

Dallas Theater Center

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DALLAS THEATER CENTER

presents

HENRY IV

by William Shakespeare

directed by Kevin Moriarty

Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre • AT&T Performing Arts Center • 2400 Flora Street
Previews: Sept. 11-16 • **Opening Night: Friday, Sept. 17, 8 p.m.** • **Full Run:** Sept. 11-Oct. 10
Tickets: 214-880-0202 or www.dallastheatercenter.org

DALLAS (August 25, 2010) – Dallas Theater Center proudly presents William Shakespeare's *Henry IV*, directed by DTC's artistic director Kevin Moriarty and starring long-time Dallas favorites Randy Moore and Kurt Rhoads, Sept. 11-Oct. 10 at the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre at the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

On the heels of its acclaimed, record-setting production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, DTC kicks off the 2010-2011 season with another Shakespeare masterpiece. Artistic Director Kevin Moriarty has condensed both parts – *Henry IV: Part One* and *Henry IV: Part Two* – into a three act, two-and-a-half hour-long epic theatrical event.

"In Shakespeare's lifetime, *Henry IV* was his most popular play with audiences, who flocked to its breathtaking mix of raucous comedy, thrilling battles, and heart-wrenching emotion," says Moriarty. "Featuring Shakespeare's beloved and most vivid comic character, the drunk, life-affirming, obese Sir John Falstaff, *Henry IV* will allow DTC to bring the Wylie Theatre to life with a cast of 22 actors, a large, physically expansive set, period costumes, sword-fighting, bawdy comedy, and youthful energy."

Leading the cast of 22 is the inimitable Randy Moore in the hysterically funny role of Sir John Falstaff. Long-time DTC favorite, Moore was a DTC company member for more than 30 years, and is the only actor to have worked under every DTC artistic director.

"This production allows me to complete the cycle of working for every DTC artistic director and in every DTC venue in the Theater's history. The added benefit, of course, is getting to play Falstaff – a role I never thought I'd play. I am grateful for the opportunity to do this in Dallas, which is where my career began.

Kurt Rhoads, who was a DTC company member in the 1980s and 90s, also returns to Dallas for the first time in more than a decade to play the title role, King Henry IV. Steven Walters, whose work includes *The Beauty Plays* at DTC and *Friday Night Lights* on television, plays the role of the wild Prince Hal.

The large cast also includes members of DTC's Brierley Resident Acting Company, local professional actors, and students from SMU's Meadows School of the Arts and the Booker T. Washington

High School for the Visual and Performing Arts: Regan Adair (Vernon), Graham Dudley (Peto), Hassan El-Amin (Earl of Northumberland), Ricco Fajardo (Prince John of Lancaster), Alexander Ferguson (Prince Thomas of Clarence), Chamblee Ferguson (Earl of Westmoreland), Micah Figueroa (Prince Humphrey of Gloucester), Matthew Gray (Earl of Worcester), Dexter Hostetter (Pistol), Cliff Miller (Ned Poin), Cedric Neal (Earl of Warwick), Sean O'Connor (Lord Hastings), Beethoven Oden (Sir Walter Blunt), John Taylor Phillips (Owen Glendower), Bryan Pitts (Earl of Douglas), Abbey Siegworth (Lady Percy, Doll Tearsheet), Teddy Spencer (Bardolph), Paul Stuart (Hotspur), and Christina Vela (Mistress Quickly).

The production will build upon the Wyly Theater's uniquely flexible space. "Unlike a traditional theater space, the Wyly Theatre is a transformative, reconfigurable space," explains Moriarty. "For this production, the audience will be seated on all sides of the action, and the play will take place in the center of the space and around the outside of the seating area. This will allow the audience to be fully immersed in the comedy of the tavern scenes, the energy of the battlefield scenes, and the intimacy of the father-son conflict that is at the heart of the play."

The acclaimed design team of DTC veterans includes set designer John Coyne (*Pride and Prejudice*), costume designer Jennifer Ables (DTC Costume Shop Manager), lighting designer Jeff Croiter (*It's a Bird... It's a Plane... It's Superman*), and Broken Chord Collection (*The Good Negro*).

Though Moriarty sees many resonances for the play with today's modern world, the production will be set in the early 15th-century, its original historical time period. "Unlike *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which we costumed in contemporary clothing, with *Henry IV* we're keeping the action based in its period," Moriarty explains. "We think this will allow the audience to best follow the twists and turns of the play's fast-paced plot, while also allowing the audience to discover the contemporary relevance of the play's ideas, which are centered around a generational conflict between a father and his party-boy son, a nation beset by civil war, and the challenges of creating a society that is both just and humane." To further engage audiences with these themes, audiences will be invited to participate in a 15-minute Dr. Pepper/Snapple Stay Late conversation with members of the cast after each performance.

All performances of *Henry IV* will be held in the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre at the AT&T Performing Arts Center, located at 2400 Flora St., where it runs Sept. 11-Oct. 10. Preview performances are Sept. 11-16. Opening night is **Friday, Sept. 17, at 8 p.m.** Performance times are Tuesday through Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.; and select Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$15-\$85 and are available by calling the box office at 214-880-0202 or by visiting www.dallastheatercenter.org.

Henry IV is part of Shakespeare for a New Generation, a national initiative sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with Arts Midwest.

ABOUT DALLAS THEATER CENTER

One of the leading regional theaters in the country, Dallas Theater Center (DTC) produces new, contemporary and classic plays and musicals for an audience of more than 90,000 North Texas residents annually. DTC is a resident company of the AT&T Performing Arts Center and presents its mainstage season at the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre and the historic Frank Lloyd Wright-built Kalita Humphreys Theater. DTC engages, entertains and inspires a diverse community by creating experiences that stimulate new ways of thing and living by consistently producing plays, musicals, educational programs and other initiatives that are of the highest quality and reach the broadest possible constituency.

DTC gratefully acknowledges the support of our season sponsors: American Airlines, The Dallas Morning News, Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, National Endowment for the Arts, TACA, TCA and WFAA.

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Wayne Goodwin
Thursday, 1:18 PM
Added: Space

Wayne Goodwin
Friday, 10:20 AM
Added: Paragraph Break