

THE PEARL

THEATRE COMPANY

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THE PEARL THEATRE COMPANY PRESS CONTACT:

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THE PEARL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS
THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES
BY FRANK D. GILROY
AT NEW YORK CITY CENTER STAGE II
DIRECTED BY AMY WRIGHT

PREVIEW PERFORMANCES BEGIN: APRIL 9, 2010 at 7:30 PM

OPENING NIGHT: APRIL 18, 2010 at 7:30 PM

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT ENDS: MAY 9, 2010

Press Previews

Thursday, April 15, 2010 at 7:30pm

Friday, April 16, 2010 at 7:30pm

Saturday, April 17, 2010 at 2:30pm and 7:30pm

Sunday, April 18, 2010 at 2:30pm

NEW YORK, NY, March 17, 2010 – **THE PEARL THEATRE COMPANY** (J.R. Sullivan, Artistic Director; Shira Beckerman, Managing Director) proudly presents Frank D. Gilroy's Pulitzer Prize-winning **THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES**, beginning April 9th at New York City Center Stage II. This penetrating domestic drama will be directed by Amy Wright and opens Sunday, April 18 at 7:30pm. Tickets are on sale now through the New York City Center box office.

A timeless American classic, Frank Gilroy's play explores one family's struggle to reconcile the disappointments of the past with hopes for the future in post-war America. Set in the Bronx in 1946, **THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES** tells the story of John and Nettie Cleary welcoming their son, Timmy, home from World War II. In the three days after his return, Timmy attempts to heal the wounds in his parents' marriage, and as a result they discover the true depth of their flaws, regrets, and love.

"Family drama has been center stage throughout the history of American theatre and this play remains a touching example," according to Pearl Theatre Artistic Director J. R. Sullivan. "It captures a family in crisis with painful truths, and the ability to adapt in a time of uncertainty. **The Subject Was Roses** represents a quintessentially American reaction to change, whether in the 1940's, where the story is set, the 1960's, when the play was written, or today."

The original production, opening on Broadway at the Royale Theatre in 1964, starred Jack Albertson, Irene Dailey, and Martin Sheen. It won a Tony Award for Best Featured Actor (Albertson) and Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The play inspired a movie in 1968 which starred Patricia Neal, Jack Albertson, and Martin Sheen. Last produced in New York in 1991, the play also appeared last month in Los Angeles with Martin Sheen as John Cleary at the Mark Taper Forum. Frank D. Gilroy, born in New York in 1925, is known for his plays *The Subject was Roses*, and *The Only Game in Town*, both of which he adapted into movies. He wrote screenplays for the films *Desperate Characters* starring Shirley MacLaine, and *The Gallant Hours* starring James Cagney.

This is the first production **Amy Wright** has directed for The Pearl Theatre Company. As an actress, she was seen in the original Broadway casts of *The Fifth of July* and *Noises Off*, as well as many off-Broadway successes that included the original cast of *Mrs. Klein* with Uta Hagen. Ms. Wright has also been featured in numerous films, including *Breaking Away*, *The Accidental Tourist*, John Huston's *Wise Blood*, and Woody Allen's *Stardust Memories*. Ms. Wright teaches acting at the HB Studio in Greenwich Village, where she has also directed productions of *The Cherry Orchard*, John Guare's *Lake Hollywood*, *The Hot I Baltimore*, *The Birthday Party*, and *Three Sisters*. She is a founding member of Rip Torn's Sanctuary Theatre Workshop.

The Cast

The cast features two members of the 2009-2010 Resident Acting Company. Drama Desk and Obie Award-winner **Dan Daily** (John Cleary) has been a member of the Resident Acting company since 1998. He was last seen at The Pearl as John Tarleton in this season's *Misalliance*. He has also appeared at The New Group, Keen Company, and Classic Stage Company. **Carol Schultz** (Nettie Cleary), Resident Acting Company member since 1997, has been featured at The Pearl as Mrs. Wire in last season's *Vieux Carre*, Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and Mrs. Malaprop in *The Rivals* (2003 Callaway Award). She has also appeared at Lincoln Center Theater, Cincinnati Playhouse and The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. The Pearl company members are joined by **Matthew Amendt** (Timmy Cleary), who is making his Pearl Theatre debut. He was featured as Nick Carraway in David Esbjornson's production of *The Great Gatsby*, performing both at the Guthrie Theater and Seattle Repertory Theatre. Off-Broadway credits include *Henry V* at The New Victory Theater, co-produced by the Guthrie Theater/The Acting Company.

Production Team

The production team includes: **Harry Feiner**, scenic design; **Barbara A. Bell**, costume design; **Stephen Petrilli**, lighting design; **Jane Shaw**, sound design; **Rod Kinter**, fight director. The stage manager is **Dale Smallwood** and the dramaturg is **Kate Farrington**.

About The Pearl Theatre Company

The Pearl Theatre Company produces a full-range classical repertory with an established Resident Acting Company, dedicated to bringing timeless stories to new and vivid life. Moving this season out of its 15-year home in the East Village, the company performs uptown at New York City Center Stage II. This is The Pearl's final production of the season, having presented J.M. Synge's ***THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD***, Bernard Shaw's ***MISALLIANCE***, and Stephen Jeffrey's adaptation of Charles Dickens' ***HARD TIMES***.

The Resident Acting Company greets the challenges of classical repertory through season-specific training and craft-building workshops. The versatility and talents of this award-winning group of artists have been instrumental in The Pearl receiving an Obie grant for continued artistic excellence, two Drama League nominations for outstanding play, and an American Theatre Wing grant for consistent commitment to excellence in the professional theatre.

The 2009-2010 Resident Acting Company

The 2009-2010 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, and Edward Seamon***. The 2009-2010 resident stage managers are ***Lisa Ledwich*** and ***Dale Smallwood***.

2009-2010 Ticketing and Performance Information

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

For subscription tickets and information, please contact Audience Services at 212-598-9802 or visit www.pearltheatre.org. Single tickets can be purchased by calling CityTix® at **212-581-1212**, online at www.nycitycenter.org or at the City Center Box Office (131 West 55th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues).

Production Schedule:

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

Previews begin April 9, 2010 at 7:30PM. ***Opening night is Sunday, April 18, 2010*** at 7:30PM.

Regular Ticket Prices:

\$30 for all preview performances; \$40 for performances on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; \$50 for performances on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Student Discount:

Students with a valid student I.D. can purchase \$10 tickets to every performance. Tickets can only be purchased at the box office the day of the production. Good for 2 tickets per valid I.D. and subject to availability.

Thursday Rush Tickets:

Remaining tickets for Thursday evening performances are available for \$10 on the day of the performance only, up to one hour before curtain, subject to availability at the box office.

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 SUBJECT WAS ROSES*** will take place following the performances on April 20, 2010 and May 4, 2010.

Directions:

The company performs its 2009-2010 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 57th St/7th Ave, the F to 57th St/6th Ave, the D/E to 7th Ave/53rd St, the A/B/C/D/1 to 59th St at Columbus Circle, the C to 50th St/8th Ave, or the 1 to 50th St/7th Ave.

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

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