all-male cast. Bringing that concept to The Nora, notions of gender politics are skewed with the sexual, amoral, manipulative game envisioned through new eyes. Money, mayhem and men Join us and see why DCist showered **Lee Mikeska Gardner's** production with the following praise:

"You're in for good, gutsy, even groundbreaking theater. *Liaisons* manages to question your assumptions about gender... delivering a raw and realistic interpretation of the well-known work." - DCist.com

Content Warning: Full nudity. Sexual content. Suggested age: 18 and over.

Les Liaisons Dangereuses plays at Central Square Theater, 450 Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridge from May 31 to July 1, 2018. Tickets may be purchased by calling 617.576.9278 x1, at the Central Square Theater box office, or online at CentralSquareTheater.org

About Christopher Hampton & Pierre-Ambroise François Choderlos de Laclos

Christopher Hampton (*Playwright*) Mr. Hampton's plays, musicals and translations have garnered four Tony Awards, Two Olivier Awards, four Evening Standard Awards and the New York Theatre Critics Circle Award while prizes for his film and television work include An Academy Award, two BAFTAs, a Writer's Guild of America Award, the Prix Italian and a Special Jury Award at the Cannes Film Festival. His plays include a translation of *Judgment Day at the Almeida* (2009) and a translation of *God of Carnage* (2008) at the Gielgud Theatre starring Ralph Fiennes and on Broadway starring James Gandolfini (2009), *Embers* (2006) at the Duke of York's Theatre starring Jeremy Irons, *The Talking Cure* (2002), *Alice's Adventures Under Ground* (1994), *White Chameleon* (1991) and *Tales From Hollywood* (1983) (all at the Royal National Theatre); *Les*

MORE

Liaisons Dangereuses, which began at the R.S.C.'s Other Place in Stratford in Sept. 1985 and subsequently ran at the Ambassadors Theatre for over five years; *Treats* (1976), *Savages* (1973) *The Philanthropist* (1970), all of which transferred from the Royal Court Theatre to the West End, where *The Philanthropist* ran for more than 1100 performances; *Total Eclipse* (1968) and *When Did You Last See My Mother?* (1966) (also at the Royal Court Theatre), the last of which, when it transferred, made him the youngest playwright ever to have a play in the West End, a record which still stands. *Treats* and *Total Eclipse* were both revived in London in 2007 to critical acclaim. He has written (with Don Black) the book and lyrics for two musicals; *Dracula* (2004), with music by Frank Wildhorn and *Sunset Boulevard* (1992) with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. His other translations include: from Chekhov, *The Seagull* (2007 Royal Court, 2008 Broadway) *Three Sisters* (2003 A.T.G) and *Uncle Vanya* (1970, Royal Court); from Ibsen, *An Enemy of the People* (1997), *The Wild Duck* (1979), and *Hedda Gabler* (1970) (all at the Royal National Theatre), *Ghosts* for the Actor's Company (1978) and *A Doll's House* (1971) with Claire Bloom on Broadway and in the West End, subsequently filmed (1973); from Odon von Horvath, *Tales From The Vienna Woods* (1977) subsequently filmed (1979), *Don Juan Comes Back From The War* (1978) at the Royal National Theatre, *Faith, Hope and Charity* (1989) at the Lyric, Hammersmith; *Tartuffe* by Moliere at the R.S.C (1983) and from Yasmina Reza, *Life x 3* (2000) at the Royal National Theatre, *Conversations after a Burial* (2000) at the Almeida, *The Unexpected Man* (1997) at the R.S.C. and "Art", which opened at Wyndham's in Oct.1996 and ran for over 2500 performances. His Television work includes: *The Ginger Tree* (1989 from Oswald Wynd), *Hotel du Lac* (1986, from Anita Brookner), *The History Man* (1980, from Malcolm Bradbury) and *Able's Will* (1977). Screenplays include: *Dangerous Method* (2011), *Cheri* (2009) *Atonement* (2007), *The Quiet American* (2002), *Mary Reilly* (1996), *Total Eclipse* (1995), *Dangerous Liaisons* (1988), *The Good Father* (1986) and *The Honorary Consul* (1983). He has also written and directed three films: *Imagining Argentina* (2004), *The Secret Agent* (1996) and *Carrington* (1995).

