

# Stage Center Theatre

## 2008-2009 Stage Center Theatre

### *Illusion*

by Pierre Corneille

Translated and adapted by Tony Kushner

*Director:* Chris Leonard  
*Set Design:* Jessica Kuehnau  
*Costume Design:* Elizabeth Wislar  
*Cast:*

*Stage Manager:* Tiffiny Blake  
*Light Design:* John Rodriguez  
*Sound Design:* James Mallory

Harold LeBoyer	Brad Cantwell	Barbara Berndt
Nick Shea	Shelly Rao	Colleen McCreedy
George Christopher	Tom Camacho	

### *Director's Notes*

Pierre Corneille wrote *L'Illusion Comique* in 1636, referring to it at the time as his "strange monster." Although the original work is an interesting if lesser play by France's eminent neoclassicist, it is an extremely odd piece. Blending high tragedy with comedy, *L'Illusion Comique* divides itself equally in space and time between an old man's search for his long lost son and the escapades of that son as he pursues the woman he loves. The two stories are united in the final act in a moralistic and political message in favor of Corneille's profession.

Despite its oddities, the play was fairly successful in its day. Over the years, however, *L'Illusion Comique* lost its appeal to the point where few if any productions were mounted outside France, until recently. Using the original work as inspiration, modern American playwright Tony Kushner (*Angels in America*) has written a greatly revised version of *L'Illusion Comique*, discarding those elements that have lost some of their value for modern audiences, including the formal neoclassical verse and structure, and heightening and developing the double edged comic-tragic tone of Corneille's play.

Kushner's *The Illusion* is a modern work that develops Corneille's themes of the purpose of art in the present day and the ambiguous, disturbing power of love. He places these themes in a post-modern structure, and environment built from and commenting upon classical elements in order to provide a new perspective on the world around us.

*Christopher Leonard*

### AUDITIONS

Stage Center Summer Theatre 2009

April 20 & 21

For audition slots call Anna Antaramian

(773) 442-5975

### UPCOMING EVENTS FOR STAGE CENTER THEATRE

#### Spring 2009 Season

##### *Illusion*

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February 26-28, March 5-7, 12-14  
@ 7:30 p.m.; Stage Center Theatre

##### *Pieces of Eight: Pure Sterling*

March 17, 18, 19, 20 @ 7:30 p.m.;  
Studio Theatre, F 109

##### *The Jungle Book*

by R. Rex Stephenson

March-April, Monday, Wednesday, Friday @ 10:30 a.m.; Stage Center Theatre

##### *Lettice and Lovage*

by Peter Shaffer

April 16-18, 23-25, April 30-May 2 @ 7:30 p.m.; Stage Center Theatre

#### Summer 2009 Season

##### *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

By William Shakespeare

June 4-6, 11-13, 18-20  
@ 7:30 p.m.; Stage Center Theatre

##### *Arms and the Man*

By George Bernard Shaw

July 16-18, 23-25, 30-Aug. 1  
@ 7:30 p.m.; Stage Center Theatre



For reservations call  
Box Office  
773.442.4274

Call the Stage Center Theatre box office for reservations and ticket sales at 773.442.4274  
 Tickets are free for all NEIU faculty, staff, and students with NEIU ID



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**Pieces of Eight: Pure Sterling**

*Enigma* by Floyd Dell  
 Directed by Kirsten Manthei  
 Steve Klemp Erin Cole

*How He lied to Her Husband* by G. B. Shaw  
 Directed by Lisa Cantwell  
 David Mitchell Carolyn Ewald Brad Cantwell

*Why Cupid Came to Earl's Court* by Cosmo Hamilton  
 Directed by Alicia McNeal  
 Mark Heard Cheryl Lyman Mathew Robinson  
 Destiny Hekmatpour Vivian Williams Anthony Johnson

*A Wife for Life* by Eugene O'Neill  
 Directed by Kristel Flynn  
 Tony Carsella John Madison William Frank

*The Witch of Coos* by Robert Frost  
 Directed by Lori Mages  
 Cheryl Lyman Andrew Berlien

*Sweet and Twenty* by Floyd Dell  
 Directed by Javier Delgado  
 Diana Kwiecien Krzysztof Weglicki

*He Said She Said* by Alice Gerstenberg  
 Directed by Tom Camacho  
 Alexandra Boroff Kimberly Wiczer  
 Colleen McCready Steve Klemp

**Graduate Student One-Acts**

*Overruled* by G. B. Shaw  
 Directed by Andrew Simon  
 Whitney Behr Kimberly Wiczer  
 Jonathan Scheffenacker Andrew Berlien

*The Open Door* by Alfred Sutro  
 Directed by Jeremy Babcock  
 Shawn Schlag Audrey Flegel

*Logo Enthusiast* by Jenny Hagel  
 Directed by Donna Goering  
 Stanley Chong Krzysztof Weglicki

*Cocaine* by Pendleton King  
 Directed by Ron Ben-Joseph  
 Michael Vines Kerry McGlynn

*A Matter of Husbands* by Fernec Molnar  
 Directed by Joanne Cartalino  
 Cynthia Pierce Diana Kwiecien

*Prom Queen* by Stephanie Kornick  
 Directed by Shelby Jennings  
 Kimber Hall Homer Marrs  
 Joe Burton Pete Parsons

*A Bad Week for Therapy* by Janet Milstein  
 Directed by Ellen Crabill  
 Victoria Montalbano Mark Heard

**CMT Summer Classes**

Summer I	Summer 1A	Summer II
Foundations of Com 101	Introduction to Com - C 100	Introduction to Com - C 100
Public Relations –M 370	Foundations of Com - C 101	Foundations of Com - C 101
Summer Theatre – T 349	Voice & Diction - C 202	Voice & Diction - C 202
	Nonverbal Com – C 301	The Art of Film & Video - M 160
	Intercultural Com - C 317	Mass Media & Society - M 265
	The Art of Film & Video -M 160	Contemp. Issues in Mass Media - M 365
	Intro to Video Prod. - M 260	Public Relations - M 370
	Mass Media & Society - M 265	Introduction to Theatre - T 130
	Documentary Film - M 363	Theatre Management - T 446
	Introduction to Theatre—T 130	