

**CHESTER THEATRE COMPANY'S PRODUCTION OF
PRIDE@PREJUDICE
TRANSFERS TO ALBANY'S CAPITAL REPERTORY THEATRE**

News of Forth Transfer in Five Years Kicks Off 2012 Season

CHESTER, MA - Chester Theatre Company (CTC) announces that its critically acclaimed production of Daniel Elihu Kramer's *pride@prejudice* will transfer to Capital Repertory Theatre in Albany, NY. With this news of their fourth transfer in five years, CTC starts their 2012 summer season, entitled *Uncommon Love Stories*, off running.

According to CTC Artistic Director Byam Stevens, "It's great to be collaborating with Maggie Mancinelli at Capital Rep and giving audiences in our wider region a chance to see this terrific piece. It's also further evidence that CTC consistently punches above its weight; this is our fourth transfer in five years, following Off Broadway remounts of *The Bully Pulpit* and *The Dishwashers* and last summer's *Last Train to Nibroc* at Peterborough Players. We've moved 17 productions to other venues in the last 15 years, a record very few companies can match."

pride@prejudice had its world premiere at Chester Theatre Company last July as part of CTC's 2011 season *Classic Stories, Contemporary Voices*. In *pride@prejudice*, Daniel Elihu Kramer's delightful adaptation of Jane Austen's classic romance, five actors play over thirty roles, adding other voices - bloggers, commentators, scholars, even Jane Austen herself - to the novel's beloved roster of characters. Kramer's affectionate take on one of the world's most popular love stories not only delivers all the delightful twists and turns of the novel's plot, it looks at our love affair with reading and with this extraordinary book in particular.

"This witty, new version celebrates Austen's timeless romance as it is known and loved," according to Capital Repertory Theatre Artistic Director Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill, "Long time Jane Austen fans will be reinvigorated by this new look at an old friend, and newcomers to the book will be swept away by the comedy and the romance."

pride@prejudice will not be CTC's only uncommon love story playing this year. Riffing on that theme, CTC will present four other tales of unusual romance in this summer's season, each grappling with love's diversity using equally diverse strategies: Rajiv Joseph's triangular love story of origami and other complexities, **Animals Out of Paper** (July 5-15); Elizabeth Egloff's comic fantasy of love and transformation on the Nebraska prairie, **The Swan** (July 18-29); Arlene Hutton's chronicle of late-night pre-marathon confessions and connections, **Running** (August 1-12); and Dipika Guha's whimsical tale of supernatural adventure and long-delayed meetings, **The Betrothed** (August 15-26). For more information, including schedule and ticket purchase, see our 2012 Season Announcement.

"There's a saying in the theatre trade that all plays are love stories," according to CTC Artistic Director Byam Stevens "and our 23rd season will bear that saying out. But, there's a twist -- these aren't your usual love stories, you won't find a conventional romantic comedy among them. Not to worry though, there's still romance and comedy and betrayal and magic and mystery aplenty -- all the makings of great theatre from today's best writers!"

About Chester Theatre Company

Chester Theatre Company, a professional theatre company located in the foothills of the Berkshires, produces 4-5 plays each summer and fall, performed by top-flight actors, directors and designers from across the country. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Byam Stevens, CTC has earned a reputation for producing the best in contemporary theatre -- CTC productions have gone on to Off Broadway engagements and regional, national, and international tours. For further information visit the CTC website at

www.chestertheatre.org.

CTC performances are supported, in part, by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Local Cultural Councils of Blandford, Chester, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Russell, Westfield, and Worthington.

-30-

**For more information please contact:
Todd Trebour, Managing Director
413-354-7770
todd@chestertheatre.org**

Note to the editor: listed below is a selection of previous theatre reviews about pride@prejudice and CTC overall

“CTC consistently present its audiences with thoughtful scripts and terrific actors in productions that sparkle like gems.” *WFCR, National Public Radio*

“A damn good job... Indeed, if imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, Austen must be blushing in her grave.” *Daily Hampshire Gazette*

“Playfully inventive in its concept and staging. The human touch, once again, wins out.” *Berkshire Eagle*

The New England Premiere of **Animals Out of Paper**, by Rajiv Joseph, (July 5-15) author of the hit play *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, is the first uncommon love story of the summer season. This wise and richly layered comedy tells the story of Ilana, a world-renowned origami artist and her love affair with Suresh, a ipod addict and teen origami prodigy. Famed director May Adrales will make her CTC debut directing this “pitch-perfect” play (New York Times).

The second love story, Elizabeth Egloff’s Kesselring Prize-winning **The Swan** (July 18-29), recounts the story of Dora Hand, a lonely thrice-divorced woman living on the Nebraska prairie, who begins an affair with a swan-turned-charismatic-man after he crashes through her living room window. A mysterious and comic fantasy on the Leda and the Swan myth, *pride@prejudice* author Daniel Elihu Kramer will direct this “bewitching bedtime story for grown-ups” (New York Newsday).

New England Premiere of **Running** by Arlene Hutton (August 1-12), tells the story of first-time New York marathoner Stephen and his late night conversation with Emily, his wife’s ex-roommate, when she unexpectedly drops by the eve of the big race. Conversation quickly transforms into late confessions and connections in this witty, insightful dramedy that was the hit of the New York Fringe Festival. The third love story of the season, described as “a smart, funny script ...a very real, human drama” (NYTheatre.com), will be directed by Ron Bashford, who helmed the production of *pride@prejudice*.

The final uncommon love story of this season, **The Betrothed** by Dipika Guha, runs from August 15-26. A delightful adventure in magic realism, **The Betrothed** opens with Simon's flight crosses the Atlantic to the Old Country, where he imagines meeting the beautiful, unknown woman he has been betrothed to since birth. Upon arrival, his fantasy is derailed by old crones, morally ambiguous clergymen, deceitful babies, barnyard animals, ghostly possession, and murder. Director by Byam Stevens, this existential comedy with a fairy tale heart is “a whimsical tour of the supernatural” (Boston Globe).