

# THE PEARL

THEATRE COMPANY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE PEARL THEATRE COMPANY PRESS CONTACT:**

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**THE PEARL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS**  
**THE MISANTHROPE**  
**BY MOLIÈRE**  
**TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH VERSE BY RICHARD WILBUR**  
**AT NEW YORK CITY CENTER STAGE II**  
**DIRECTED BY JOSEPH HANREDDY**

**PREVIEW PERFORMANCES BEGIN: January 14, 2011 at 7:30 PM**

**OPENING NIGHT: January 23, 2011 at 7:30 PM**

**LIMITED ENGAGEMENT ENDS: February 20, 2011**

**Press Previews**

**Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 7:30pm**

**Friday, January 21, 2011 at 7:30pm**

**Saturday, January 22, 2011 at 2:30pm and 7:30pm**

NEW YORK, NY, January 19, 2011— **THE PEARL THEATRE COMPANY** (J.R. Sullivan, Artistic Director; Shira Beckerman, Managing Director) proudly presents Molière's wryly personal comedy, **The Misanthrope**, translated into English verse by the renowned and prolific Richard Wilbur. The production begins performances on January 14 at New York City Center Stage II and is directed by the former Artistic Director of Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Joseph Hanreddy. **The Misanthrope** is supported by The Florence Gould Foundation and the Grand Marnier Foundation. Tickets are currently on sale through CityTix® and at [nycitycenter.org](http://nycitycenter.org).

Using Richard Wilbur's "great rhymed-verse translation" (The New York Times), **The Misanthrope** satirizes the hypocrisies of French aristocratic society, chronicling an eventful day in the unstable love-life of the petulant Alceste and a flirtatious young gossip, Célimène, and the many fops and fools flitting in and out of her fashionable *salon*.

"The Pearl is thrilled to have the beautiful language of Molière's immortal comedy on our stage," said Artistic Director J.R. Sullivan. "We are happy to welcome Resident Actor Sean McNall back to our stage for the first time this season, as Alceste the misanthrope, and we are also excited to have so many talented young actors in the cast of this marvelous ensemble-driven play."

**Molière**, born Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, is considered one of the greatest masters of comedy in Western literature. Born in 1622 in Paris his writing became a favorite of the royal court, earning his troupe the title "Troupe du Roi" (The King's Troupe), and securing a royal pension. Molière later became the official author of court entertainments. **The Misanthrope** is among his most famous works, along with *Tartuffe*, *The School for Wives*, and *The Imaginary Invalid*. This will be the eighth Molière production by The Pearl and the first time the company has produced this play.

**Richard Wilbur's** career began in 1947 and has included translations of Molière and Racine. Wilbur's translation of *Tartuffe* (produced by The Pearl in 2009) has become the gold-standard English version. In addition to translation, he has also worked as a lyricist, most famously with Leonard Bernstein on *Candide*. In 1987 Wilbur was named the U.S. Poet Laureate; he received the National Medal of Arts from President Clinton in 1994, and won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1957 and 1989. The translation of **The Misanthrope** won him a Drama Desk Special Award in 1983.

**Joseph Hanreddy** was the Artistic Director at Milwaukee Repertory Theater for 17 years before stepping down in 2010 to head a Fellowship Program in Directing and Design at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Mr. Hanreddy's work has been seen at the Utah Shakespearean Festival, Ensemble Theatre Company in Santa Barbara, California, and Madison Repertory Theatre. He has taught actors, directors and designers at Northwestern University, the Professional Theatre Training Program at the University of Delaware and the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Hanreddy wrote a stage adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* with Pearl Artistic Director J.R. Sullivan, which has had acclaimed productions at the Oregon and Utah Shakespeare festivals, the Pacific Conservatory of Performing Arts and the Connecticut Rep.

### **The Cast**

*The Misanthrope* features two members of the Pearl's Resident Acting Company. **Dominic Cuskern** (Basque and Dubois), most recently played Mortensgaard in The Pearl's production *Rosmersholm*. He has been a member of the Resident Company since 2000. **Sean McNall** (Alceste) returns to The Pearl's stage having worked on Broadway this fall understudying for T.R. Knight in *A Life in the Theatre*. McNall appeared last season at The Pearl in *The Playboy of the Western World*, *Misalliance*, and *Hard Times*. Joining *The Misanthrope* are six guest actors, including **Matthew Amendt** (Acaste) who made his Pearl Theatre debut last spring as Timmy Cleary in *The Subject Was Roses*. He was seen this summer at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival and has worked extensively at the Guthrie Theater, where he studied acting. The rest of the cast are newcomers at The Pearl. **Janie Brookshire** (Célimène) has been seen on Broadway in *The Philanthropist* at Roundabout Theatre Company and, recently off-Broadway, in *Wife to James Whelan* at the Mint Theater Company. **Shawn Fagan** (Philinte) appeared with Brookshire in *Wife to James Whelan* at the Mint Theater Company and has worked regionally with the Denver Center, Arena Stage, and the Utah Shakespearean Festival. **Patrick Halley** (Clitandre) was seen this past summer at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival in *The Bomb-Itty of Errors* and *Troilus*

and *Cressida*. **Robin LeMon** (Eliante) has worked extensively at theatres in New York City including the Public Theater, Classical Theatre of Harlem, and the National Black Theatre. **Kern McFadden** (Oronte and a guard) has appeared in New York and regionally with the Irish Repertory Theatre, the Old Globe, the La Jolla Playhouse, and the Utah Shakespearean Festival. Rounding out the cast is **Joey Parsons** (Arsinoe), who has been seen at Yale Rep, Hartford TheaterWorks, and the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival.

