

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

Molly Smith Artistic Director Edgar Dobie Executive Director Zelda Fichandler Founding Director

***PLEASE NOTE: This release has been updated as of 2/6/13.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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December 14, 2012

ARENA STAGE AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER
PRESENTS *METAMORPHOSES*, WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MARY ZIMMERMAN,
IN ASSOCIATION WITH LOOKINGGLASS THEATRE COMPANY

***Several cast members from the original Chicago and Broadway productions return;
set redesigned specifically for first in-the-round production features vast pool of water***

(Washington, D.C.) Following its acclaimed 16-week run at the Lookingglass Theatre Company this fall, *Metamorphoses* brings the mythical tales of Ovid to life at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, 10 years after the Broadway premiere. Written and directed by Tony Award winner **Mary Zimmerman**, *Metamorphoses* is based on David Slavitt's translation and marks the first time Zimmerman will direct the production since its Broadway run. This is also the first time Zimmerman will stage *Metamorphoses* in the round, and a custom set will be designed with the largest pool of water ever created for this production. Hailed by *Chicago Sun-Times* as "a work of pure poetry in motion—a seamless, visually gorgeous act of storytelling," *Metamorphoses* dives onto the Fichandler Stage February 8-March 17, 2013.

"Mary Zimmerman's work touches deep truths about what it means to be human. Her productions are visual and poetic and she is a master of unusual stagecraft," says **Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith**. "How exciting to build the muscular world of *Metamorphoses* in the Fichandler space."

Zimmerman originally created *Metamorphoses* with students at Northwestern University under the name *Six Myths*. Its first professional production was at Lookingglass in 1998, and what was originally a five-week run extended to nearly eight months, receiving vast critical acclaim and earning Jeff Awards for New Adaptation and Lighting Design. The production then toured to several regional theater companies and landed at New York's Second Stage Theatre in 2001, where *Time* magazine named it "Best Play of the Year" and Zimmerman received the Obie Award for Direction.

Metamorphoses opened on Broadway in 2002 at Circle in the Square Theatre and ran for nearly a year, earning Zimmerman the Tony Award for Best Direction. While in New York, *Metamorphoses* also won Drama Desk Awards for Outstanding Play and Outstanding Music in a Play, as well as the Drama League Award for Best Play and the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play. The production and its evolving journey was such a touchstone for many of the original artists involved that three marriages and four children have resulted from the creative relationships formed.

The Arena Stage cast features several actors who have been with *Metamorphoses* since its earliest stages. **Chris Kipiniak** (Cinyras) and **Louise Lamson** (Alcyon) first worked with Zimmerman on *Metamorphoses* at

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Northwestern and continued with it through its Broadway production. **Raymond Fox** (Midas), **Doug Hara** (Phaeton) and **Lisa Tejero** (Therapist) will also reprise their roles from Chicago and Broadway. Joining them are **Ashleigh Lathrop** (Myrrha), **Lauren Orkus** (Eurydice) and **Tempe Thomas** (Aphrodite) from the recent Chicago production. Joining the cast in D.C. are **Geoff Packard** (playing Ceyx, recently seen as the title role in *Candide*) and **Derek Hasenstab** (Hermes), who has been part of several *Metamorphoses* productions across the country.

“Whenever and wherever we have done this show, audiences immediately connect to the stories because metamorphoses—change, unlooked for and often unwanted—is an inescapable fact of our lives; it binds us together,” remarks **Zimmerman**. “These myths give a kind of comfort in that they assert that it was ever thus—that change is the only constant—and yet, out of any destruction, something new is born. And aside from all this, the stories are gripping because they have a kind of wit, an unexpected humor that is born from both their strangeness and their familiarity. I’m really looking forward to revisiting the production after all these years.”

The creative team of *Metamorphoses* who will remount their work in the round includes Set Designer **Dan Ostling**, Costume Designer **Mara Blumenfeld**, Lighting Designer **T.J. Gerckens**, Sound Designer **Andre Pluess**, Original Music Composer **Willy Schwarz**, Stage Manager **Cynthia Cahill** and Assistant Stage Manager **Marne Anderson**.

