

bold • intimate • engaging

KITCHEN theatre company

17th Season - Artistic Director, Rachel Lampert

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Historic Clinton House, 116 N. Cayuga St., Ithaca, N.Y.

PRESS RELEASE

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March 20 – April 13, 2008

MAIN STAGE 2007-08

OLD TIMES by Harold Pinter

Director: **Margarett Perry** Scenic and Lighting Designer: **Brian Prather**

Costume Designer: **Hannah Kochman** Stage Manager: **Stephen A. Wagner**

Cast: **Greg Bostwick, Leigh Keeley, Camilla Schade**

Previews: Thursday March 20 at 7:30pm and Friday March 21 at 8:00pm

Press Opening: Saturday, March 22 at 8:00 PM **Closes:** Sunday, April 13 at 4:00 PM

Performances: Wednesdays & Thursdays at 7:30pm; Fridays & Saturdays at 8:00 PM & Sundays at 4:00
(see calendar page 2)

Tickets: \$19-\$34 (senior, student, preview and group discounts are available) and may be purchased in person at the Ticket Center located in the Historic Clinton House, Downtown Ithaca near the Commons, 116 N. Cayuga Street, Ithaca, NY (corner Cayuga and Seneca Streets), by calling (607) 273-4497 or online at www.kitchentheatre.org

Photos available upon request.

The Kitchen Theatre Company gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the sponsors of this production:

Emerson Power Transmission, Foster Custom Kitchens, and Allan Warshawsky Realtor.

This funding helps the Kitchen bring bold, intimate and engaging theater to life.

Harold Pinter's classic **OLD TIMES** is up next on the Kitchen Theatre Company Main Stage

The Kitchen Theatre Company is pleased to continue its 17th Main Stage Season with Harold Pinter's haunting classic OLD TIMES (Previews March 20 and 21; press opening March 22nd and runs through April 13th, 2008). In 1971 The Observer said of the play "*Wonderfully taut, comic and ominous, OLD TIMES shows Pinter more and more himself and less like any other playwright writing today.*" More than thirty years later, Pinter's plays continue to intrigue and challenge audiences with Pinter's signature "comedy of menace." Harold Pinter is widely viewed as the most influential and accomplished playwright in postwar Britain and was awarded the 2005 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Kate (**Camilla Schade**) and her husband, Deeley (**Greg Bostwick**), live in an isolated farmhouse by the sea. The mundane harmony of their lives is disturbed when Kate's old friend Anna (**Leigh Keeley**) comes to stay. A night of reminiscing between the married couple and the old friend becomes a struggle to discover the truth in memory, desire in love, and to whom the past belongs. A battle for possession begins in which past and present merge with shattering consequences.

OLD TIMES is the fifth of six productions in the Kitchen Theatre Company's 2007-08 17th Main Stage Season and will feature the return of NYC director **Margarett Perry**. Perry is known to Kitchen Theatre audiences for her work last season on Brian Dykstra's toxic comedy **CLEAN ALTERNATIVES** and David Wiltse's bedroom farce **A MARRIAGE MINUET**. Perry returned earlier this season to direct Brian Dykstra's explosive **STRANGERHORSE** and to work with two of our Counter Culture artists, Darian Dauchan and Vickie Tanner.

Kitchen Theatre Artistic Director Rachel Lampert notes an interesting parallel between this play and others proucded this season: "I often discover an unexpected and unplanned synergy within a season of plays at the Kitchen Theatre. In **THE CLEAN HOUSE** by Sarah Ruhl, the play that opened our season, a complicated triangle including a married couple is at the center of the play. Another more deadly triangle powers the play in **STRANGERHORSE**, our second play this season. Pinter's mysterious triumvirate in **OLD TIMES**, again including a married couple, is another astonishing look at the forces that come in threes."

Director Margarett Perry is interested in exploring what lies underneath those power dynamics. "In a *New Yorker* article I read recently," says Perry, "Pinter was quoted as saying, 'We are faced with the immense difficulty, if not the impossibility of verifying the past. I don't mean merely years ago, but yesterday, this morning. What took place, what was the nature of what took place, what happened?---There are no hard distinctions between what is real and what is unreal, nor between what is true and what is false. A thing is not necessarily either true or false; it can be both true and false.' It is this battle over the past that Pinter is exploring in **OLD TIMES** and within that battle he creates a psychological warfare between characters using language as their only weapon. It's the psychological warfare that makes his plays so juicy and fun to explore. It's a nasty, violent world, but there's also a deliciousness in that nastiness that makes it taste sweet."

The **OLD TIMES** cast includes KTC veterans **Greg Bostwick** (**AFTER ASHLEY**, **COMFORT FOOD**, **THE PRICE** among others), **Leigh Keeley** (**THE CLEAN HOUSE**, **THE PRICE**, **A DELICATE BALANCE** among others) and **Camilla Schade** (48 Hour Playwriting Festival/Teen Extreme).

Set and lighting design is by **Brian Prather**, Professor of Scenic Design at Ithaca College. Prather designed the lighting for the Kitchen's most recent production, **BED NO BREAKFAST**. Stage management is by resident stage manager Stephen A. Wagner.

Performance Dates:

March 20, 2008, Thursday at 7:30 pm (Preview 1 of 2)

March 21, 2008, Friday at 8:00 pm (Preview 2 of 2)

March 22, 2008, Saturday at 8:00 pm (Press/Opening/Reception)

March 23, 2008, Sunday at 4:00 pm (Matinee 1 of 4)

March 26, 2008, Wednesday at 7:30 pm

March 27, 2008, Thursday at 7:30 pm

March 28, 2008, Friday at 8:00 pm

March 29, 2008, Saturday at 8:00 pm

March 30, 2008, Sunday at 4:00 pm (Matinee 2 of 4)

April 2, 2008, Wednesday at 7:30 pm

April 3, 2008, Thursday at 7:30 pm

April 4, 2008, Friday at 8:00 pm

April 5, 2008, Saturday at 8:00 pm

April 6, 2008, Sunday at 4 pm (Matinee 3 of 4)

April 9, 2008, Wednesday at 7:30 pm

April 10, 2008, Thursday at 7:30 pm

April 11, 2008, Friday at 8:00 pm

April 12, 2008, Saturday at 8:00 pm

April 13, 2008, Sunday at 4:00 pm (Matinee 4 of 4 / Closing)

Bold, intimate, engaging...Kitchen Theatre Company (KTC), now in its 17th season, is downtown Ithaca's critically acclaimed and nationally recognized year-round professional theatre with four performance series (Main Stage, Family Fare, Kitchen Counter Culture, Kitchen Sink). KTC is the first not-for-profit recipient of the David R. Strong Memorial "**Small Business of the Year**" Award from the **Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce**. KTC provides an engaging mix of regional and world premiere plays and musicals to Central NY in an intimate 73-seat theatre that encourages a bold relationship between audience and actor. The theatre is located in the historic Clinton House, a renovated hotel in Downtown Ithaca, New York. Ithaca is located on the southern tip of Cayuga Lake in central New York. Kitchen Theatre Company receives public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency and the Tompkins County Room Occupancy Tax Fund. For the 2007-08 Season the Kitchen Theatre Company is receiving support from the Shubert Foundation and the New York State Music Fund.

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