

CONSTELLATION THEATRE COMPANY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Misty Demory

202-280-8101
constellationtheatre@gmail.com

A Dream Play

“I dream, therefore I am.” – Strindberg

August Strindberg’s spectacular masterpiece in a new version by **Caryl Churchill**

Directed by Allison Arkell Stockman

Press Opening: Saturday, June 16, 2007 at 8 pm.

Pay-What-You-Can Previews June 14 & 15 at 8 pm. *A Dream Play* runs through July 8.

Constellation Theatre Company’s production of *A Dream Play* is the North American premiere of Caryl Churchill’s new version. This original adaptation reveals the love, anguish and wit at the heart of human existence. Follow a daughter of the gods through a captivating, mysterious and unique dream sequence. A vibrant ensemble of eleven performers brings to life forty-five compelling characters and infuses this piece with energy and insight.

Strindberg, one of the father’s of modern theatre, also wrote *Miss Julie*, *The Father*, *The Dance of Death*, and *Ghost Sonata*. Written by Strindberg in 1901, *A Dream Play* was a bold departure from his previously Naturalistic work and inspired the Expressionist Movement. Strindberg describes his imaginative and symbolic adventure, “Everything can happen, everything is possible and probable. Time and place do not exist... The characters split, double, multiply, evaporate, condense, dissolve and merge. But one consciousness rules them all: the dreamer’s.”

Caryl Churchill, one of today’s most revered playwrights, created this new version that was first presented at The National Theatre in London in 2005. Churchill, the author of *Cloud Nine*, *Far Away*, *A Number*, *Top Girls*, *Serious Money*, and *The Skriker* among others, brings focus, brevity and wit to Strindberg’s tale. Of her experience working on the adaptation, Churchill writes, “I’d read the play several times over the years, admired the way it moved, but never, I realize, taken in the detail. I was surprised by its tenderness.” London’s Daily Times attests, “Caryl Churchill’s take on Strindberg gives us a gloriously witty vision of the unconscious.” The Daily Telegraph calls the new version, “disconcerting theatrical brilliance... fresh, new and magical.”

Constellation Theatre Company is a brand new theatre company in Washington, DC dedicated to creating theatre that is epic, expansive and essential. Constellation’s plays and musicals share the characteristics of elevated language, expressive design and an acting style of heightened, archetypal action. *A Dream Play* is their debut production. Artistic Director Allison Arkell Stockman explains, “The same constellations we see today have inspired people across the world throughout time. This symbolizes our inclusive mission to select great scripts that celebrate presentational theatricality, drama and comedy, classic and contemporary, American and international alike.” Constellation Theatre Company plans to be a resident company at Source Theatre following Cultural Development Corporation’s renovation of the building.

In the DC area, Allison Stockman has directed for In Series: *Fascinating Rhythm: The Roaring 20's*, *Paper Moon: Remembering Harold Arlen*, *Maytime Cabaret: The Secret of the Rose*; Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia: *Nightingale*, *The Hatchery: The Disappearance of Janey Jones*; Source Theatre: *Silent Heroes*, *Traffic School*; Phoenix Theatre DC: *The Blue Room*; and Georgetown Gilbert and Sullivan Society: *Patience*. Allison has also directed shows at Williamstown Theatre Festival, the Hangar Theatre and Duke University, in addition to venues in New York City: HERE, Expanded Arts, The Actors Studio, Center Stage NY and Soho Rep. Locally, Allison has been an Assistant Director at the Shakespeare Theatre Company, Folger Theatre, USA & Italy Alba Music Festival, Summer Opera Theatre Company and Washington Shakespeare Company. With an MFA from Carnegie Mellon, Allison is the recipient of a Drama League Directing Fellowship and a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab.

Stockman has gathered a skilled artistic team to collaborate on this challenging play. Set and Lighting Designer A.J. Guban teams up with Costume Designer Jennifer Tardiff and Sound Designer Brendon Vierra. Their designs have been seen at the Kennedy Center, Washington Ballet, Washington Shakespeare Company, American Century Theatre, Imagination Stage, GALA, Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia, The Hatchery, Scena Theatre, Adventure Theatre and Didactic Theatre Company.

The dynamic ensemble consists of Kevin Boggs, Katy Carkuff, Catherine Deadman, Misty Demory, Matthew Eisenberg, Keith Irby, Ashley Ivey, K. Clare Johnson, Callie Kimball, Craig Klein and Lisa Lias. These talented actors have been seen on many local stages including Studio Theatre, Folger Theatre, Synetic Theatre, Theater Alliance, Studio Theatre Secondstage, Washington Shakespeare Company, Solas Nua, Longacre Lea, Actors' Theatre of Washington, Open Circle Theatre, Keegan Theatre and Imagination Stage.

WHO: Constellation Theatre Company

WHAT: A Dream Play by August Strindberg in a new version by Caryl Churchill

WHERE: Source Theatre 1835 14th St. NW

WHEN: June 14 – July 8, 2007. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 3 pm.

PRESS OPENING: June 16 at 8 pm.

PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN PREVIEWS: June 14 & 15 at 8 pm.

FOR TICKETS: Visit www.boxofficetickets.com/constellationtheatre or call 1-800-494-TIXS or 1-800-494-8497

FOR INFORMATION: Visit www.constellationtheatre.com or call 202-280-8101

TICKET INFORMATION: \$15 Thursdays and Sundays, \$18 Fridays and Saturdays. Students and Seniors \$2 off. Groups of 8 and up \$12 each.

-- continued--

A DREAM PLAY: FACT SHEET

Press Contact: Misty Demory

Play: A DREAM PLAY

202-280-8101

Playwrights: August Strindberg and Caryl Churchill

Director: Allison Arkell Stockman

Blurb: Caryl Churchill reinvents August Strindberg's spectacular masterpiece *A Dream Play* in an original version that reveals the love, anguish and wit at the heart of human existence. Follow a daughter of the gods through a captivating, mysterious and unique dream sequence. A vibrant ensemble of eleven performers brings to life forty-five compelling characters and infuses this piece with energy and insight.

Cast: Kevin Boggs, Katy Carkuff, Catherine Deadman, Misty Demory, Matthew Eisenberg, Keith Irby, Ashley Ivey, K. Clare Johnson, Callie Kimball, Craig Klein, Lisa Lias.

Design and Production: A.J. Guban (Set and Lights), Jennifer Tardiff (Costumes), Brendon Vierra (Sound), Ashley Ivey (Props), Rachel Miller (Dramaturgy), Angelisa Gillyard (Assistant Director & Stage Manager)

Pay-What-You-Can Previews (2): June 14 and June 15 at 8pm

Press Night: Saturday, June 16 at 8pm

Performance Schedule: June 14 – July 8 with shows on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 3 pm.

Constellation Theatre Company Mission Statement: Constellation Theatre Company is dedicated to creating theatre that is epic, expansive and essential. Constellation's plays and musicals share the characteristics of elevated language, expressive design and an acting style of heightened, archetypal action. Like bright lights in the dark sky, our shows will seek to illuminate the human experience in ways that are powerful, dynamic and relevant today.

For Tickets: 1-800-494-8497, www.boxofficetickets.com/constellationtheatre

For Information: 202-280-8101, www.constellationtheatre.com

Ticket Prices: \$12-\$18 \$15 Thursdays and Sundays, \$18 Fridays and Saturdays. Students and Seniors \$2 off. Groups of 8 and up \$12 each.

Location: Source Theatre at 1835 14th St. NW on the corner of T St. 2 blocks from the U St./ Cardozo Metro. On-street Parking.

###