About *Metamorphoses*: Returning to D.C. for the first time since her smash hit productions of *The Arabian Nights* and *Candide* in 2011, MacArthur “Genius” Mary Zimmerman returns with *Metamorphoses*. Zimmerman’s magical interpretation of Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* proves myths about romance, family, loss and redemption never go out of style. Through lyrical storytelling and stunning imagery, Zimmerman conjures the force of Ovid’s ancient myths into a wondrous world where gods and mortals interact in a giant pool on our famous in-the-round stage. These timeless stories ripple through the depths of imagination, reminding audiences of the transformative power of theater.

Critical acclaim for the Lookingglass Theatre Company’s *Metamorphoses*

- *Chicago Tribune*—“4 stars ... You just don’t want *Metamorphoses* to come to an end.”
- *Newcity Stage*—“A moving and engaging piece of theater.”
- *Chicago Reader*—“Zimmerman unlocks the tales’ universality and timelessness.”
- *Chicago Theater Beat*—“Imaginatively staged, impressively physical, and rooted in the eternal.”
- *Daily Herald*—“Inspired ... a poetic, beautifully evocative examination of love.”
- *Chicago Now*—“This experience is got-to-see-it-to-believe-it phenomenal!”

Mary Zimmerman (Director and Writer)’s work was first seen at Arena Stage in 2011 with *The Arabian Nights*, which was, like *Metamorphoses*, originally produced by Lookingglass Theatre of Chicago. Other D.C. work includes *Candide* (Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding Director, Resident Musical), *Pericles* (Helen Hayes nomination, Outstanding Director, Resident Play) and *Argonautika* at the Shakespeare Theatre Company. *Metamorphoses* appeared on Broadway in 2001-2002 and was nominated for Tony Awards for Best Production, Design and Direction—which Mary won. Other works of Mary’s, including *The Odyssey*, *Journey to the West*, *Eleven Rooms of Proust*, *The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci* and *The Secret in the Wings* originated in Chicago and have been performed all over the country and internationally. She has directed three operas at the Metropolitan Opera. Her most recent work, *The White Snake*, developed at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and just finished a run at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Mary received the MacArthur Fellowship in 1998 and is a Professor of Performance Studies at Northwestern.

The Cast of *Metamorphoses* (in alphabetical order)

Raymond Fox (Midas and others) makes his Arena Stage debut. He returns to *Metamorphoses* having appeared in the original Broadway (Circle in the Square) and Off-Broadway (Second Stage) casts as well as in numerous regional productions. His notable regional appearances include Edward Voysey in *The Voysey*

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Inheritance (Remy Bumppo Theatre), Prince Hal in *Henry IV* (Court Theatre) and Valentine Coverly in *Arcadia* (Meadow Brook Theatre). Raymond is an ensemble member of Chicago's Lookingglass Theatre Company where he co-adapted *The Old Curiosity Shop* with Laura Eason and Heidi Stillman (shared 2006 Joseph Award for New Adaptation). Raymond was a member of the Young Company of the Stratford Festival (Ontario) in 1996. He is a graduate of Northwestern University and the A.R.T. Institute at Harvard University.

Doug Hara (Phaeton and others) was part of the original Chicago, Off-Broadway and Broadway casts (Lookingglass, Second Stage and Circle in the Square) of *Metamorphoses*, as well as regional productions at Berkeley Rep, Seattle Rep and Mark Taper Forum. He is an Ensemble Member of Lookingglass Theatre Company where he has participated in 16 productions since 1991 including *West*, *The Arabian Nights*, *Up Against It*, *The Master and Margarita*, *Lookingglass Hamlet*, *Lookingglass Alice* and *The Brothers Karamazov*. Goodman Theatre productions include *Journey to the West* and *The Odyssey*. Arden Theatre productions include *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, *Something Intangible*, *Threepenny Opera* and *Cyrano*. Two River Theater productions include *Our Town*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Charlotte's Web*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *HONK!* Broadway credits: *The Boys of Winter* and *Metamorphoses*. Off-Broadway: *The Notebooks of Leonardo Da Vinci* and *Lookingglass Alice*. Doug has performed at many regional theatres including About Face Theatre, Jellyeye Drum Opera, Huntington Theatre, Berkeley Rep, Seattle Rep, Mark Taper Forum, The Alliance Theatre, Syracuse Stage, Margaret Jenkins Dance Company, Brooklyn Academy of Music and Joyce Theatre.

