



UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I
MĀNOA
Kennedy Theatre

Department of Theatre and Dance
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
1770 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96822
E-mail: ktpub@hawaii.edu

Contact: Tracy Robinson, Publicity Director
Phone: (808) 956-2598
Fax: (808) 956-4234
Box Office: (808) 956-7655
Images online: <http://www.hawaii.edu/kennedy>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sexuality and a Struggle for Power Are Themes in “The Homecoming”

Production from Nobel Prize Winning Playwright Opens at UHM's Kennedy Theatre



The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Department of Theatre and Dance presents Harold Pinter's Tony Award-winning play “The Homecoming,” under the direction of Glenn Cannon whose acclaimed legacy as Professor of Theatre at UHM spans over four decades. “The Homecoming,” known for being one of Pinter's most controversial works, will run Nov. 13, 14, 20, 21 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 22 at 2 p.m. at Kennedy Theatre's mainstage. Pre-show chats will be held Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. with Joseph O'Mealy, Interim Dean of Language, Literature, and Linguistics and Professor of English, UHM and Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. with Chris Windnagle, teacher at Pearl City High School. Pre-show chats are free and open to the public and will be held in the Earle Ernst Lab Theatre.

“The Homecoming,” set in a seedy house in London, tells the story of a dysfunctional family headed by a 70-year-old father, Max played by Ian Falconer who lives with his brother, Sam (Daniel D. Randerson) and two adult sons, Lenny and Joey (Tommy Barron and Bronzen Hahn). Into this volatile household enters the eldest son and his attractive young wife. Sexuality and a struggle for power, laced with moments of outrageous comedy, drive this play. Nobel Prize winner Harold Pinter is regarded as one of Great Britain's finest playwrights, and “The Homecoming” is generally accepted as one of his best plays.

Rounding out the talented cast are Ryan Wuestewald who plays the eldest son Teddy (Wuestewald recently played Sir Hughes Evans in “The Merry Wives of Windsor” during the 2009 Hawai‘i Shakespeare Festival), and Honolulu newcomer, Jillian Blakkan-Strauss who plays Teddy’s wife Ruth. Describing the challenges of portraying Ruth, the only female character in the production, Blakkan-Strauss explains, “Given her behavior throughout the play, it would be easy to paint her as an impulsive harlot or something equally two dimensional. She is far from it.” She adds, “Ruth is an extraordinarily powerful woman, especially in the company of men, and she knows how to use her intelligence, cunning, and sexuality to gain control. Fully playing this aspect of her character has been one of the greatest challenges for me throughout the process.”

Tickets for “The Homecoming” are on sale now at www.etickethawaii.com, outlets and by phone at 944-2697. Tickets will be available at the Kennedy Theatre Box Office beginning Nov 9. Purchases may be made at the Kennedy Theatre Box Office Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and at the door. Prices are \$20 regular; \$18 seniors, military, UH faculty/staff; \$12 students; \$5 UHM students with a validated Fall 09 UHM photo ID. Ticket prices include all service fees. UH Manoa Students also are eligible for a special buy-one-get-one free night on Nov. 20. Buy-one-get-one free tickets are available the day of performance only beginning at 5pm upon presentation of a validated Fall 09 UHM ID. For more information or disability access, call the Kennedy Theatre Box Office at 956-7655 (voice/text).

WHAT: **The Homecoming**

PRESENTED BY: UHM Department of Theatre and Dance

WHEN:

Nov. 13, 14*, 20, 21* at 8 p.m. and Nov. 22 at 2 p.m.

*Free Pre-show Chats at 7 p.m. in Earle Ernst Lab Theatre

WHERE:

UHM's Kennedy Theatre, Mainstage

TICKET PRICES: \$20 regular; \$18 UH faculty/staff, seniors, military; \$12 students; \$5 UHM student with a validated student ID; all service charges included in ticket price.

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