

The Matrix Theatre Company

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Non-traditionally cast ALL MY SONS sheds new light on Arthur Miller's classic *Matrix Theatre presents third in a series of plays examining race in America*

LOS ANGELES, CA – September 20, 2011 – A multi-ethnic production sheds new light on Arthur Miller's powerful *All My Sons*, with previews beginning October 13 and the opening set for **October 22** at the **Matrix Theatre**.

Miller's gripping tale of corporate greed versus social responsibility remains as electrifying today as when first presented in 1947, but producer **Joseph Stern** and director **Cameron Watson** have upped the ante, presenting this non-traditionally cast version as the third play in a trilogy examining race in America through the lens of different playwrights.

In *All My Sons*, Joe Keller and Steve Deever, partners in a machine shop during World War II, knowingly turned out defective airplane parts that caused the deaths of many men. Now, the past has come back to haunt their families.



A.K. Murtadha, James Hiroyuki Liao, Alex Morris,
Anne Gee Byrd, Linda Park star in "All my Sons" at the Matrix
Photo by Karen Bellone

Stern emphasizes that "we're not re-setting the play in another time or place, or deconstructing it, but when audiences see this extraordinary cast, the issues inherent in Miller's play are experienced in a fresh, expanded cultural context."

The casting process was far from color blind. "We've cast this play in a very deliberate way," he explains. "The Kellers are a mixed race family—Joe Keller is black (**Alex Morris**), Kate Keller is white (**Anne Gee Byrd**), and son Chris is bi-racial (**A.K. Murtadha**). The Deevers are Asian with **Linda Park** as Ann Deever and **James Hiroyuki Liao** as George. Meanwhile, the neighbor families, the Baylisses (**Anita Barone** and **Taylor Nichols**) and the Lubeys (**Maritxell Carrero** and **Armand Vasquez**) are white and Latino respectively.

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In 2009, Stern presented Lydia Diamond's *Stick Fly*, offering black and white audiences the chance to see upper-middle class African American characters seldom seen in the theater, where work often focuses on working class or "ghetto" life. *Stick Fly* went on to win the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle award for production, as well as *LA Weekly*, *Back Stage* and Ovation awards for writing and ensemble.

In 2010, *Neighbors*, by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, was an incisive study of the history of racism in America, embodied by an interracial middle class couple, their bi-racial daughter and a family of black minstrels in blackface. The controversial production aimed to dispel stereotypical perceptions of black sexuality, behavior and culture. *Neighbors* was the recipient of multiple LADCC and *Back Stage* awards, and has just been nominated for four Ovations, including Best Play. The play will open later this month at the Mixed Blood Theatre in Minneapolis, directed by Nataki Garrett, who directed the Matrix production.

Now, in 2011, The Matrix Theatre Company presents *All My Sons*, the American classic about post-war America and its effect on two families and their neighbors, breaking down expectations of casting conditioned into American audiences of all backgrounds.

"Taken together," says Stern, "these three plays are an attempt to start a dialogue that may make some uncomfortable, but will ultimately emerge as a healing act for both audiences and artists. The Matrix will continue to explore issues of race in the future."

Set design for *All My Sons* is by **John Iacovelli**; lighting design is by **Brian Gale**; costume design is by **Marcy Froehlich**; properties design is by **Chuck Olsen**; casting is by **Jami Rudofsky**; production stage manager is **Gil Tordjman**; and the managing director is **Allain Rochel**.

Under the leadership of producer Joseph Stern, The Matrix Theatre Company endeavors to build a creative environment by exploring a variety of theatrical genres and styles that constantly challenges both actor and audience. This innovative technique has been critically acclaimed and rewarded—including numerous Ovation, L.A. Weekly, Drama-Logue and Backstage Garland Awards, and a total of 41 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards - the largest number of LADCC Awards garnered by any intimate theater in Los Angeles. The Matrix Theatre Company has been honored by the LADCC with Outstanding Production awards for *Stick Fly* (2009); *The Tavern* (1993), *The Seagull* (1994) and *The Homecoming* (1995), and *Betrayal* (1984); Outstanding Ensemble for *Mad Forest* (1996); and with four LADCC awards for *The Water Children* (1998). *The Birthday Party* (2001) was named Best Revival Production by the L.A. Weekly and received numerous nominations and awards, including five LADCC nominations, among others.

All My Sons previews October 13 through October 21, opens for press on Saturday, **October 22**, and continues **through December 18**. Previews and performances are scheduled **Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 2 pm**. All tickets are **\$25.00**. **The Matrix Theatre** is located at **7657 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90046**. For reservations and information, call 323-960-7773 or go to www.matrixtheatre.com.

MORE-MORE-MORE

Details for Calendar Listings

All My Sons

WHAT:

All My Sons – This non-traditionally cast, multi-racial production sheds new light on Arthur Miller’s powerful story. World War II has ended and Joe Keller, an airplane parts manufacturer, is caught in a personal battle between social responsibility and business success that could threaten his quest for the American dream.

WHO:

Written by **Arthur Miller**

Directed by **Cameron Watson**

Featuring **Anita Barone, Anne Gee Byrd, Maritxell Carrero, Tobias Hess, James Hiroyuki Liao, Alex Morris, A.K. Murtadha, Taylor Nichols, Linda Park, Taylor Scofield** and **Armand Vasquez**

Produced by **Joseph Stern and The Matrix Theatre Company**

WHEN:

Previews: October 13-21

Performances: October 22 – December 18

Thursdays @ 8 pm: Oct. 13, 20 (previews), 27; Nov. 3, 10, 17; Dec. 1, 8, 15 (dark Nov. 24)

Fridays @ 8 pm: Oct. 14, 21 (previews), 28; Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25; Dec. 2, 9, 16

Saturdays @ 8 pm: Oct. 15 (preview), 22 (Opening), 29; Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26; Dec. 3, 10, 17

Sundays @ 2 pm: Oct. 16 (preview), 23, 30; Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27; Dec. 4, 11, 18

WHERE:

The Matrix Theatre

7657 Melrose Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 90046

HOW:

323-960-7773 or www.matrixtheatre.com

TICKETS:

\$25

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