

CHESTER THEATRE COMPANY

CONTACT: Todd Trebour
413-354-7770
todd@chestertheatre.org

CHESTER THEATRE COMPANY

Presents

The New England Premiere of

RUNNING

by Arlene Hutton

New Play from Author of THE NIBROC TRILOGY runs August 1-12

CHESTER, MA- *Running*, the third installment in CTC's **Uncommon Love Stories** season, is being given its New England Premiere in a production directed by Ron Bashford, director of last season's CTC hit – *pride@prejudice*. Arlene Hutton's witty, sensitive and wise dramedy, the hit of the New York Fringe Festival, will remind audiences why her Nibroc Trilogy was an all-time hit at CTC. ***Running***, which NYTheatre.com hailed as: "A smart, funny script ... a very real, human drama" opens on August 1st and plays through August 12th.

"I can't reveal why this play was included in this season of **Uncommon Love Stories** – it would give too much away, but at the end of the play, audience members will understand why" says CTC Artistic Director Byam Stevens. Explaining his choice of seasonal theme he continues, "There's a saying in the theatre trade that all plays are love stories (sometimes the love in question is of money, power, fame, etc.) and this season affirms that saying. But, these aren't your usual love stories, there's not a conventional romantic comedy among them. However, we'll still have romance and comedy and betrayal and magic and mystery - all the makings of great contemporary theatre!"

Running opens on the eve of the New York City Marathon. Stephen, preparing for his first race, needs a good night's sleep -- his wife is in London on business and he has the apartment to himself. That is, until Emily, his wife's ex-roommate, shows up unexpectedly and in crisis. Late night conversation becomes late night confessions and connections.

CTC veteran Jay Stratton (Darcy in *pride@prejudice*) will play Stephen to CTC newcomer Melissa Hurst's Emily.

Arlene Hutton is best known for *The Nibroc Trilogy* (*Last Train To Nibroc*, *See Rock City*, *Gulf View Drive*), which was presented in its entirety at CTC in 2010. Other works include *As It Is In Heaven*, and *Letters To Sala*. Her plays have been presented throughout the world and have been translated into Chinese, Dutch, and Romanian. Her children's play *Happy Worst Day Ever* was commissioned by Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and won the Macy's New Play Award. Ms. Hutton is a three-time winner of the Samuel French Short Play Festival, and the recipient of the Lippman and Calloway Awards. Hutton was twice named the Tennessee Williams Fellow in Playwriting at the University of the South.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

The cast features Melissa Hurst as Emily and Jay Stratton as Stephen. Directed by Ron Bashford, Set Design by David Towlun, Lighting Design by Jill Nagle, Costume Design by Heather Crocker Aulenback, Sound Design by Tom Shread.

Ron Bashford, a faculty member at Amherst College, directed last summer's CTC hit *pride@prejudice* -- which will be presented this fall at Albany's Capital Repertory Theater. Ron's recent work includes *2 Washington Square* by Constance Congdon (Amherst College), *Much Ado About Nothing*, (Independent Shakespeare Co., Los Angeles Times Critics Choice), *What The Butler Saw* and *A Number* (North Carolina Stage Co.), *Skylight* and *Picasso At The Lapin Agile* (Capital Rep) and *Macbeth* (Syracuse Stage).

Jay Stratton (Stephen) has previously appeared at CTC in *pride@prejudice*, *The Dishwashers*, *Grace and Two Rooms*. In New York he has performed at Red Bull Theatre (*The Duchess of Malfi*), and the Pearl Theatre (*She Stoops to Conquer*, *Twelfth Night*, and *The Oedipus Cycle*). His regional theatre work includes: *The Pavilion*, *Reckless*, and *Christmas Carol* at Cincinnati Playhouse; *Pride and Prejudice* at the Denver Center; *Oedipus the King* (as Oedipus) at Pittsburgh Public Theatre.

Melissa Hurst (Emily), who is making her CTC debut, has appeared in many New York premieres, including *One Neck* (with Allison Janney) at the Atlantic Theatre Company and Harry Kondoleon's *The Houseguests* (Obie Award - Best Play). Regionally, Melissa has appeared at Hartford Stage, Pittsburgh Public, St. Louis Rep, Capital Rep, and in over 20 productions with the Dorset Theatre Festival. Film and TV credits include *Law and Order*, and the recurring role of Mrs. Chitwood on *Guiding Light*.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets are available on CTC's website: www.chestertheatre.org, or by phone at 1-800-595-4TIX or 413-354-7771. To receive a brochure, contact the box office at 413-354-7771. Performances are Wednesday through Saturday at 8:00pm, with matinees Thursday and Sunday at 2:00pm. Tickets are \$22.50-\$33; group rates are available. For further information visit CTC's website at: www.chestertheatre.org.

ABOUT CTC

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 -- **17 CTC productions have gone on to Off Broadway, regional, national, and international engagements in the last 15 years.** For further information go to CTC's website: www.chestertheatre.org

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