

SAM RUDY MEDIA RELATIONS

For the Arts and Entertainment

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Resonance Ensemble presents
the **World-Premiere** of Arthur Giron's new play
THE COFFEE TREES

Directed by Marion Castleberry

in repertory with the play that inspired it

Anton Chekhov's classic

THE CHERRY ORCHARD

Adapted and Directed by Eric Parness

September 28 – October 21 at Theatre Row's Beckett Theatre (410 West 42nd St.)

Resonance Ensemble (Artistic Director, Eric Parness; Managing Director, Rachel Reiner) presents Arthur Giron's new play **THE COFFEE TREES** in repertory with the play that inspired it, Anton Chekhov's classic **THE CHERRY ORCHARD**. Previews of **THE COFFEE TREES** begin September 28th prior to an official press opening of October 3rd, and previews of **THE CHERRY ORCHARD** begin September 30th prior to an official press opening of October 4th at Theatre Row's Beckett Theatre (410 West 42nd Street) in Manhattan.

THE COFFEE TREES, a new play by Arthur Giron, inspired by Anton Chekhov's **THE CHERRY ORCHARD**, takes place on a Guatemalan coffee plantation following the country's 35-year civil war between communist guerilla forces and conservative landowners. The play examines one family's struggle to find its place in a new society that threatens to leave some of them behind.

Directed by Marion Castleberry and featuring Angelina Fiordellisi, the remaining cast for **THE COFFEE TREES** is TBA.

THE CHERRY ORCHARD is one of Anton Chekhov's best-loved and most luminous works, exploring the bittersweet passing of a way of life and the devastating effect of the hand of history on the lives of a collection of ordinary people living in the Russian countryside at the turn of the 19th century. **THE CHERRY ORCHARD** is adapted by Resonance Ensemble Artistic Director Eric Parness from the translation by Julius West.

Directed by Eric Parness, the cast for **THE CHERRY ORCHARD** is TBA.

The design team for both **THE COFFEE TREES** and **THE CHERRY ORCHARD** is: Dustin O'Neill (scenic design); Sidney Shannon (costume design); Bobby Bradley (lighting design); and Nick Moore (sound design).

Arthur Giron – a founding member of Ensemble Studio Theatre – was named "one of our best contemporary dramatists" by critic Rosette La Mont when his play EDITH STEIN premiered in New

York. *The New York Times* described it as being "filled with passionate ideas." When Giron's mythic play *A DREAM OF WEALTH*, about the conquest of Guatemala by Banana Cowboys, opened in New York, *The New York Times* called it, "A rich tale. The work's ample plea for humanity derives strength from the playwright's palpable passion and ample compassion." Alfred Molina recently recorded an audio tape of his play *MOVING BODIES* about physicist Richard Feynman. Giron's plays are performed continuously throughout the country. They include *BOY DIES DANCING MAMBO*, *MOVING BODIES*, *FLIGHT*, and *BECOMING MEMORIES*, which won the Los Angeles Critics Drama-Logue Award for "Outstanding Achievement in Writing."

The work of Anton Chekhov, the Russian writer, physician, and playwright, includes: *IVANOV*; *THE WOOD DEMON*; *THE SEAGULL*; *UNCLE VANYA*; *THE THREE SISTERS*; and his final work *THE CHERRY ORCHARD*.

Marion Castleberry is Director of Graduate Theatre Studies at Baylor University. Castleberry is Artistic Director of the American Actors Company and co-founder of the Horton Foote American Playwrights Festival. Recently, Castleberry directed the 50th anniversary production of Horton Foote's *THE TRAVELING LADY* and Romulus Linney's *HEATHEN VALLEY* for the American Actors Company, and his most recent directing credit was the Ensemble Studio Theatre's production of Horton Foote's *THE TRAVELING LADY* (2006 Drama Desk nomination for "Best Revival of a Play").

Eric Parness is the Artistic Director of Resonance Ensemble, where he has directed productions of *ANTIGONE*, *THE LOWER DEPTHS*, *LA TEMPESTAD*, and last season's world premiere of *THE MAIL ORDER BRIDE* by Charles L. Mee. Other directing credits include the recent critical hit *CRAZY FOR THE DOG* at the Bouwerie Lane, *FIT TO KILL* at the Clurman, Oberon Theatre Ensemble's *THE WINTER'S TALE*, *OF MICE AND MEN* and *MEASURE FOR MEASURE*, Hypothetical Theatre's *KRYPTONITE CITY*, and new work with adobe theatre company, Ensemble Studio Theatre and Vital Theater Company.

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 September 28 through October 21 at Theatre Row's Beckett Theatre (410 West 42nd Street) – **THE COFFEE TREES** and **THE CHERRY ORCHARD** run in repertory Tuesdays at 7pm, Wednesdays through Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 2pm & 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm & 7pm (please note there will be no 2pm performance on Saturday, September 29 or Sunday, September 30; there will be no 7pm performance on Sunday, October 21; and there will be an added 2pm student matinee on Wednesday, October 17).

Tickets are \$18 and can be reserved by calling Ticket Central at 212-279-4200 or on-line at www.ticketcentral.com.

For additional details, please visit www.resonanceensemble.org.

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