Derek Hasenstab (Hermes and others) performed as Zazu in the Broadway National Tour of *The Lion King*. Chicago credits include: Iago in *Disney's Aladdin*, Franz/Dennis in *Sunday in the Park with George* and Peter Quince in *Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *Oedipus Complex* (Goodman Theatre); *A Home at the End of the World*, *Cloud Nine* (After Dark Award, About Face Theatre); *Dealer's Choice*, *Phyro Giants!*, *Was, Ecstasy* (Roadworks Productions); *The Buddy Holly Story*, *A Christmas Carol*, *I Hate Hamlet*, *The Foreigner* (After Dark Award, Drury Lane Oakbrook). Other regional credits include: Tom in *The Glass Menagerie* (Kansas City Rep) and *Metamorphoses* (Mark Taper Forum).

Chris Kipiniak (Cinyras and others)'s Broadway credits include *Metamorphoses* (Circle in the Square). Off-broadway: *Kit Marlowe* (Public Theater), *Nora* (Marvell Repertory) and *Charles Winn Speaks...* (Living Image Arts). London: *How To Act Around Cops* (Soho Theatre, also New York and Edinburgh International Fringe Festivals). Chicago: *The Odyssey* and *Wit* (Goodman Theatre). Film/TV: "Delocated," "Law & Order," "The Good Wife," the feature "The Poker Club" and the short "Trying" (also writer, director). Playwriting: *Stalled* (Horse Trade Theater Group and Hangar Theatre Lab), *Save the World* (Roundtable Ensemble), *Change the Be* and *IIIIINSAAAAAAAANE!!!!* (Horse Trade Theater Group). Other writing: *Nightcrawler*, *Amazing Fantasy* and *Marvel Adventures: Spider-Man* for Marvel Comics.

Louise Lamson (Alcyon and others) appeared in an early version of *Metamorphoses* entitled *Six Myths*, while still a student at Northwestern in 1996, and was also part of the original Chicago, Off-Broadway and Broadway casts, as well as regional productions at the Berkeley Rep, Seattle Rep and Mark Taper Forum. She is an Artistic Associate at Lookingglass and her credits include *The Idiot*, *Hard Times*, *The Secret in the Wings*, *Manuscript Found in Saragossa*, *The Wooden Brecks*, *Icarus* (at the Getty Villa, L.A.), *The Brothers Karamazov*, *Our Town* and *The Arabian Nights*. Some Chicago credits include About Face Theatre's *Bash* (After Dark award and Jeff nomination), *The Odyssey* (Goodman) and *The Adventures of Herculina* (Next Theatre). New York credits include *The Notebooks of Leonardo Da Vinci* (Second Stage).

Ashleigh Lathrop (Myrrha and others)'s Chicago credits include *Short Shakespeare! The Comedy of Errors* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), *FML: How Carson McCullers Saved My Life* (Steppenwolf Theatre), *The Twins Would Like to Say* (Dog & Pony Theatre Co.) and Sharee in *Cooperstown* (Theatre Seven). Other credits include *Taming of the Shrew*, *The Critic*, *The Cure at Troy*, *As You Like It*, *All's Well That Ends Well* and *Major Barbara* (American Players Theatre); Ophelia in *Hamlet* and *I Have Before Me a Remarkable Document Given to Me by a Young Lady from Rwanda* (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).

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Lauren Orkus (Eurydice and others) most recently performed in *Metamorphoses* with the Lookingglass Theatre in Chicago. NY credits include: *My Sweet Charlie* (Abingdon Theatre), *End's Eve* (NY Fringe Festival), *Ivanov* (Gene Frankel) and *Hollow* (Dixon Place). Regional credits include: *The Snow Queen* (Portland Stage Company); *The Comedy of Errors*, *Two Noble Kinsmen* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival); *The Diary of Anne Frank* (St. Louis Rep); *Doubt* (Weston Playhouse); *Night of the Iguana* (Berkshire Theatre Festival); *The House in Hydesville* (Geva Theatre); *Arms and the Man* (Orlando Shakespeare Theater); *A Christmas Carol* (Am. Drama Group Europe- German Tour); *The Crucible*, *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Asolo Repertory Theatre). She has an MFA in Acting from the FSU/Asolo Theatre Conservatory and a BA in Theater from Penn State University.

