## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

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**By** Christopher Hampton *From the novel by Choderlos de Laclos* 

NOVEMBER 14 - 23, 2014 ARENA THEATRE





# By **Christopher Hampton**From the novel by **Choderlos de Laclos**

Scenic Designer Daniel Hobbs\*

Costume Designer Elspeth Williams\*

Lighting Designer
Jessica Osos

Sound Designer
Steve Parkinson

Wig Designer
Angie Wendelberger

Fight Director
Zev Steinberg\*

Dramaturg
Carolyn Conover\*

Stage Manager
Sarah Botruff

## Directed by **Dan Smith**

La Marquise de Merteuil Carolyn Conover\*
Le Vicomte de Valmont Kirill Sheynerman\*

Azolan, Valmont's valet de chamber Zev Steinberg\*

Le Chevalier Danceny
Mme. De Rosemonde

La Presidente de Tourvel

Andy Head\*

Grace Hinkley

Mary Dilworth

esidente de Tourvel Mary Dilworth

Mme. De Volanges Melissa Mercieca

Cecile Volanges Sumar Henderson

Emilie, a courtesan Jenise Cook

Major Domo Michael Temple
Victoire Angelica Snyder

Adele Imani Bonner
Julie Meghan Cochrane

\*Denotes Master of Fine Arts

.....

Les Liaisons Dangereuses will run approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes with one 15-minute intermission.

### When entering the theatre:

Please turn off cell phones, mobile devices, alarm watches and anything that makes noise. The use of photographic, video and/or recording equipment is strictly prohibited

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### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Director Pre-Show Discussion Sunday, November 16, 2014 @ 1:15 PM Post-Show Discussion on Wednesday, November 19, 2014.

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## LISTOF SCENES

### ACT 1

- Scene 1: An August evening. Mme la Marquise de Merteuil's Salon.
- Scene 2: Three weeks later, early evening. The principal salon in Mme de Rosemonde's Chateau in the country.
- Scene 3: A couple of days later. The middle of the night.
- Scene 4: Ten days later, a September afternoon. The grand salon of La Marquise de Merteuil.
- Scene 5: A week later, after lunch. The salon in Mme de Rosemonde's chateau.
- Scene 6: A fortnight later; the middle of the night. Cecile's bedroom in the chateau.
- Scene 7: The following afternoon, 1st of October. The salon in Mme de Rosemonde's chateau.
- Scene 8: Two nights later, Valmont's bedroom in the chateau.
- Scene 9: Late the following evening; the salon in the chateau.

#### ACT 2

- Scene 1: Late October; the principal salon in Valmont's Paris house.
- Scene 2: Two days later, six p.m. The salon in Mme de Toruvel's house.
- Scene 3: The following evening; Merteuil's salon.
- Scene 4: A fortnight later; afternoon. The salon in Valmont's house.
- Scene 5: Ten days later; evening. Mme de Merteuil's salon
- Scene 6: The following afternoon. The salon in Mme de Tourvel's house.
- Scene 7: About a week later. A December evening in Mme de Merteuil's salon.
- Scene 8: A misty December dawn in the Bois de Vincennes.
- Scene 9: New Year's Eve; Mme de Merteuil's salon.

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

I first read the novel *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* as a senior in college. I remember discussing the epistolary format, and particularly the narrative positioning of the novel's two contradictory prefaces. One preface states that the letters are found objects; the other calls that assertion into question, assessing the contents that follow as "merely a novel." I also recall intensive analysis of Letter 81, in which the Marquise de Merteuil explains to Valmont how she created herself as a woman who displays vastly different public and private versions of her identity.

Christopher Hampton's stage adaptation of the 1784 novel by Choderlos de Laclos mostly dispenses with the epistolary format. Though the characters discuss writing letters, only a handful of letters are read or written on stage. Instead, Hampton focuses on romantic and sexual gamesmanship. The Vicomte de Valmont and the Marquise de Merteuil are libertines who use love and passion in a twisted game designed primarily for their own pleasure. Other characters are generally pawns in their game, but some are players in their own right.

Our production draws on the idea of games in multiple ways. The designers have incorporated imagery of playing cards, as well as the playful spirit of the rococo. The actors' rehearsal process included developing moments of game-play within the scenes. In addition to metaphors of games that existed in the eighteenth century, such as chess and tennis, we incorporated contemporary games like Hearts, "Mother, May I," and "Red Light, Green Light."

