

For immediate release:

**RESONANCE ENSEMBLE announces cast for
“BUILDING CHARACTERS”**

Featuring two shows in rep:

***THE MASTER BUILDER* by Henrik Ibsen, directed by Eric Parness**

***THE GLASS HOUSE* by June Finfer, directed by Evan Bergman**

Beginning May 9, opening May 16, 2010

At Theatre Row’s CLURMAN THEATRE

New York: Emmy nominated actor **Harris Yulin** to lead cast of *The Glass House* by **June Finfer**, as part of **Resonance Ensemble’s** 2010 season entitled “Building Characters.” “Building Characters” includes ***THE MASTER BUILDER***, by **Henrik Ibsen** directed by **Eric Parness** and **June Finfer’s *THE GLASS HOUSE***, directed by **Evan Bergman** performing in rep beginning **May 9 - June 5 (opening on May 16)** at Theatre Row.

Joining **Harris Yulin** (Bway: *Hedda Gabler, The Price, The Diary of Anne Frank, The Visit*. TV: “24”, Emmy nomination “Frasier”) in *The Glass House* are **David Bishins** (*Catch 22, A Mother, A Daughter and A Gun, The Boys in the Band*. Film: *A Magic Helmet*), **Gina Nagy Burns** (TV: *Line of Fire*,” “*Law & Order: SVU*”) and **Janet Zarish** (“*One Life to Live*,” *Season of Youth*. Theatre: *The Countess, Other People’s Money*).

The cast for ***The Master Builder*** includes: **Pun Bandhu** (Film: *The Understudy, Michael Clayton*. Stage: *Yellow Face*, Resonance’s *Caesar and Cleopatra*), **Chris Ceraso** (TV: “*Hot for Teacher*.” Theatre: *On the Road to Ruin, Caesar and Cleopatra*), **Brian D. Coats** (Public’s *Two Gentleman of Verona, Merchant of Venice*. HBO’s “*How To Make it in America*”), **Susan Ferrara** (Theatre: *Darger, The Cherry Orchard*), **Jennifer Gawlik** (*Ghosts, Toys in the Attic*. Film: *Shades of Grace*), **Peter Judd** (Film: *Phineas Gage, The Village Barbershop*. Stage: *The Cherry Orchard*), and **Sarah Stockton** (*Caesar and Cleopatra, Time of Your Life*).

Resonance Ensemble is a Theatre-in-Residence at **Theatre Row (410 West 42 Street)**. Performances will begin **May 9, opening on Sunday, May 16** and will run through June 5, 2010. **Tickets are \$18 and can be**

purchased through Ticket Central at 212.279.4200 or at www.ticketcentral.com. For more information please visit www.ResonanceEnsemble.org. Performance schedule is listed below.

Resonance Ensemble is dedicated to producing groups of related theatrical presentations that resonate across time and culture and confront universal themes and ideas significant to audiences of today. This season's resonating works include the Ibsen classic *THE MASTER BUILDER* and June Finfer's new play, *THE GLASS HOUSE*.

THE MASTER BUILDER tells the story of a revered but aging architect who is haunted by painful memories and fears of the future. When a figure from his past suddenly reappears, his outlook, and his destiny, will be forever changed.

The design and building of Mies van der Rohe's Farnsworth House and Philip Johnson's Glass House is the background for *THE GLASS HOUSE's* penetrating dramatic plot that entwines the epic conflict between artist and patron. The play explores the classic struggle of ambition, passion and betrayal.

Although *THE MASTER BUILDER* and *THE GLASS HOUSE* were written more than a century apart, both tell the story of architects whose personal and professional life become dangerously intertwined as they struggle to balance idealism and integrity with functionality and finance. Each protagonist is burdened with a tendency towards extreme perfectionism, defining themselves by what they create. Both are master builders, who climb to dizzying heights with towering egos. By pairing these two plays, Resonance Ensemble hopes to demonstrate the universal and timeless themes of Ibsen's classic story by putting them in context with the resonating modern issues explored in *THE GLASS HOUSE*.

Creative team includes: Jo Winiarski (Scenic Design), Valerie Marcus Ramshur (*The Glass House* Costume Design), Sidney Shannon (*The Master Builder* Costume Design), Pamela Kupper (Lighting Design), Nick Moore (Original Music and Sound Design), Daniel Heffernan (Projection Design).

RESONANCE ENSEMBLE 2010 Season

"BUILDING CHARACTERS" featuring

THE MASTER BUILDER* and *THE GLASS HOUSE

Begins performances Sunday, May 9; Opening, Sunday, May 16 through June 5

***THE GLASS HOUSE* by June Finfer, directed by Evan Bergman**

Running Time: 1 hour and 40 minutes, no intermission

Press nights: May 12 at 8PM; May 14 at 8PM; May 15 at 2PM; May 16 at 7PM (opening night)

***THE MASTER BUILDER* by Henrik Ibsen, directed by Eric Parness**

Running Time: 2 hours and 40 minutes, including two intermissions

Press nights: May 11 at 7PM; May 13 at 8PM; May 15 at 8PM; May 16 at 2PM (opening night)

Clurman Theatre, Theatre Row is located at 410 West 42 Street.

Performance schedule: Tuesday at 7PM; Wednesday – Friday at 8PM; Saturday at 2PM & 8PM;

Sunday at 2PM & 7PM (see below for specific shows)

Tickets are \$18 and can be purchased at Ticket Central

by phone 212-279-4200 or visit www.ticketcentral.com

For more information about Resonance Ensemble, please visit www.ResonanceEnsemble.org

Mr. Parness, Ms. Reiner, Mr. Bergman and Ms. Finfer as well as the talented cast are available for interviews. To arrange interviews or press seats please contact Springer Associates PR at 212-354-4660.

