

PRESS RELEASE

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MARYLAND ENSEMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS AWARD WINNING *CLYBOURNE PARK*

FREDERICK, MD (August 24, 2014) - Maryland Ensemble Theatre (MET) is proud to present the first play in its seventeenth Mainstage season, "**Clybourne Park**". **Bruce Norris'** satirical comedy won the 2011 **Pulitzer Prize Award** and the 2012 **Tony Award for Best Play**. "**Clybourne Park**" will be directed by **Peter Wray** and will run every Thursday through Sunday at Maryland Ensemble Theatre from September 12 through October 5.

"**Clybourne Park**" premiered in New York in 2010 to great acclaim with **The New York Times** praising the play as "ferociously smart" and **Variety** calling it, "pulverizingly funny". The play was written in response to **Lorraine Hansberry's** play "**A Raisin in the Sun**" (1959). The action in Act 1 and Act 2 takes place fifty years apart both prior to and following the action in the Hansberry play and addresses race and upward mobility through the gentrification of a **Chicago** neighborhood.

The playwright, Bruce Norris, has been widely produced but is most closely associated with **Steppenwolf Theatre** where his previous plays, "**The Infidel**", "**Purple Heart**", "**We All Went Down to Amsterdam**", "**The Pain and the Itch**", and "**The Unmentionables**" all premiered. "**Clybourne Park**" is the only play other than **Mamet's "Glengarry Glen Ross"** to win the Pulitzer, Tony and **Olivier Award**.

The show's director Peter Wray, is an Associate Artist at MET where he has directed "**Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf**", "**The Glass Menagerie**", "**American Buffalo**", "**Dead Man's Cell Phone**", "**Almost Maine**", and "**Macbeth**" among others. Regionally, he has worked at **Everyman Theatre**, **Rep Stage**, **The Bay Theatre Company**, **Generous Company**, **WordBRIDGE Playwrights Laboratory** and **Maryland Institute College of Art**. Peter is an Associate Professor of theater at **Towson University**.

Wray will direct a talented cast of actors that will feature many familiar faces to MET audiences including MET company members **Rona Mensah**, **Julie Herber**, **Brian Irons**, **Shea-Mikal Green** and **Jack Evans**. They will be joined on stage by **DC Cathro** in his seventh MET show and a newcomer to the MET stage, **Brandon Scott Boyd**.

Wray and his cast will be ably assisted by a design team featuring **Eric Berninghausen** (set), **Tad Janes** (lights), **Kirk Bowers** (costumes), **James McGarvey** (properties), and **Tom Majarov** (sound).

"**Clybourne Park**" will run every Thursday through Sunday from September 12 through October 5 at MET, located in the historic **FSK Hotel** at 31 W Patrick Street. Thursday, September 11 there will be preview performance at 8pm and tickets to that show are \$5 (cash only at door/no reservations). The first Sunday performance will be preceded by a reception hosted by MET Board Members **Suzanne Beal** and **Judy Rice** and sponsored by **Giant Eagle**.

Tickets to "**Clybourne Park**" are \$16.50 (Thursdays) through \$25.50 and can be purchased at 301.694.4744, **marylandensemble.org** or in person at the Maryland Ensemble Theatre box office. This show is made possible in part through the support of MET's season sponsors including **Comcast**, **The Frederick Gorilla**, **Key 103**, **Eagle 106.9**, **Ausherman Family Trust**, **Mark A Pitts Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery**, **The**

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Frederick News Post and both the **Frederick** and **Maryland Arts Councils**.

For more information on the MET's production of "Clybourne Park" or any of their other programs including The **Ensemble School**, **The Fun Company** or **The Comedy Pigs** you can visit marylandensemble.org or call **301-694-4744**.

TICKETS/LOCATION/DATES INFORMATION

Clybourne Park

By Bruce Norris

Directed by Peter Wray

Cast: Rona Mensah (Francine/Lena), Brandon Scott Boyd (Albert/Kevin), DC Cathro (Russ/Dan), Julie Herber (Bev/Kathy), Brian Irons (Karl/Steve), Shea-Mikal Green (Betsy/Lindsey) & Jack Evans (Jim/Tom/Kenneth)

Production Team: Eric Berninghausen (Scenic Design), James McGarvey (Properties), Tad Janes (Lighting Design), Kirk Bowers (Costume Design), Tom Majorov (Sound Design), Meg Hughes (Stage Manager), Giovanni Kavota (Assistant Stage Manager)

Where: Maryland Ensemble Theatre, 31 West Patrick Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dates: September 12 - October 5, Every Thursday through Sunday.

Performances: Thursday - Saturday at 8pm, first Sunday at 7pm, all other Sundays at 3pm

Ticket Prices: Adults \$25.50, Students/Seniors \$21.50, Thursdays \$16.50 (includes \$1.50 ticketing fee)

\$5 Preview tickets - No Reservations/Cash Only - Thursday 9/11/14 at 8pm

Box Office: 301-694-4744 or marylandensemble.org or at MET (Tuesday - Thursday 10am - 3pm, Friday 11am - 3pm and 1 hour before each show.)

Press Photos & Press Releases:

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