As a significant text of the Enlightenment era, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* plays on tensions between reason and sentiment, public and private, the classical and the rococo. The visual art of eighteenth-century France offers an apt point of contrast. Merteuil and Valmont might best fit into the world of sexual danger represented in paintings by Fragonard (whose *The Bolt* was the cover art of the paperback version I read in college), while Tourvel finds more affinity with the domestic simplicity of works by Greuze. Though the story is steeped in the eighteenth century, Hampton's play uses modern language, encouraging us to think about the destructive qualities of desire as they exist in the world today.

-Dan Smith

## PRODUCTION CREW/STAFF

Head of Design	Alison Dobbins
Technical Director/Scene Shop Sup	pervisorJon Little
Costume Shop Supervisor	Angie Wendelberger
	Kirk Domer
Costume Design Faculty Mentor	Karen Kangas-Preston
Lighting Design Faculty Mentor	Shannon Schweitzer
Sound Design Faculty Mentor	Jason Price
Properties Design Faculty Mentor.	Mark Willoughby
Stage Management Faculty Mento	rAlison Dobbins
Assistant Stage Managers	Brianna Bougard and Laura Taylor
Properties Master	Daniel Hobbs*
Properties Assistant	Ceejay Libut
Paint Charge	Daniel Huston*
Assistant Fight Director	Travis Stanton-Marrero
Assistant Technical Director	Hernando Claros*
Master Electrician	Jacob Montgomery*
Costume Crew Chief	Lyndsey Manson
Costume Shop Technicians	Stephanie Eubank*, Rainie Jiang*, Matthew Imhoff*
Christo	pher Haug*, Katie Raynard, Sarah Botruff, Jenna Pall
	Marley Boone and THR 300 & 111 Students
Hair and Makeup Chief	Paige Conway
	Nicholas Richardson
Scene Shop Technicians	Elspeth Willaims*, Daniel Hobbs*, Daniel Huston*
Hernando Claros*, Jacob Montgomery*, Christopher Stowell*	
	Jake Brozovich, Kenzie Carpenter, Mike Merluzzi
	and THR 300, 214 & 111 Students
Light Board Operator	Sami George
Sound Board Operator	Emily Blaquiere
Costume Crew	Isabella Correia, Zuwaib Razzaq, Xiaoron Chen
	Taylor Upchurch, Whitney Green, Jacob Simmons
	Taylor Blair, Kristen Collins, Steve Lee
_	Katie Maggart
_	Dave Wendelberger
Photographer	Stephanie Pickard

## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**Carolyn Conover** (Le Marquise de he will play the title role in Macbeth. *Merteuil*) - Indianapolis, IN; MFA Acting, Love and thanks always to Kat. 2015. Carolyn has previously been seen **Grace Hinkley** (Mme. De Rosemonde) at MSU in Anton in Show Business, The Lansing, MI; Sophomore BFA Acting. Lady Victory, William Shakespeare's Last year she was seen in the 7th Land of the Dead, and The Serpent Lady, Annual Freshman Showcase: Off With and also Over the River and Through Her Head, and the student production the Woods at Williamston Theatre.

*Valmont*) - Brooklyn, NY; MFA Acting, production at State! - Chicago, IL; MFA Acting, 2015. Zev has their love and support. Thespie and a Pulsar for his love and support. the Dead and Widows.

Detroit and Scotty in The Summer Circle love and support. for Summer Circle Theatre. In the spring

*Transient Spaces.* Grace is thrilled to be Kirill Sheynerman (Le Vicomte de performing in her first main stage

2015. He is excited to be doing this Mary Dilworth (La Presidente de amazing production with some of the *Tourvel*) - Howell, MI; Senior BFA Acting. funniest people ever. Kirill also wants to She was last seen in Peter Pan as thank MSU for the amazing experience. Starkey the Pirate, and in Xanadu as **Zev Steinberg** (Azolan & Fight Director) Melpomene. Thanks to her family for all

appeared in The Big Bang and True Melissa Mercieca (Mme. De Volanges) -West at Williamston Theatre. Recent Hartland, MI; Senior BFA Acting. Melissa DOT productions include Widows, was last seen as Noodler the Pirate in Measure for Measure, and Funny Girl. Peter Pan. She would like to thank the Zev is an Advanced Actor Combatant cast and crew of Les Ligisons and member of the Society of American Dangereuses for putting up with her and Fight Directors. Zev recently won a her parents and sister for their constant

choreography in Peter Pan. Other Sumar Henderson (Cecile Volanges) credits at MSU for fight choreography Detroit, MI; Senior BFA Acting. She was include William Shakespeare's Land of recently seen in Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo at Peppermint Creek Andy Head (Le Chevalier Danceny) - Theatre. Her MSU credits include Peter Evansville, IN; MFA Acting, 2015. Andy's Pan, William Shakespeare's Land of the most recent roles have been Geoffrey in Dead, and the World Premiere of Sweet The Lion in Winter and Austin in True Mercy. She is so excited to be a part of West at the Williamston Theatre; Ben in this show and thanks everyone for their

## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

and friends for their love and support! **Michael Temple** (*Major Domo*) - Sterling support.

department.

you to my mom for coming and for her Theatre). support.

**Imani Bonner** (Adele) - City, ST; Junior City, State. BIO BFA Acting???.

BIO

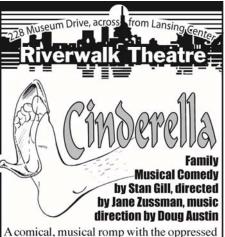
Jenise Cook (Emilie) - Detroit, MI; Senior Sarah Botruff (Stage Manager) -BFA Acting. She was last seen as Fowlerville, MI; Senior BFA Stage Francine/Lena in Peppermint Creek's Management and Costume Technology. Clybourne Park. She thanks the cast for She was the stage manager of Summer being so amazing and for making this Circle's What I Did Last Summer and The production so much fun. Many thanks to Summer Circle, as well as the Spring her Mom, Winny, and all of her family musical Peter Pan. She wants to thank her family for their endless love and

Heights, MI; Junior BFA Acting. He was **Daniel Hobbs** (Scenic Designer) last seen in William Shakespeare's Land Roanoke, VA; MFA Design, 2015. As a of the Dead. He is very glad to be scenic and costume designer, Daniel is working alongside such a talented group proud to have Les Liaisons Dangereuses of people in this ever-evolving theatre as his final scenic design at MSU. Recent work includes Peter Pan (MSU), Charlie's Angelica Snyder (Victoire) - Zeeland, MI; Aunt (Summer Circle Theatre), The Lady Sophomore BA Theatre and RCAH. Thank Victory (MSU) and May (The Blank

**Elspeth Williams** (Costume Designer) -

**Steve Parkinson** (Sound Designer) - City,

Megan Cochrane (Julie) - Mattawan, MI; ST. BIO Sophomore BFA Acting and Journalism. Last seen in Off With Her Head, Megan is so glad to have this opportunity to work with MFA actors, Dan Smith, and the other amazing people helping to make this show great.



A comical, musical romp with the oppressed Cinderella, nasty stepsisters (played by men), a nearsighted stepmother, a befuddled fairy godmother, and a prince who wants to be loved for himself, not just because he's the prince.

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Macbeth by William Shakespeare
Fairchild Theatre, East Lansing, MI

<u>Friday, April 10, 2015</u> **Sirens** by Deborah Zoe Laufer Williamston Theatre, Williamston, MI

To purchase tickets for individual trips please visit the Department of Theatre Cashnet Store at www.theatre.msu.edu.

For additional information please call Dionne O'Dell at 517-355-6691. Thank you!



### **GOOD KIDS**

BY NAOMI IIZUKA

Staged Reading in the Studio 60 Theatre Monday, December 8, 7:00pm - FREE

The Big Ten Theatre Consortium established a New Play Initiative to combat gender inequity in the theater. Beginning in spring 2014, the Consortium's New Play Initiative will commission, produce, and publicize a series of new plays by female playwrights, each of which will contain several significant role for college-aged women.

The group plans to commission one play each year for three years, and as the project progresses will commit to additional years, hopefully as many as 10.

For their first commission, the consortium has chosen Naomi Iizuka, one of the nation's most acclaimed dramatists, head of playwriting at the University of California, San Diego. Her widely produced plays include 36 Views, Strike-Slip, and Anon(ymous). For the Big Ten commission, she's working on a provocative play entitled Good Kids, which will explore, in her words, "a casual sexual encounter gone wrong and its very public aftermath." Set in a Midwestern high school, "in a world of Facebook and Twitter, smartphones and YouTube," the play will provide an abundance of powerful, contemporary roles for theater students of both sexes. Good Kids has already begun its rolling premiere across the Big Ten, and Michigan State joins in this December.

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