Geoff Packard (Ceyx and others)'s Broadway credits include *Rock of Ages* and *The Phantom of the Opera*. National tours: *Wicked* and *The Phantom of the Opera*. Regional credits include: *Candide* at Goodman Theatre (Jeff Award), Shakespeare Theatre Company (Helen Hayes Award) and Huntington Theatre; *Angels in America* (Court Theater); *Liberty Smith* and *Shenandoah* (Ford's Theatre); *Winesburg, Ohio* (Kansas City Rep); *Where's Charley?* (Goodspeed Opera House) and *Violet* (CCM's Hot Summer Nights). TV: *Guiding Light*.

Lisa Tejero (Therapist and others) appeared on and Off-Broadway in Mary Zimmerman's *Metamorphoses*. Regional credits include: *Henry V* and *The White Snake* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *A Christmas Carol*, *Ghostwritten*, *Mirror of the Invisible World*, *Silk*, *The Odyssey*, *As You Like It*, *Journey to the West*, *Skin of Our Teeth*, *Winter's Tale* (Goodman Theatre); *Ethan Frome*, *Fedra: Queen of Haiti*, *Argonautika*, *Old Curiosity Shop*, *1984*, *S/M* (Lookingglass Theatre Company); *Kafka on the Shore* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); *Lady Macbeth* (Oak Park Shakespeare). Also: Victory Gardens, Court Theatre, Huntington Theatre, Cincinnati Repertory, St. Louis Repertory, Mark Taper Forum, Seattle Rep, Berkeley Rep, Missouri Rep and Milwaukee Rep. Film: *Medicine Show*, *Chain Reaction*, *Above the Law*, *Deevolution of Ethan Chadwick*. TV: *All My Children*, *A Man's Woman*, *Angel Street*, *Mississippi*. She received a 2002 Drama League Distinguished Performance nomination for *Metamorphoses* and After Dark Awards for *Shanghai Gesture* and *M. Butterfly*.

Tempe Thomas (Aphrodite and others) makes her Arena Stage debut in *Metamorphoses*. She last performed locally as the Queen of El Dorado in Mary Zimmerman's *Candide* (Shakespeare Theatre Company). Regional credits include *Candide* (Goodman, Huntington), Gertrude in *Seussical* (Marriott, Drury Lane), Betty Jean in *Marvelous Wonderettes* (Northlight, Capitol Repertory Theatre), Little Edie in the Chicagoland premiere of *Grey Gardens* (Northlight), Maria Elena in *Buddy Holly* (Drury Lane), Marty in *Grease* (Marriott), Brooke in *Water Coolers* (Lakeshore Theatre, Riverfront Theatre) and Percy in *Spitfire Grill* (Provision Theatre). New York credits include Bessie 1 in the TAM award-winning production of *River's End* (NYMF) and Carol in *...Tales of the 8th Grade!* (NYC Fringe). She has toured with Classical Kids Live! in their production of *Tchaikovsky Discovers America*.

Roles subject to change. Full company bios and images available upon request. Please e-mail press@arenastage.org.

***Metamorphoses* is sponsored by Altria Group. The 2012/13 Fichandler Stage season is sponsored by Life Trustee Dr. Jaylee Montague Mead, and the entire 2012/13 season is dedicated to her memory.**

Metamorphoses Special Events, Ticket Information and Performance Calendar

2 for 1 Theater and Dining at Arena Stage—February 1-24

Available for Good People and Metamorphoses

Enjoy a night out at Arena Stage by experiencing a world class performance of an award-winning play combined with a top-notch casual dining experience. Choose from the dark comedy Broadway smash *Good People* or the dazzling theatricality of *Metamorphoses*. This offer is valid from February 1-24 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays for the 7:30 p.m. performance and on Thursdays and Fridays for the 8:00 p.m.