PERFORMANCES SCHEDULE:

The Glass House	MAY 9TH 2PM SHOW	Preview
The Master Builder	MAY 9TH 7PM SHOW	Preview
The Master Builder	MAY 11TH 7PM SHOW	Press Performance
The Glass House	MAY 12TH 8PM SHOW	Press Performance
The Master Builder	MAY 13TH 8PM SHOW	Press Performance
The Glass House	MAY 14TH 8PM SHOW	Press Performance
The Glass House	MAY 15TH 2PM SHOW	Press Performance
The Master Builder	MAY 15TH 8PM SHOW	Press Performance
The Master Builder	MAY 16TH 2PM SHOW	Press Performance (Opening Night)
The Glass House	MAY 16TH 7PM SHOW	Press Performance (Opening Night)
The Glass House	MAY 18TH 7PM SHOW	
The Master Builder	MAY 19TH 8PM SHOW	
The Glass House	MAY 20TH 8PM SHOW	
The Master Builder	MAY 21ST 8PM SHOW	
The Master Builder	MAY 22ND 2PM SHOW	
The Glass House	MAY 22ND 8PM SHOW	
The Glass House	MAY 23RD 2PM SHOW	
The Master Builder	MAY 23RD 7PM SHOW	
The Master Builder	MAY 25TH 7PM SHOW	
The Glass House	MAY 26TH 8PM SHOW	
The Master Builder	MAY 27TH 8PM SHOW	
The Glass House	MAY 28TH 8PM SHOW	
The Glass House	MAY 29TH 2PM SHOW	
The Master Builder	MAY 29TH 8PM SHOW	
The Master Builder	MAY 30TH 2PM SHOW	
The Glass House	MAY 30TH 7PM SHOW	
The Glass House	JUNE 1ST 7PM SHOW	
The Master Builder	JUNE 2ND 8PM SHOW	
The Glass House	JUNE 3RD 8PM SHOW	
The Master Builder	JUNE 4TH 8PM SHOW	
The Master Builder	JUNE 5TH 2PM SHOW	
The Glass House	JUNE 5TH 8PM SHOW	

Bios

JUNE FINFER (playwright *The Glass House*) is a Chicago playwright and filmmaker. Her plays include *Graceland Lives*, *He and She*, and *The Hall of Man*. Her current project is a new musical *The White City* co-written with Elizabeth Doyle, which takes place before and during the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, when architect Daniel Burnham attempts to build a safe fair in a dangerous city. Her plays have also been presented at Raven Theater, Boxer Ensemble, API, and Yorkville Theater. Ms. Finfer also wrote the TV adaptation of a Shirley Jackson story, "Come Along With Me," which was directed by Joanne Woodward for television. She is a member of Writers Guild of America, Chicago Writers' Bloc, and the Dramatists Guild of America.

EVAN BERGMAN (director *The Glass House*) Some of his work includes the acclaimed New York and Los Angeles productions of *The Director* starring John Shea, the original Off Broadway production of *Bobbi Boland*, the world premiere of the musical *A Girl Called Dusty* and the first all African-American production of *American Buffalo*.

HENRIK IBSEN (playwright *The Master Builder*) (1828 – 1906) was a major 19th-century Norwegian playwright, theatre director, and poet. He is often referred to as "the god father" of modern drama and is one of the founders of Modernism in the theatre. His plays were considered scandalous to many of his era, when Victorian values of family life and propriety largely held sway in Europe. Ibsen's work examined the realities that lay behind many facades, possessing a revelatory nature that was disquieting to many contemporaries. It utilized a critical eye and free inquiry into the conditions of life and issues of morality. His most famous plays include *Peer Gynt* (1867), *A Doll's House* (1879), *Ghosts* (1881), *An Enemy of the People* (1882), *The Wild Duck* (1884), *Hedda Gabler* (1890) and *The Master Builder* (1892).

ERIC PARNES (director *The Master Builder*) is the Artistic Director of Resonance Ensemble where he has directed productions of Sophocles' *Antigone*, Gorky's *The Lower Depths*, Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* and world premiere productions of *Strange Bedfellows* by Bruce Cohen, *La Tempestad* by Larry Loebell, *The Mail Order Bride* by Charles L. Mee, *Sherlock Solo* by Victor L. Cahn, and *23 Knives* by Christopher Boal. Other directing credits include world premieres of *Embraceable Me* (Rachel Reiner Productions), *Fit to Kill* (Theatre Row), *Kryptonite City* (Hypothetical Theatre Company), and *Finding Louise* (Oberon Theatre Ensemble), as well as revivals of *Measure for Measure*, *Blood Wedding*, *Of Mice and Men* and Michael Weller's *Ghosts on Fire*. Eric is an alumnus of Brandeis University and the Lincoln Center Theater's Directors Lab, and a member of SDC.

RESONANCE ENSEMBLE (Producer) is dedicated to developing new theatrical work inspired by the timelessness and universalism of the classics, and helmed by Artistic Director Eric Parnes and Managing Director Rachel Reiner. Resonance Ensemble has premiered the work of Charles L. Mee, Arthur Giron, Larry Loebell and Christopher Boal, and produced classics by Chekhov, Molière, Shakespeare, Gorky, and Sophocles, as well as many others. Resonance Ensemble was founded in 2001, has received four Innovative Theatre Award nominations, and is a theatre-in-residence at Theatre Row.