Pierre-Ambroise François Choderlos de Laclos (*Novelist*) was born into a family of Spanish descent that inherited a title from an attendant to Louis XIV. Although his relatives were financial administrators, Laclos chose a military career and entered the La Fère Academy in 1759. By the time of graduation in 1763 he held the position of second lieutenant; in a span of fifteen years he was unable to advance beyond the rank of second captain during a time of relative peace in Europe. While stationed in Grenoble between 1769 and 1775, Laclos apparently met several society figures who contributed to the formation of the principal characters in *Les Liaisons dangereuses*. The psychology behind this work is derived from Laclos's reworking of Samuel Richardson's *History of Clarissa Harlowe* (1748) and Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *The New Héloïse* (1761)—epistolary novels renowned for intense passion, social realism, and elevated language. As a military commander, Laclos was in a unique position to view the game of seduction as a series of maneuvers and strategies. Based on his political choices during the French Revolution, it is reasonable to conclude that Laclos meant to hold a mirror to the French *ancien régime* society of the 1770's, noted for its excessive promiscuity, nefarious scheming, cynical worldliness, and blatant hypocrisy. In the years before the fall of the Bastille, Laclos married (two years after the birth of a son) and served as a secretary to Louis Philippe Joseph, Duke of Orléans, before joining the Jacobin Party in 1790. During the Reign of Terror, he was imprisoned but later released on house arrest. He was reinstated into the army, supported Napoleon, and was subsequently appointed a general of the artillery in 1800. During the Napoleonic Wars he died in Taranto, probably from dysentery. In 1903, a collection of his writings—mostly speeches, treatises, letters, and poems—was published. *Les Liaisons dangereuses*, popularized in stage and film adaptations, remains a classic representation of diabolical subtlety and Machiavellian subterfuge.

About Lee Mikeska Gardner

Lee Mikeska Gardner (*Artistic Director, The Nora Theatre Company*) was last on stage playing Olympe de Gouges in The Nora's production of *The Revolutionists*. Other Boston roles: Brodie in *Precious Little*, Tess in *Marjorie Prime*, Emilie in *Emilie: La Marquise du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight* (Elliot Norton award for Outstanding Actress, Small Theatre) and Carla in the IRNE nominated *Chosen Child* at Boston Playwrights' Theatre. Favorite roles (all in pre-Trump Washington, D.C.) include Terry in *Sideman* (Helen Hayes Nomination for Outstanding Actress) and Florence Foster Jenkins in *Souvenir* at 1st Stage, Mary in *A House in the Country* with Charter Theatre (Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Actress), Luisa in *A Shayna Maidel* at Rep Stage (Best Actress in the *Baltimore City Paper*), Claire in *The Two-Character Play* at Spooky Action and Josie in *The Show Off* at The American Century Theatre. Lee has earned an additional three Helen Hayes nominations for performance. As a director Lee most recently helmed *The Midvale High School Fiftieth Reunion* as well as *Journey to the West*, a co-production with Underground Railway Theater. Other directing credits at The Nora are: *Her Aching Heart*, *Grounded*, *Saving Kitty* (with Jennifer Coolidge) and *Arcadia*. An Artistic Associate for ten years at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Lee directed a show a season, earning Helen Hayes nominations for direction for *After Ashley*, *Life During Wartime*, and *Goodnight, Desdemona, Good Morning Juliet*. As an Associate Artist with 1st Stage, Lee directed *Blithe Spirit*, *The How and The Why*, *Humble Boy* and *Fuddy Meers*. Lee served as the Managing Director for Washington Shakespeare Company for five years directing shows including the world premieres of *Caesar and Dada* and *Learning Curves* as well as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other favorite directing projects include *Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie* at The Kennedy Center; *Angels in America* and *Peristroika* at Signature Theatre; T.S. Eliot's *The Cocktail Party* for the Washington Stage Guild (Theatre Lobby Award); *Golden Boy* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* with the Keegan Theatre (Artistic Associate); *The Butterfingers Angel...*, *Thom Pain (Based on Nothing)*, *Stones In His Pockets* and *Three Tall Women* at Rep Stage, where Lee also served as Managing Director for two years. Lee spent seven years as Associate Artistic Director with the Shenandoah Playwrights' Retreat working on plays in development. As an educator, Lee has taught or served as a Guest Artist at Colleges and Universities across the nation including Emerson, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, UVA, Charlottesville, University of Maryland, College Park, and Middlebury College. Lee has a B.F.A. in the Performing Arts from George Mason University and an M.F.A. in Acting from The Catholic University of America.

