

For Immediate Release:
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Who: Clarence Brown Theatre Studio Series
What: Speech and Debate
Where: Lab Theatre
When: March 25, 2010-April 3, 2010 7:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m. matinees
Prices: Adults \$10, Students \$10, UT Students \$3
Tickets: Box Office 865-974-5161, www.clarencebrowntheatre.com

“Speech and Debate” to Play at the CBT

KNOXVILLE—The Clarence Brown Theatre will perform “Speech and Debate” by Stephen Karam in the Lab Theatre from March 25, 2010 to April 3, 2010. The production is directed by visiting guest director Mace Archer.

High school misfits Solomon, Diwata, and Howie have never met. But when a shocking sex scandal erupts in school, they band together to make their voices heard.

“For me, the play is about secrets – coming of age and coming out. It’s about what people know but are hiding. It’s about young people wrestling with their own identities and the difficulties they encounter in their search for self,” said Archer.

After nearly a decade and a half as artistic director of Venture Theatre in Billings, Montana (a company which he founded), Mace is a freelance Director/Actor currently working around the country. He spent four years as an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Montana State University - Billings before leaving that position to run Venture Theatre. As Artistic Director, he also founded the Venture Youth Conservatory, a theatre-training program for children grades 3-12. Mace directed last season’s “The Marriage of Bette and Boo” and appeared as Captain Walker in Clarence Brown’s production of “The Who’s Tommy.”

The production features UT Theatre undergraduate students along with a community actor. **Tyler Padgett (Howie)** is a junior at UT majoring in Theatre. This is his second show on stage at the CBT, his first experience being in “A Christmas Carol” this past fall. Tyler appeared in the Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center’s productions of Godspell and Annie. He also enjoyed the role of Gaston in Beauty and the Beast. **Amy Hubbard (Teacher/Reporter)** was last seen on the CBT stage in “As You Like It.” She is the Artistic Director of the Actors Co-op where she recently in “Fool for Love.” She played Becky Straight in the film “Two Weeks” and also played the title role in the 2001 Sundance award winning film “Gina, an Actress, Age 29.”

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Tara Wells (Diwata) is a junior majoring in Theatre. She was last seen in the Carousel in “The Marriage of Bette and Boo.” Directing credits include “Fuddy Meers” and “Baby with the Bathwater” for the All Campus Theatre. A native of Nashville, **Kevin Bohleber (Solomon)** is a sophomore at UT majoring in Theatre and minoring in Business. He was last seen in the All Campus Theatre production of “Fuddy Meers.”

Mike Ponder (Sound Designer) has been resident sound designer for the UT’s Theatre program for more than 10 years. His work also has been heard at The North Carolina Stage Company. Most recently he composed electric bass music for Lee’s Blessing’s Chesapeake as well as for Underneath the Lintel.

Kyra Beanland (Costume Designer) is a second year international graduate student from Scarborough, England. She earned her undergraduate degree from the Arts Institute at Bournemouth, U.K. International TV credits include the BBC drama “Waking the Dead,” as well as some pilot TV shows. Her costume designs were most recently seen in “Little Shop of Horrors” in the Carousel Theatre.

Kerry Chipman (Scenic Designer) is a second year Scenic Design MFA student. Past designs for the Clarence Brown Theatre include “Little Shop of Horrors” and “Flyin’ West.” Her designs have been seen in New York in several theatres as well as in over 28 studio productions at Fordham College at Lincoln Center. This past summer her work was also seen at the Summer Repertory Theatre in Santa Rosa, California.

Jason Hiatt (Lighting Designer) is a 4th year undergraduate Lighting Design student. His recent work includes “Wedding Party on the Eiffel Tower,” “Little Women: The Musical” and “Fat Pig” in the Lab Theatre and the joint production of “The Miracle Worker” with Erin Stage Company and the Wordplayers. He also was Assistant Lighting Designer for “Charley’s Aunt” at the CBT.

Casey Sams (Choreographer) is an Assistant Professor at UT where she works in both the Graduate and Undergraduate programs teaching Movement and Acting. In addition to her work at the CBT, she has directed, choreographed or and served as movement coach in theatres across the region. She directed “The Who’s Tommy” last season at the CBT.

“Speech and Debate” runs from March 25, 2010 to April 3, 2010. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Matinee performances begin at 2:00 p.m. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$10 for regular students, and \$3 for UT students. For tickets, please call the CBT box office at 865-974-5161 or Tickets Unlimited at 865-656-4444.

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