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performance. Cost is \$109 for two tickets to either show and two prix fixe meals, which include a starter, entrée and dessert. This offer, which is part of Destination DC's "Date Nights DC" campaign, is subject to availability and cannot be combined with other offers or applied to previous purchases. For more information, visit datenightsdc.org.

Gallery talks and lectures at the National Gallery of Art

In conjunction with Arena Stage's *Metamorphoses*, a magical reinterpretation of the myths of Ovid, the National Gallery of Art will highlight a selection of works of art from their collection depicting myths through a series of lectures and 20-minute gallery talks. All events will take place at the National Gallery of Art, located on the National Mall between 3rd and 7th Streets at Constitution Avenue, NW, and are free and open to the public. For lectures, seating is available on a first-come, first-seated basis. For more information, visit nga.gov/programs/index.shtm.

Lecture: *Miraculous Transformations: Images from Ovid's Metamorphoses*—March 3 at noon & March 6 at 3:30 p.m.

Eric Denker, senior lecturer, National Gallery of Art, West Building Lecture Hall

Gallery talk: *Apollo and Daphne* by Giambattista Tiepolo—March 4, 7 & 8 at 11:00 a.m.

Led by Eric Denker, senior lecturer, National Gallery of Art, West Building Rotunda

Gallery talk: *The Fall of Phaeton* by Sir Peter Paul Rubens—March 11, 13 & 14 at 11:00 a.m.

Led by Faya Causey, head of academic programs, National Gallery of Art, West Building Rotunda

TICKETS: Tickets for *Metamorphoses* are \$40-\$85, subject to change and based on availability, plus applicable fees. For information on savings programs such as student discounts, Southwest Nights, Pay-Your-Age tickets, HOTTIX and Hero's Discounts, visit arenastage.org/shows-tickets/single-tickets/savings-programs. Tickets may be purchased online at arenastage.org, by phone at 202-488-3300 or at the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth St., SW, D.C.

Sales Office/Subscriptions	202-488-3300
Group Sales Hotline for 10+ Tickets	202-488-4380
TTY for deaf patrons	202-484-0247
Info for patrons with disabilities	202-488-3300

Sunday, Tuesday & Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Weekday matinees at noon on 2/26, 2/27 & 3/6.

Full calendar: tickets.arenastage.org/single/psDetail.aspx?psn=14312

Open-captioned performances: 2/20 at 7:30 p.m., 2/21 at 8:00 p.m.

Audio-described performance: 3/16 at 2:00 p.m.

Post-show discussions: 2/26, 2/27 & 3/6 following the noon performance; 3/5 & 3/14 following the evening performance.

METRO: Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is only one block from the Waterfront-SEU Metro station (Green Line). When exiting the station, walk west on M Street toward Sixth Street, and the main entrance to the Mead Center is on the right.

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PARKING: Parking is available in Arena Stage's on-site garage. Subscribers may purchase parking in advance for \$16. Single ticket buyers may purchase parking in advance for \$18 or on the day of the performance for \$20 on a first-come, first-served basis. Limited handicapped parking is available by reservation. Advanced parking must be reserved by calling 202-488-3300. The entrance to the Mead Center garage is on Maine Avenue between Sixth and Seventh streets, and the garage closes one hour after the day's last performance ends. Patrons can also park at the Public Parking Garage at 1101 Fourth Street, one block from the Mead Center, for \$11. Street parking is also available along Maine Avenue and Water Street.

VALET PARKING: Arena Stage offers valet service at no additional cost to patrons with accessibility needs who call 202-488-3300 in advance to request valet parking. On days when valet parking is being used for accessibility, it is also available to general patrons one hour prior to show time for \$25, based on availability. To use valet parking, pull up to the main entrance on Sixth Street.

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is a national center dedicated to the production, presentation, development and study of American theater. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Molly Smith and Executive Director Edgar Dobie, Arena Stage is the largest company in the country dedicated to American plays and playwrights. Arena Stage produces huge plays of all that is passionate, exuberant, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit, and presents diverse and ground-breaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Arena Stage is committed to commissioning and developing new plays through the American Voices New Play Institute. Now in its seventh decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. arenastage.org.

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