

# **CHESTER THEATRE COMPANY's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Panel Forums to Explore Social Issues in this Summer's Plays**

**Panel Forums will be comprised of issue experts and advocates**

**MADAGASCAR**– June 29<sup>th</sup> at 2pm; post-performance  
**ANNAPURNA** – July 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm; post-performance  
**A NUMBER**– August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm; post-performance  
**THE AMISH PROJECT**– August 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm; post-performance

CHESTER, MA (June 17, 2014) Chester Theatre Company announces the addition of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Panel Forums to their silver anniversary season's offerings. The Panel Forums will occur after the first Sunday 2pm matinee of each production's run at the Chester Town Hall Theatre in Chester, MA - June 29<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup>, August 3<sup>rd</sup> & August 17<sup>th</sup>.

"From cloning to gun violence, each of the shows in our season explores social issues that are prominent in the American consciousness," said Marketing and Development Director Todd Trebour. "The Panel Forums are a maturation of our popular post-performance TalkBacks and a natural outgrowth of our mission as a teaching theatre that presents thought-provoking, intelligent work."

Each Panel Forum will consist of a variety of issue experts and advocates, discussing the themes and questions brought up by each production. MADAGASCAR's June 29<sup>th</sup> panel forum will explore the trouble of memory, the impact of a person's disappearance on their loved ones and the use of economics to explain human behavior. Panelists will include James Hartley, Professor and Chair of Economics at Mt Holyoke College; Nnamdi Pole, Professor of Psychology at Smith College; Charles Staelin, Professor of Economics at Smith College; and Michele T. Wick, Research Associate in Psychology at Smith College. Daniel Elihu Kramer, Associate Professor of Theatre at Smith College and Associate Artistic Director at CTC, will moderate.

ANNAPURNA's July 13<sup>th</sup> panelists will discuss the issues surrounding end-of-life care and the effects of addiction on intimate relationships. The final two panel forums of the season will be sponsored by Baystate Health and will include Baystate Health staff as panelists. A NUMBER's August 3<sup>rd</sup> panel forum will explore the ethics of cloning, while THE AMISH PROJECT's August 17<sup>th</sup> panel will delve into the causes and effects of gun violence on individuals and communities.

## **TICKETS AND INFORMATION**

Panel forums immediately follow their accompanying Sunday matinee performance and are included in the ticket prices. Tickets for Sunday matinees are \$35. Tickets are available on CTC's website: [www.chesterttheatre.org](http://www.chesterttheatre.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. CTC performances and programming take place at Chester's Historic Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA.

Performances are Wednesday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m., with matinees Thursday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. There will be no performance Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$10-\$35; group

rates are available. For further information visit CTC's website at: [www.chestertheatre.org](http://www.chestertheatre.org).

### **About Chester Theatre Company**

Chester Theatre Company, a professional theatre company located in the foothills of the Berkshires, produces 4 plays each summer, 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 17 years. For further information go to CTC's website: [www.chestertheatre.org](http://www.chestertheatre.org).

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Panel Forums are co-sponsored by Baystate Health. CTC's season sponsor is Roscoe's Restaurant. CTC's other corporate sponsors this season include Esselon Café, Harvest Moon Realty, Morgan Stanley, New England Public Radio and Valley Advocate/Preview Magazine. CTC performances are supported, in part, by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Local Cultural Councils of Blandford, Chester, Huntington, Montgomery, Washington, Westfield and Worthington.

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