



The Pearl Theatre Company

80 St. Marks Place, New York, NY 10003

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE PLEASE:**

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THE PEARL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

***THE MANDRAKE***

**By Niccolo Machiavelli**

**Translated by Peter Constantine**

**Directed by Jim Calder**

**Previews begin Tuesday, January 8, 2008**

**Opening Night is Sunday, January 20, 2008**

**Limited Engagement Ending Sunday, February 10, 2008**

**Press Previews:**

**Thursday, January 17 at 8:00pm**

**Friday, January 18 at 8:00pm**

**Saturday, January 19 at 2:00pm**

**Saturday, January 19 at 8:00pm**

**Sunday, January 20 at 2:00pm**

**Sunday, January 20 at 7:00pm (Opening)**

The Pearl Theatre Company continues its acclaimed 24<sup>th</sup> Season with the staging of a world premiere translation by Peter Constantine. Crawling with social parasites and crooked conspirators, *The Mandrake* (1513) remains one of the bawdiest plays of the Italian Renaissance. Here is the wicked and uproarious lighter side of political mastermind Niccolo Machiavelli, as he reflects on a world where cunning, vice, and mischief win the day.

**Peter Constantine** is a British and American award-winning literary translator who has translated literary works from German, Russian, French, Modern Greek, Italian, Albanian, Dutch, and Slovene. He grew up in Athens, Greece before moving to the United States in 1983. In his first books, *Japanese Street Slang* and *Japanese Slang: Uncensored* he explored Japanese slang and criminal jargons in their many varieties, focusing on aspects of the Japanese language that had been traditionally marginalized. "Previously unprintable things that will inform, amuse, shock and maybe even disgust" (Joseph LaPenta: *Daily Yomiuri Newspaper*, December 6, 1992). In 2002, Constantine's translation of *The Complete Works of Isaac Babel*, edited by Nathalie Babel, received a Koret Jewish Literature Award and a **National Jewish Book Award citation**. His translation of the Modern Greek Poet Stylianos Harkianakis's poetry book *Mother* received the 2004/2005 **Hellenic Association of Translators of Literature Prize**. In 2007 Constantine was the recipient of the **Helen and Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize** for his translation of Benjamin Lebert's novel *The Bird is a Raven*.

The Pearl is thrilled to present this gem of the Italian Renaissance; Peter Constantine has provided a translation that is clear, unrestrained and faithful to the original Italian text. *The Mandrake* will be the 20<sup>th</sup> world premiere translation The Pearl has staged. Leading this boundary-pushing production is Resident Acting Company members Bradford Cover and Dominic Cuskern, as well as guest artist Erik Steele.

## The Cast

The cast of *The Mandrake* includes members of The Pearl Theatre Company's 2007-2008 Resident Acting Company – **Rachel Botchan, Bradford Cover, Dominic Cuskern, TJ Edwards, Edward Seamon, Carol Schultz** – and guest actors **Erik Steele and Rocelyn Halili**.

## Design and Production Team

Scenic Design is by **Harry Feiner**; Costume Design is by **Barbara A. Bell**; Lighting Design is by **Stephen Petrilli**; Sound Design is by **Jane Shaw**; **Richard Morrison** is the Stage Manager ; and **Kate Farrington** is Dramaturge; Directed by **Jim Calder**.

## About The Pearl Theatre Company

The Pearl Theatre Company, founded in 1984, is an Off-Broadway classical theatre that nurtures an on-going resident company of actors. The Pearl's commitment to foster a resident acting company is both important and rare. The Pearl believes that a resident acting company, made up of a cohesive and experienced team of actors, is best equipped to keep vital our rich tradition and

to keep fresh the wisdom, wit, and craft of the classics. As Artistic Director, Shepard Sobel explains, "The Pearl produces a classical repertory because the great plays of the last 2500 years provide a context, a perspective, by which we here in America in 2007 may see ourselves more clearly. We can – and have an obligation to – design the strength and character of the future only by knowing the character of the past."

### **About The Pearl's 24<sup>th</sup> Season**

The Pearl's 24<sup>th</sup> season spans four countries and 300 years, beginning with the celebrated *Hamlet* followed by *The Constant Couple*, a rarely produced but extraordinary Restoration comedy. We are thrilled to be presenting the world premiere of Peter Constantine's fresh translation of *The Mandrake*, blending modern sensibilities with Machiavelli's political genius and conversational tone. We close our season with *Ghosts* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* – intriguing foils, as their opposing genres are each employed to examine characters struggling to keep up appearances.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

The Pearl Theatre Company Box Office  
Phone: (212) 598-9802  
80 St. Marks Place (at 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue)  
East Village  
[www.pearltheatre.org](http://www.pearltheatre.org)

Subscription packages run from \$132 to \$210.  
Full-price single tickets can be purchased in advance to ensure you get the best seat possible at the time of your reservation.

#### **Regular Ticket Prices:**

\$25 All Previews  
\$40 Tuesday 7pm; Wednesday 2pm; Thursday 8pm.  
\$50 Friday 8pm; Saturday 2pm, Saturday 8pm; Sunday 2pm.  
\$90 for Opening Night on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

#### **Youth and Senior Tickets:**

\$20 weekdays and \$25 weekends  
Remaining tickets can be purchased at a reduced price by people 24 and younger or 65 and older on the day of performance, one half-hour prior to

curtain, subject to availability. Valid for 1 ticket only per ID in person at the box office.

**Thursday Rush Tickets:**

Remaining tickets are available for \$10 for Thursday 8pm performances 15 minutes prior to curtain.

The company performs at Theatre 80, 80 St. Mark's Place at 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. The Pearl can be reached by taking the R/W train to 8<sup>th</sup> Street, 6 train to Astor Place, L train to First Avenue, or the F train to Second Avenue.

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