About the All Male Cast of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*

Jaime Carrillo (*Volanges*) As a company member of the Classical Theatre of Harlem for six years, Jaime performed in *King Lear*, *MARAT/SADE*, *Macbeth*, *Mother Courage and Her Children*, and *Dream on Monkey Mountain*. Regional credits include Woolly Mammoth Theatre (Helen Hayes Nomination), GALA Hispanic Theatre, and Studio Theatre. In Boston, Jaime has performed with Actors' Shakespeare Project, Central Square Theatre, Lyric Stage, and SpeakEasy Stage (Winner, Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Production). TV credits: Saturday Night Live! Training: The William Esper Studio; B.A. with honors in Theater Arts, Brandeis University. Jaime is a Lucille Lortel award-winning producer and was assistant producer on "Waiting for Godot In New Orleans", a performance of "Waiting for Godot" on the streets of the Lower 9th ward neighborhood in New Orleans, two years after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Greg Maraio (*Merteuil*) is honored to be making his debut with The Nora Theatre Company. A Boston native, he recently originated the role of Adam/Moose in the world premiere of *Brawler* (Boston Playwrights' and The Kitchen Theatre Company). He was a member of the ensemble of the 2016 workshop production of

Finish Line and also appeared in its world premiere at Boston's Shubert Theater in March 2017. He has performed the roles of Jordan in the New England premiere of *Significant Other* (IRNE nomination), Jonathon / Miranda in *Casa Valentina* (Elliot Norton and IRNE nominations), Victor / Clint in John Kuntz's *Necessary Monsters*, all with SpeakEasy Stage, and Garry in *Noises Off* with The Footlight Club (DASH nominee, Best Actor). Other recent acting credits include *Faithless* (Boston Playwrights' Theatre); *Colossal* (Company One); *Translations* (Bad Habit Productions); and *The Misadventures of Spy Matthias* (Theatre on Fire). He has also worked with many other local companies including The Huntington, New Rep, and Zeitgeist Stage. Greg received a BFA from Lesley University where he studied acting with Anne Pluto. He thanks Lee for her trust and dedicates his performance to the memory of his mentor and beloved friend, Thomas Derrah.

Maurice Emmanuel Parent (*Azolan*) is overjoyed to be making his Nora Theatre Company debut with *Dangerous Liaisons*. He was previous seen at Central Square Theater with Underground Railway Theater's productions of *The Mountaintop* (Dr. King) and *The Convert* (Chilford - 2017 IRNE Award). Other local credits include The Huntington Theatre, New Repertory Theatre, SpeakEasy Stage, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Lyric Stage, Off The Grid Theatre Company, Wheelock Family Theatre, Cape Playhouse, Boston Theatre Works and Actors' Shakespeare Project (Resident Acting Company member). 2016 IRNE Award (*Snow Queen*), 2015 IRNE Award (*The Color Purple*), 2017 Elliot Norton Award (*Edward II*), 2008 Elliot Norton Award (*Some Men, Angels in America, and The Wild Party*). Maurice is an adjunct faculty member of Boston University, Tufts and Northeastern. Co-founder and Executive Director of The Front Porch Arts Collective, in residence at Central Square Theater FrontPorchArts.org / MauriceParent.com

Dave Rich (*Rosemonde*) is delighted to be making his debut with the Nora Theatre Company. Last year he appeared with the Gloucester Stage Company in *The Rainmaker* and in *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Other theatre credits include *Becky Shaw*, *Leading Ladies*, and *An Inspector Calls* (Cape Ann Theatre Collaborative); *Faith Healer* (Francis Hardy) and *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (Pato) with the Newton Nomadic Theatre Company; *MacBeth* (MacBeth) with FUDGE Theatre Company (best actor IRNE nomination 2014), *God's Ear* (Guy) with the Actors' Shakespeare Project; as well as *Angels in America* (Roy Cohn), *The Crucible* (John Proctor), *No Exit* (Joseph Garcin), *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Gordon), *Shooting Star* (Reed McAllister) and *The Tempest* (Caliban), with the Salem Theatre Company. Last August he appeared in the History Channel's three part series, *The Cars That Made America*. He is profoundly grateful to his wife Jennifer for her extraordinary love and support.

