

STRAWDOG



THEATRE COMPANY

3829 N. Broadway St., Chicago IL 60613

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PRESS RELEASE

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Media passes, photographs, videos, interviews and additional materials available.

Strawdog Theatre Continues 21st Season with Curt Columbus' Translation of Anton Chekhov's "Cherry Orchard"

- WHAT:** Strawdog Theatre Company continues their 21st season with Curt Columbus' translation of Anton Chekhov's classic "**Cherry Orchard**" (note this translation doesn't have "The" in the title); directed by Strawdog Artistic Associate Kimberly Senior. Chekhov's dark comedy follows the aristocratic Gayev family as they return to their beloved orchard estate, desperate to save it from foreclosure. "**Cherry Orchard**" was the last play written by Chekhov, whose esteemed canon includes "*Uncle Vanya*," "*The Seagull*" and "*Three Sisters*." "**Cherry Orchard**" runs about two hours with one intermission, and includes free admittance to Strawdog Late Night following the Friday and Saturday shows (Late Night schedule available on www.strawdog.org).
- WHERE:** Strawdog Theatre, 3829 N. Broadway St., Chicago, IL 60613
Red Line Sheridan stop; 36-Broadway and 80-Irving Park buses
\$6 honor parking at Greeley School, 832 W. Sheridan, weekends after 5 p.m.
- WHEN:** Opens Sunday, February 22, 2009, 7 p.m. (reception following)
Closes on Saturday, March 28, 2009
Runs Fridays, and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 7 p.m.
Previews on February 19 and February 20 at 8 p.m.
Added industry show on Monday, March 2 at 8 p.m. (\$5 industry/\$20 regular)
Added Thursday shows on March 19 and 26 at 8 p.m. (\$20 ticket)
Special gala benefit performance on Saturday, February 21 at 7 p.m. (\$40 ticket)
- TICKETS:** Publish this number: 773-528-9696, or visit www.strawdog.org
\$20 for all regular performances
\$15 for students and seniors (with ID), and for groups of ten or more
\$10 for previews
\$40 for Gala Benefit on February 21, including cocktails and appetizers
\$5 for industry show on March 2 (with resume/headshot/card); \$20 otherwise
Regular ticket purchase also includes admittance to Strawdog Late Nights (improv, comedy, music, etc.) directly after Friday and Saturday night shows
- STAFF:** Strawdog Company members **Erin Carlson** (Stage Manager), **Mikhail Fiksel** (Sound Design), **Aly Renee Greaves** (Costume Design), **Cortney Hurley** (Production Manager), **Sean Mallary** (Lighting Design), **Kimberly Senior** (Director), and guest artist **Anders Jacobsen** (Scenic Design).

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- CAST:** Strawdog ensemble members **Jennifer Avery** (Lovey), **Tom Hickey** (Gaev), **Shannon Hoag** (Dunyasha), **Michaela Petro** (Varya), **John Henry Roberts** (Yasha) and **Jamie Vann** (Lopahkin), with guest artists **Jeff Bruce** (Firs), **Rebecca Buller** (Anya), **Corey Clifford** (Intern), **Ryan Patrick Dolan** (Intern), **Amy Dunlap** (Charlotta), **Rob Fagin** (Trofimov), **James Joseph** (Yepikhodov) and **Sean Sinitski** (Pischick).
- BIOS:** Kimberly Senior returns to Strawdog after directing their critically-acclaimed productions of "*Knives In Hens*" (2003), "*Fuddy Meers*" (2004) and the world-premiere production of Curt Columbus' translation of "*Three Sisters*" (2005). Columbus is the current Artistic Director of Trinity Repertory Company in Providence, Rhode Island, and was the associate artistic director of Steppenwolf Theater Company (2000-2005), where his translations of "*Uncle Vanya*" and "**Cherry Orchard**" first premiered. Columbus was also the Artistic Director of Chicago Park District's Theater on the Lake and was an artistic associate at Victory Gardens Theater (1990–2006).
- NEXT:** Strawdog will continue their 21st season with Peter Barnes' black comedy "*Red Noses*," directed by House Theatre's Matthew Hawkins, running April 16-May 23, 2009.
- FUNDERS:** Strawdog Theatre Company is supported in part by **The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, the Alphawood Foundation, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, the Illinois Arts Council (a state agency), Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, Gerry Brown and Associates** and the annual support of businesses and individuals.
- MISSION:** Strawdog Theatre Company is committed to ensemble acting and an immersive design approach, offering Chicago the premiere storefront theatre experience. We develop new work, reimagine classic plays, explore new fusions of music and theatre, ask provocative questions and deliver our audience the unexpected. We provide a home for our celebrated ensemble to work and play with the most sought after artists in Chicago theatre along with the best new talents in the city. Founded in 1988, the Strawdog ensemble has consistently produced shows built on authentic human connections, and our comfortable 70-seat home in Lakeview is perfect for offering our audience a quintessential Chicago storefront theatre experience. "*The whole wide world in a little black box.*" Strawdog is a proud member of the NorthHalsted Area Merchant Association, The Chicago Storefront Theatre District and the League of Chicago Theatres.
- HISTORY:** Strawdog Theatre Company was formed in 1988 by a group of actors who had performed together in a production of Euripides's "*Helen*" at a (now defunct) theatre on the west side. The group took their name from Sam Peckinpah's movie "*Straw Dogs*" (*Theatresaurus* Rex was, thankfully, the runner-up), and they produced their first show, Len Jenkin's "*Five of Us*" at a (now defunct) space in Bucktown. At the time, the Chicago Reader said "Strawdog Theatre Company's inaugural production brings ... truth home with a vengeance," and Skyline Chicago added "The Strawdog troupe shows us what an ensemble can do." Twenty years later, Strawdog Theatre Company has survived the ups and downs of Chicago theatre, and is still dedicated to bringing the truth to audiences through the committed work of an award-winning ensemble of actors and designers.
- INFO:** Strawdog Theatre Company, 773-528-9889, www.strawdog.org

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