

CHESTER THEATRE COMPANY

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CHESTER THEATRE COMPANY Presents **THE SWAN** by Elizabeth Egloff

CHESTER, MA-The second installment in CTC's **Uncommon Love Stories** season - **The Swan** by Elizabeth Egloff, will open on July 18th and play through July 29th. Egloff's magical, mysterious and comic riff on the classic Leda and the swan myth is sexy, funny and filled with magic realism. New York Newsday hailed *The Swan* as "a bewitching bedtime story for grown-ups."

"Certainly, a love triangle that includes a nurse, a married milkman and a swan makes this play a perfect exemplar of our season's theme - **Uncommon Love Stories**," according to CTC Artistic Director Byam Stevens. "There's a saying in the theatre trade that all plays are love stories (sometimes the love in question is for money, power, fame, etc, and our 23rd season will give evidence that supports that saying. But, these aren't your usual love stories, there's not a conventional romantic comedy among them. Still, there's plenty of romance and comedy and betrayal and magic and mystery - all the makings of great theatre!"

The Swan is the story of Dora Hand, a nurse who lives by herself on the Nebraska prairie. She's lost three husbands to series of bizarre mishaps and seems destined to play the mistress to her married milkman, Kevin - until a swan crashes into her living room window. Strangely, the swan transforms in to a charismatic and child-like man who quickly learns the ropes: speech, clothes, checkers, pizza, beer, and unconditional and consuming love for his new mistress. The play is a vivid exploration of the question "What happens if that all-consuming love one yearns for actually appears?"

Elizabeth Egloff's plays include: *The Swan*, which has been produced throughout the United States and abroad; *The Devils*, winner of the prestigious Weissberger prize; *The Lover* (premiered at Baltimore's Center Stage); *Wolf-Man* (premiered at Manhattan Theatre Club); and *Phaedra* (premiered at the Vineyard Theatre). She is also the recipient the Lila Wallace Readers Digest Foundation Writer's Award, the Oppenheimer Award, and the Kesselring Prize. Ms. Egloff is the founder of The Legacy Project, a workshop for chronically ill writers.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

The cast features Tracy Liz Miller as Dora, Joel Ripka as Bill the Swan, and Jacob H. Knoll as Kevin. Directed by Daniel Elihu Kramer, Set Design by Travis George, Lighting Design by Lara Dubin, Costume Design by Arthur Oliver, Sound Design by Tom Shread.

Daniel Elihu Kramer is the Artistic Associate at CTC, where his previous directing credits include last season's acclaimed production of *The Turn of the Screw* and *Gulf View Drive*, the third installment of

Arlene Hutton's Nibroc Trilogy. CTC's production of his *play pride@prejudice*, will be presented at Capital Repertory Theatre in Albany in the Fall of 2012. Daniel was a Founding Artistic Director of Salt Lake Shakespeare, Associate Artistic Director of Spiral Stage, and Assistant to the Artistic Director of Circle Repertory Theatre. Recent awards include an Elliott Norton Award for Outstanding Production for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Boston Theatre Works, and Critics Circle awards for Best Production and Best Direction for *The Pillowman* at the Contemporary American Theatre Company. He teaches acting and directing at Smith College.

Tracy Liz Miller (Dora) returns to CTC, having played a multitude of roles in the CTC audience favorite *Almost, Maine*. Tracy has worked in regional theatres across the country from Colorado to Maine to Tennessee appearing in such roles as: Mrs. Daldry in *In the Next Room or the Vibrator*, Desdemona in *Othello*, Julius Caesar in *Julius Caesar*, Hanna Jelkes in *The Night of the Iguana* and Viola in *Twelfth Night*. She is also an Associate Producer with Vermont Shakespeare Company.

Joel Ripka (Bill), returns to CTC following his turns as Hamlet in last season's hit production of *Wittenberg* and Raleigh in the 2010 Nibroc Trilogy, a role he reprised when CTC's production of *Last Train to Nibroc* transferred to the Peterborough Players in New Hampshire. He has worked extensively in the Pittsburgh theatre scene, including: The Pittsburgh Public Theater, The Irish and Classical Theater, Playhouse REP, City Theatre, and The Jewish Theatre of Pittsburgh, appearing in *Othello*, *Beautiful Dreamers*, *The Clockmaker*, *Ah, Wilderness*, *The Real Thing*, *Hamlet* and *Crime and Punishment*.

Jacob H. Knoll (Kevin) is making his CTC debut. His New York credits include Hamlet in *Hamlet*, Ivanov in Chekhov's *Ivanov*, and roles in Strindberg's *The Creditors* and Shakespeare's *Henry V*. A graduate of the Yale School of Drama, Jacob has also worked regionally at Baltimore Center Stage (*'Tis Pity She's a Whore*) and Shakespeare & Co. (*Hamlet*).

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

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