

# THE PEARL

THEATRE COMPANY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE PEARL THEATRE COMPANY PRESS CONTACT:**

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**THE PEARL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS**

## **RICHARD II**

**By William Shakespeare**

**Directed by J.R. Sullivan**

**PREVIEW PERFORMANCES BEGIN: November 8, 2011 at 7:30 PM**

**OPENING NIGHT: November 20, 2011 at 7:30 PM**

**LIMITED ENGAGEMENT ENDS: December 24, 2011**

### Press Previews

**Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 7:30pm**

**Friday, November 18, 2011 at 7:30pm**

**Saturday, November 19, 2011 at 2:30pm and 7:30pm**

NEW YORK, NY, October 20, 2011– **THE PEARL THEATRE COMPANY (J.R. Sullivan, Artistic Director)** proudly presents a new production of Shakespeare's lyrical ***RICHARD II***. The production, beginning previews November 8 at New York City Center Stage II, will be directed by **J.R. Sullivan**. The twelve member cast features both members of The Resident Acting Company and guest artists who will portray over 30 characters. Tickets are currently on sale through CityTix® and at NYCityCenter.org.

William Shakespeare's great tale charts the descent of one leader and the meteoric rise of another with the crown of England as prize and the future of the nation perilously in the balance. ***RICHARD II*** is a powerful and provocative study of a king and a nation caught in the upheaval of social change and political turmoil. Written entirely in verse and epic in its sweep, ***RICHARD II*** stands as one of Shakespeare's greatest plays.

Directed by **J.R. Sullivan**, this production is the fifth he has staged in his three seasons as The Pearl's Artistic Director. His Pearl productions include *Wittenberg*, *Hard Times*, *The Playboy of the Western World*, *Widowers' Houses*, and *Twelfth Night*. He was the founder of the New American Theater in Illinois, and served as an associate artistic director of the Utah Shakespeare Festival from 2002 until summer 2009. His work has been seen in regional theaters across the country, including the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, The Studio Theatre in Washington DC, and the Arden Theatre Company in Philadelphia, among others.

## The Cast

As previously announced, **RICHARD II** features six members of its Resident Acting Company. **Jolly Abraham** (the Queen and Henry Percy) has been a Pearl company member since 2008, and can currently be seen in *The Bald Soprano* as Mrs. Martin. Abraham has also been on Broadway in *Coram Boy* and *Bombay Dreams*. **Robin Leslie Brown** (Duchess of Gloucester and Green), a founding member of the ensemble, can also be seen in The Pearl's *The Bald Soprano* as Mary. **Dominic Cuskern** (Lord Marshal), a member since 2000, appeared last year in The Pearl's *The Misanthrope*, *Rosmerholm*, and *The Sneeze*. **Sean McNall** (Richard II) has been a member of the company since 2003. He's been seen on The Pearl's stage as Alceste in *The Misanthrope* and the title role in *Hamlet*, and received a 2008 OBIE Award for Sustained Excellence in Performance. **Chris Mixon** (Earl of Northumberland), the newest Pearl company member, appeared in last season's *Wittenberg* and *The Sneeze*. He has been seen regionally at the Denver Center Theatre Company, Two River Theater Company, and the Utah Shakespeare Festival. A company member since 1997, **Carol Schultz** (Duchess of York) was last seen in *The Subject Was Roses* in 2010. Her other New York credits include Lincoln Center Theater, Minetta Lane Theatre, and Classic Stage Company.

Joining The Pearl's company members are six guest actors, all making their debut with the company. **Wayne T. Carr** (Duke of Aumerle) has been featured at Hudson Valley Shakespeare, The Goodman Theatre, Indiana Repertory and Milwaukee Repertory. Carr has made appearances on "The Wire" and "Chappelle's Show." **Bill Christ** (Edmund, Duke of York) has been seen on Broadway in *Born Yesterday* and *Inherit The Wind*. He has also appeared off-Broadway at Classic Stage Company, and on television in HBO's "The Laramie Project." **Grant Goodman's** (Henry Bolingbroke) New York credits include *King Lear* and *The Iliad* at Lincoln Center. His other credits include Utah Shakespeare Festival, and television's "As the World Turns" and "Sex and the City." **Simon Kendall** (Bushy) has been featured in productions around the country including the title role of *Vincent in Brixton* at Cleveland Playhouse. **Dan Kremer** (John of Gaunt) has extensive national credits including Utah Shakespeare Festival, Yale Rep, Seattle Rep, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Rounding out the cast is **Charlie Francis Murphy** (Bagot), recently seen in Shakespeare in the Park's productions of *All's Well that Ends Well* and *Measure for Measure*.

## Production Team

The production team includes: **Harry Feiner**, scenic design; **Martha Hally**, costume design; **Stephen Petrilli**, lighting design; **Jane Shaw**, sound design; **Dudley Knight**, voice & text direction; **Rod Kinter**, fight direction. The stage manager is **Dale Smallwood** and the dramaturg is **Kate Farrington**.

## About The Pearl Theatre Company

**The Pearl Theatre Company** is dedicated to playing a vital role in the cultural life of New York City and its surrounding region by creating productions that examine, explore, and illuminate the human condition. The Pearl is an artistic home for a diverse company of theatre professionals, especially a core company of resident actors.

The Pearl provides engagement opportunities that both educate and enrich the experiences of artists, students, and audiences. Last season, The Pearl received a 2011 Lortel Award nomination for best revival (for *The Misanthrope*), and a special 2011 Drama Desk award for "notable productions of classic plays and nurturing a stalwart resident company of actors."

**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, Robert Hock, Sean McNall, Chris Mixon, Carol Schultz, Edward Seamon, and Lee Stark.

The Pearl's is supported, in part, by public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. Additionally, The Pearl receives major support from the Fund for the City of New York, the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Shubert Foundation, and the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation.

**RICHARD II** will be followed by **THE PHILANDERER** by Bernard Shaw in January. The Pearl's season will conclude with **A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN** by Eugene O'Neill in March.

#### **2011-2012 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 The Pearl's Subscriber 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). Tickets will be available for purchase at the City Center Box Office (131 West 55<sup>th</sup> Street between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues) beginning September 6.

#### **Production Schedule:**

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30PM; Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday at 2:30PM.  
There will be a 7:30 performance on Sunday, November 13.

**Previews begin November 8, 2011** at 7:30PM. **Opening night is Sunday, November 20, 2011** at 7:30PM.

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

All tickets begin at \$39.

**Senior Discount:** \$30 tickets can be purchased in advance of each performance by people 65 and older. Tickets can be purchased over the phone through CityTix® or at the box office. 2 tickets per valid ID (with date of birth), which must be presented at time of pick-up.

**Student Rush:** \$15 tickets can be purchased on the day of the performance only, 2 hours prior to curtain time at the box office, subject to availability, by students with a valid student ID. 2 tickets per I.D.

**Thursday Rush:** \$20 tickets are available to anyone for Thursday evening performances on the day of performance only, 2 hours prior to curtain time at the box office, subject to availability. 1 ticket per person.

**Groups** of ten or more receive 20% 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 **Richard II** will take place following the performances on November 22, 2011 and November 29, 2011.

**Directions:**

The company performs its 2011-2012 Season at New York City Center Stage II, located at 131 West 55th Street (between 6th and 7th Avenues) in midtown Manhattan.

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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