### **Production Team**

The production team includes: **Harry Feiner**, scenic design; **Sam Fleming**, costume design; **Stephen Petrilli**, lighting design; **M.L. Dogg**, sound design. The stage manager is **Dale Smallwood** and the dramaturg is **Kate Farrington**.

### **About The Pearl Theatre Company**

Founded in 1984, The Pearl Theatre is a New York City repertory company producing a full range of plays rooted in the classic tradition, impacting over 30,000 artists and audiences each year. Over its 27-year history, The Pearl has been awarded with a 1992 Obie grant for Continued Artistic Excellence; a special Obie Award for Sustained Excellence of Performance; a sweep of Actors' Equity Association's awards for Performance in Classical Plays; an American Theatre Wing grant for consistent commitment to excellence in the professional theatre; and the Board of Education's Friend of Manhattan High Schools Award for *Classics in the Classroom*, the Pearl's Arts-in-Education initiative which has allowed thousands of New York City high school students to experience classical theatre.

The Pearl, performing at New York City Center's Stage II, currently finished its run of the critically acclaimed *Rosmersholm*, by Henrik Ibsen. Following *The Misanthrope*, the season will conclude with David Davalos' comedy *Wittenberg* in March.

### **The 2010-2011 Resident Acting Company**

The 2010-2011 Resident Acting Company consists of veterans of the New York and regional stages including: **Jolly Abraham, Rachel Botchan, Robin Leslie Brown, Bradford Cover, Dominic Cuskern, Dan Daily, TJ Edwards, Robert Hock, Sean McNall, Carol Schultz, Edward Seamon, and Lee Stark**. The 2010-2011 resident stage managers are **Lisa Ledwich** and **Dale Smallwood**.

### **2010-2011 Ticketing and Performance Information**

The Pearl Theatre Company provides a variety of ticketing options for the performance space at New York City Center, including season subscription packages.

For subscription tickets and information, contact Audience Services at 212-598-9802 or visit

[www.pearltheatre.org](http://www.pearltheatre.org).

Single tickets can be purchased through New York City Center by calling **CityTix®** at **212-581-1212**, going online to [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org), or visiting the City Center Box Office (131 West 55<sup>th</sup> Street between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues).

***Production Schedule:***

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30PM; Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday at 2:30PM.

***The Misanthrope*** will perform one Thursday matinee performance on January 27, 2011 at 2:30PM.

***Previews begin January 14, 2011*** at 7:30PM. ***Opening night is Sunday, January 23, 2011*** at 7:30PM.

***Regular Ticket Prices:***

\$55 for performances on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; \$45 for performances on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; \$35 for all preview performances.

***Senior Discount:*** \$25 tickets can be purchased on the day of the performance only, up to one hour before curtain, subject to availability, by people 65 and older. One ticket per valid ID (with date of birth) at the box office. Not available during preview performances.

***Student Rush:*** \$10 tickets can be purchased on the day of the performance only, up to one hour before curtain, subject to availability, by students with a valid student ID. Limit 2 tickets per I.D at the box office. Not available during preview performances.

***Thursday Rush:*** \$10 tickets are available to anyone for Thursday evening performances on the day of performance only, up to one hour before curtain, subject to availability at the box office. Not available during preview performances.

***Groups*** of ten or more receive up to 25% off single tickets. Contact The Pearl's Audience Services Manager at 212.598.9802 for details.

***Tuesday Talk Post-Performance Discussion:***

These in-depth discussions give audiences the opportunity to participate in intimate talk-backs led by published scholars and experts within their fields. Tuesday Talks during ***The Misanthrope*** will take place following the performances on January 25, 2011 and February 8, 2011.

***Directions:***

The company performs its 2010-2011 Season at New York City Center Stage II, located at 131 West 55th Street (between 6th and 7th Avenues) in midtown Manhattan. The Box Office is located at 131 West 55th Street in the outer lobby of the theatre entrance.

New York City Center can be reached by taking the N/Q/R to 57<sup>th</sup> St/7<sup>th</sup> Ave, the F to 57<sup>th</sup> St/6<sup>th</sup> Ave, the D/E to 7<sup>th</sup> Ave/53<sup>rd</sup> St, the A/B/C/D/1 to 59<sup>th</sup> St at Columbus Circle, the C to 50<sup>th</sup> St/8<sup>th</sup> Ave, or the 1 to 50<sup>th</sup> St/7<sup>th</sup> Ave.

**By Bus** m1, m2, m3, m4, m5, m6, m7, m10, m20, m31, m57, m104

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