Eddie Shields (*Tourvel*) is thrilled to be making his Nora Theatre Company debut! New England Credits: *Shakespeare in Love*, *Significant Other* (IRNE Award), and *Casa Valentina* (IRNE nom) at Speakeasy Stage Company *Edward II* (IRNE nom), *The Comedy of Errors* with Actors' Shakespeare Project; *Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them* (Company One); *Pinocchio* (Wheelock Family Theatre). New York Credits: *A Class Act* (Robert Moss Theater); *The Good Girl's High* (dir, Manhattan Rep); *Henry VI.3, A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Drilling Company); *Twelfth Night* (Chekhov Theater Festival); *If On A Winter's Night* (Everyday Inferno Theater Co); *Billy Redden* (Theater Row); *Julie* (WorkShop Theater). Film/TV: *Moonrise Kingdom, Road to Joy, Unsure/Positive, The Entertainment*. MFA Brandeis University.

Felton Sparks (*Ensemble*) is honored to be making his Central Square Theater acting debut in this inventive production! Select Boston acting credits include *Still Life with Iris, O Beautiful, Lizzie Stranton, A Chorus Line, The Antigone Project*, and *Stuart Little*. Last summer he choreographed the first ever production of *The*

Midvale High School Fiftieth Reunion (Central Square Theater). He recently danced with Anna Myer's BeHeard.World Company in their new show *The Body Language Project*. Sparks placed first runner up in the Jerry Herman Awards LA 2014 for Leading Male Singer and was nominated for Best Choreography. He is a recent graduate of Emerson College. Many thanks to my teachers, my friends, my love, and my parents for pushing me and believing in me.

Stewart Evan Smith (*Danceny*) is a Boston based actor, having previously appeared at Central Square Theater in *The Edge of Peace*. Other recent credits include *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Gloucester Stage), *Edward II* (Actors Shakespeare Project), *Murph* (Open Theatre Project), *Lucky Stiff* (Stoneham Theatre), *Noises Off* (Priscilla Beach Theatre), and *Dog Act* (Theatre on Fire). He is also a regular ensemble performer with Mystery Cafe (www.mysterycafe.com), and Shit-Faced Shakespeare (www.shit-facedshakespeare.com).

John Tracey (*Emilie*) is delighted to be working with The Nora for the first time. He is the Associate Producer for Bridge Repertory Theater, in residence at the Multicultural Arts Center in East Cambridge. At Bridge Rep, you may have caught him in *The Launch Prize*, *Julius Caesar* or, if you were lucky, as Cleopatra. Other theaters: Trinity Repertory Company, CenterStage, REV Theatre Co, Boston Theater Company, Huntington Theatre Company, and a few rounds of the Philadelphia and New York Fringe Festivals. BFA: The University of the Arts, MFA: Brown University/Trinity Rep.

James Wechsler (*Cecile*) is a Boston-based actor who got his B.F.A. in theatre performance at Salem State University. Recent credits include Cloten in *Cymbeline* (Brown Box Theatre), D in *Peerless* (Company One), and *Polonius* (Brown Box Theatre Company). He is the 2014 recipient of the KCACTF Region 1 Acting Fellowship, and received a national award from the Kennedy Center for his performance in *Kafka in Tel Aviv* that same year. He also is the 2015 KCACTF Region 1 recipient of Best Actor in a Ten Minute/One Act Play.

Dan Whelton (Valmont) returns to the The Nora Theatre Company having previously appeared in *Operation Epsilon* (IRNE Best Ensemble). Other theatre credits include *Anna Christie*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (IRNE Best Supporting Actor, Elliot Norton Outstanding Production), and *One Man, Two Guv'nors* (Lyric Stage); *Million Dollar Quartet* and *A Long Day's Journey into Night* (The Majestic Theater); *I Hate Hamlet* (Playhouse on Park); *A Christmas Carol* (Hanover Theatre); *I Capture The Castle* (Greater Boston Stage); *The History Boys* (IRNE Best Play, Best Ensemble; SpeakEasy Stage); *Take Me Out* (Hartford TheatreWorks); *The Learned Ladies of Park Ave* (Hartford Stage); and *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Ivoryton Playhouse). Film credits include *Patriot's Day* and *Ghosts of Girlfriends Past*. Special thanks to my lovely wife Isabelle, and to our beautiful children Lydia and Liam! Je vous aime!

