

For Immediate Release:
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Who: Clarence Brown Theatre Studio Series
What: The Flu Season
Where: Lab Theatre
When: Oct. 8-18, 2009 7:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m. matinees
Prices: Adults \$10, Students \$10, UT Students \$3
Tickets: Box Office 865-974-5161, www.clarencebrowntheatre.com

“The Flu Season” to Play at the CBT

KNOXVILLE—The Clarence Brown Theatre will perform “The Flu Season” by Will Eno in the Lab Theatre from October 8-18, 2009. The production features 3rd year MFA students, a local professional and several undergraduates, and is being directed by visiting guest artist Edward Morgan.

The playwright is an up-and-coming literary star. His play “Thom Pain (based on nothing)” won the First Fringe Award with its Edinburgh Festival premiere, and had acclaimed productions in London and New York. His plays have been produced in London at the Gate Theatre, Soho Theatre Company, BBC Radio; in New York by Rude Mechanicals, NY Power Company, Naked Angels.

“This is a fascinating, unique play,” says Edward Morgan, “and I’ve never directed anything quite like it. Hip and clever, gritty and sad, it tells a darkly funny tale about the difficulty of love and the cycle of relationships. At the same time, it frames that plot with a story about telling stories; and so it also explores the difficulty of making plays and the inadequacy of words and explanations. It comes at us in a rush of language and images, but under all the verbal flash there’s a cool, steady gaze on things that are common to us all: how we long for happy endings and how we’re bewildered by our failures. I think this will be an exciting evening of theatre.”

Mr. Morgan is a freelance director, teacher and writer who has worked at various regional theatres and universities and is Casting Partner for Cirque du Soleil. He was previously the Associate Artistic Director at Milwaukee Rep, where he directed 30 plays. Mr. Morgan is also a past recipient of the Drama League of NY Directors’ Project fellowship, and he and his work have been honored with Helen Hayes nominations and awards. Later this fall he’ll be back at CBT to direct his co-adaptation of “A Christmas Carol.”

Several UT Theatre students are performing in this production along with community actor, Steve Fitchpatrick. Mr. Fitchpatrick (Doctor) is in his third season with the CBT. He received an MFA in acting from The Theater School at DePaul University. He has guest starred on many top ten television shows such as “Northern Exposer,” “Murphy Brown,” “Coach,” and “Chicago Hope.”

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Cylerli Ash (Nurse) is a third year MFA student. She is a graduate of Rutgers University where she received a scholarship in Track. Past CBT productions include “The Secret Rapture,” “A Christmas Carol,” and “Flyin’ West.”

Amy Elizabeth Mathews (Woman) is a third year graduate candidate. Past CBT productions include “A Lie of the Mind,” “The Secret Rapture,” “A Christmas Carol,” and “Love’s Labour’s Lost.”

Michael Moreno (Man) is in his third year of MFA training and his fifth show for the Clarence Brown Theater. He originally hails from Los Angeles, California. He has performed with Shakespeare and Company in Massachusetts and trained in Florence, Italy last winter.

Matthew Bassett (Epilogue) is a third year MFA student. Previous CBT productions roles include The Hawker in “The Who’s Tommy,” “Love’s Labour’s Lost,” “A Christmas Carol,” and “The Secret Rapture.” A Tennessee native, he earned a BA in English from Tennessee Tech University and appeared in productions for Tennessee Stage Company, Nashville Shakespeare Festival, People’s Branch Theatre (Nashville), Lexington Children’s Theatre, and Virginia Shakespeare Festival.

Jonathan Visser (Prologue) is thankful to be a third year graduate student. Last season, his CBT productions included “The Who’s Tommy,” “A Christmas Carol,” and “The Secret Rapture.”

Matthew Charles Russell Badham (Male Orderly) is a junior exchange student from the University of Kent, Canterbury (England) where he is studying for his Masters in Drama and Theatre Studies. With this role, he is making his American stage debut in the Clarence Brown Lab Theatre.

Sara Anderson (Female Orderly) is a sophomore at UT majoring in Theatre, with a concentration in costuming. With this role, she is making her CBT Lab Theatre stage debut.

Visiting guest artist, Joe Court is a Joseph Jefferson Award nominated sound designer based in Chicago. Past designs at Clarence Brown include “All My Sons,” “Major Barbara,” and “The Secret Rapture.” He currently serves as Head Sound Engineer for Million Dollar Quartet. He also is Resident Sound Designer for Emerald City Theatre Company, and is a company member with Mary-Archie Theatre Company.

Kyle Andrew Schellinger (Costume Designer) is the Staff Cutter/Draper for Clarence Brown Theatre Company and holds an MFA in Costume Design and Technology from the University of Arizona. His costume design work has been seen at the Arizona Repertory Theatre, Great River Shakespeare Festival, Beowulf Alley Theatre Company and Truman State University. His work as a Cutter/Draper, Craft Artisan and Stitcher has been seen at The Utah Shakespearean Festival, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Great River Shakespeare Festival, Colorado Shakespeare Festival and Arizona Theatre Company.

Mary Pingree (Scenic Designer) is a second year graduate student in scenic design. Her work has been seen at The Magic Theatre, the PCPA Theatrefest and the Claire Trevor Theatre. She received her BA in theatre from the University of California at Irvine.

Jenn Trippe (Lighting Designer) is a second year Graduate Student in Lighting Design. She has been working professionally in the south for five years. Her credits include but are not limited to “Junglebook” (WonderQuest), “Beauty and the Beast” (Oconee Youth Players), “The Little Dog Laughed” (Theatre in the Square), “Kiss Me Kate” (Highlands Playhouse), and “The Secret Rapture” at the CBT.

Jason Hiatt (Stage Manager) is working for the first time as stage manager in the Lab Theatre. But he is not unfamiliar with the space. Recently he designed the lighting for both “Little Women: the Musical” and “Fat Pig” in the Lab.

“The Flu Season” runs from October 8-18, 2009. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Matinee performances begin at 2:00 p.m. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$10 for regular students, and \$3 for UT students. For tickets, please call the CBT box office at 865-974-5161 or Tickets Unlimited at 865-656-4444.

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