

## SAM RUDY MEDIA RELATIONS

For the Arts and Entertainment

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Resonance Ensemble presents  
the *world-premiere* of Charles L. Mee's new comedy

### **THE MAIL ORDER BRIDE**

Directed by Eric Parness

*in repertory with one of the plays that inspired it,*

Molière's final satire

### **THE IMAGINARY INVALID**

Directed by Rebecca Patterson

**October 27 – November 19 at Theatre Row's Beckett Theatre (410 West 42<sup>nd</sup> St.)**

Resonance Ensemble presents the world-premiere of Charles L. Mee's new comedy – **THE MAIL ORDER BRIDE** in repertory with one of the several plays that inspired it: Molière's final satire **THE IMAGINARY INVALID** directed by Rebecca Patterson. Previews of **THE MAIL ORDER BRIDE** begin October 29 prior to the official press opening of November 4 & previews of **THE IMAGINARY INVALID** begin October 27 prior to the official press opening of November 3 – both at the Theatre Row's Beckett Theatre (410 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street) in Manhattan.

**THE MAIL ORDER BRIDE** is Charles L. Mee's tribute to the writings of Molière. Inspired by **THE IMAGINARY INVALID** (as well as other plays by Molière, Wycherley, and Aristophanes) the new comedy set in modern-day Brooklyn revolves around Argan, an older hypochondriac who orders up a young Asian bride much to the outrage of his family and friends. But when a handsome young caterer arrives on the scene, the bride must choose between loyalty and love, and Argan is forced to learn the difference between growing old and growing up.

Interspersed with contemporary musical interludes, the play will be directed by Resonance Ensemble Artistic Director Eric Parness – the cast for **THE MAIL ORDER BRIDE** are John Henry Cox, Booth Daniels, Susan Ferrara, Vivian Font, Sue Jean Kim, Sam Kitchen, Peter McCain, Lori McNally, Melissa Miller, Susan Louise O'Connor. The design team is Dustin O'Neil (scenic design), Sidney Shannon (costume design), Aaron Mason (lighting design), Nick Moore (sound design).

**THE IMAGINARY INVALID** is Molière's satirical look at the medical profession. As Argan (the "invalid")'s financial circumstances collapse under the weight of excessive medical bills, made by his own fears and by the unscrupulous behavior of his two physicians, he decides to marry his daughter off to one of his doctors in return for a lifetime of free medical treatments. The idea meets opposition, though, when it becomes clear that the young lady's affections lie elsewhere. Soon the entire household is involved in an elaborate, uproarious plot to save true love.

Directed by Rebecca Patterson – the cast for **THE IMAGINARY INVALID** are Virginia Baeta, Amy

Driesler, Valentina McKenzie, Gisele Richardson, Samarra, Carey Urban, and Kari Washington. The design team is Dustin O'Neil (scenic design), Jenny Fulton (costume design), Aaron Mason (lighting design), Sabrina McGuigan (sound design).

Multi-award winning playwright Charles L. Mee's works include: TIME TO BURN (Resonance Ensemble, Steppenwolf); WINTERTIME (La Jolla, Long Wharf, the Guthrie, Second Stage, etc); bobrauschenbergamerica (BAM – Next Wave Festival, Bonn Festival); SNOW IN JUNE (American Repertory Theatre); BIG LOVE (La Jolla, Berkeley Rep, the Goodman Theatre, etc – 2002 OBIE Award-winner); TRUE LOVE (the Zipper, the Holland Festival); FIRST LOVE (New York Theatre Workshop, San Francisco's Magic Theatre); and SUMMERTIME (San Francisco's Magic Theatre – 2001 SF Bay Area Critics Circle Award). Mr. Mee's complete works are available on the Internet at [www.charlesmee.org](http://www.charlesmee.org). His work is made possible by the support of Jeanne Donovan Fisher and Richard B. Fisher.

Known for his plays TARTUFFE and THE MISANTHROPE, Molière transformed French comedy by perfecting a comic method that he developed while working as an actor. **THE IMAGINARY INVALID**, perfectly represents the playwright's "comédie-ballet" style. Molière is equally well known for his satiric commentary on society and for exploring eternal human foibles and obsessions. Regrettably, **THE IMAGINARY INVALID** was Molière's last. During the fourth performance Molière, who was ironically playing the hypochondriac Argan, was seized with a genuine coughing fit and died later that night.

Under the Artistic Direction of Eric Parness and Managing Direction of Rachel Reiner, Resonance Ensemble is dedicated to developing new theatrical work inspired by the timelessness and universalism of the classics, and to producing resonating groups of theatrical presentations that echo across countless cultures and eras to confront themes and ideas significant to audiences of today.

**Scheduled October 27 through November 19 at Theatre Row's Beckett Theatre (410 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street) – THE MAIL ORDER BRIDE and THE IMAGINARY INVALID run in repertory Mondays at 7pm, Wednesdays – Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 2pm & 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm & 7pm (please note there will be no 2pm performance on Saturday, October 28). Tickets are \$18 plus a \$1.25 theatre restoration fee and can be reserved by calling 212-279-4200 or on-line at [www.ticketcentral.com](http://www.ticketcentral.com). For additional details, please visit [www.resonanceensemble.org](http://www.resonanceensemble.org).**