The creative team includes **Janie E. Howland** (*Scenic Designer*), **Abby Shenkar** (*Associate Scenic Designer*), **Elizabeth Rocha** (*Costume Designer*), **John R. Malinowski** (*Lighting Designer*), **David Bryan Jackson** (*Sound Design*), **Claire Warden** (*Intimacy & Fight Director*), **Ted Hewlett** (*Intimacy & Fight Director*), **Olivia D'Ambrosio** (*Director of Dialect*), and **Allison Olivia Choat** (*Assistant Director*). **Sam Layco** is the Rehearsal Stage Manager. **Lauren Burke** (**Performance Stage Manager**).

Central Square Theater (CST) opened in 2008 through a groundbreaking partnership between **The Nora Theatre Company** (The Nora) and **Underground Railway Theater** (URT). This collaboration has been called a model for the arts community (The Boston Foundation, Culture is our Commonwealth, and The National Collaboration Prize), as it has paired two like-minded performing arts organizations in a strategic

alliance with the City of Cambridge and MIT, resulting in the development of a state-of-the-art performing arts center in the heart of Central Square. CST has a mission to support its two theaters-in-residence while maintaining a shared vision of artists and audiences creating theater vital to their communities. The Nora and URT have a combined track record of over 50 years producing award-winning theater. Located in Central Square, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and steeped in its multiracial, intergenerational, ethnically and economically diverse neighborhoods, the CST theater experience exudes a democratic energy where classes, races and age groups come together to be inspired, entertained and energized.

Press inquiries should be directed to **Central Square Theater Director of Marketing Nicholas Peterson**, 617.576.9278 x205 (Office), 617.512.1688 (Cell - This cell number not for publication)
Email: NDP@CentralSquareTheater.org

Central Square Theater is accessible to persons with special needs and to those requiring wheelchair seating. For further information please call 617.576.9278 or visit CentralSquareTheater.org

CALENDAR AND RELATED FACTS AT A GLANCE

LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES

By **Christopher Hampton**

From the novel by

Directed by **Lee Mikeska Gardner**

May 31 – July 1, 2018

France, before the revolution. Two decadent, aristocratic ex-lovers conspire in drawing rooms and boudoirs, swooping down on the innocent and naïve, and playfully keeping score of their depravity with delicious ribald wit. **Lee Mikeska Gardner** helmed the play in Washington DC with an all-male cast. Bringing that concept to The Nora, notions of gender politics are skewed with the sexual, amoral, manipulative game envisioned through new eyes. Money, mayhem and men. *Content Warning: Full nudity. Sexual content. Suggested age: 18 and over.*

Cast: **Jaime Carrillo** (*Volanges*), **Greg Maraio** (*Merteuil*), **Maurice Emmanuel Parent** (*Azolan*), **Dave Rich** (*Rosemonde*), **Eddie Shields** (*Tourvel*), **Felton Sparks** (*Ensemble*), **Stewart Evan Smith** (*Danceney*), **John Tracey** (*Emilie*), **James Wechsler** (*Cecile*), & **Dan Whelton** (*Valmont*)

Director: **Lee Mikeska Gardner**

Stage Manager: **Sam Layco** (Rehearsal). **Lauren Burke** (Performance).

Design Team: **Janie E. Howland** (*Scenic Designer*), **Abby Shenkar** (*Associate Scenic Designer*), **Elizabeth Rocha** (*Costume Designer*), **John R. Malinowski** (*Lighting Designer*), **David Bryan Jackson** (*Sound Design*), **Claire Warden** (*Intimacy & Fight Director*), **Ted Hewlett** (*Intimacy & Fight Director*), **Olivia D'Ambrosio** (*Director of Dialect*), and **Allison Olivia Choat** (*Assistant Director*). **Sam Layco** is the Rehearsal Stage Manager. **Lauren Burke** (Performance Stage Manager).

Produced by: **The Nora Theatre Company**

Performing at: Central Square Theater, 450 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge 02139

Run Time: 2 hours, 30 minutes with one intermission

Press Performance: Monday, June 4, 2018 at 7:30PM

Ticket Prices: Tickets begin at \$20. Seniors Save \$5, Students (with Univ. ID): \$20. Under 18: \$15. Discounts for Groups.

Box Office: 617.576.9278 x1, CentralSquareTheater.org

Media Contact: **Nicholas Peterson**, Director of Marketing, 617,576.9278 x205 (Office), 617.512.1688 (Cell - This cell number not for publication), Email: NDP@CentralSquareTheater.org

MORE