

the Syringa tree

THE OFF-BROADWAY HIT BY PAMELA GIEN
COMES TO CENTAUR THIS NOVEMBER

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"Carried in this story are my deepest feelings about a hauntingly beautiful place caught in unforgivable sorrow. Nobody won. And it's a story filled with joy and wishes. Some might come true." -Pamela Gien

Centaur Theatre, by special arrangement with **Matt Salinger**, is proud to present the much-anticipated Montréal premiere of *The Syringa Tree* by **Pamela Gien**. This international phenomenon is a semi-autobiographical one-woman play about an abiding love between two families - one black, one white, and the two children that are born into their shared South African household in the early 1960s.

An instant success, *The Syringa Tree* ran for almost two years Off-Broadway and has since been seen in London, throughout the United States, Toronto and Vancouver, and around the world. It is the winner of the **OBIE Best Play of the Year Award**, the **Drama Desk Award**, the **Drama League Award**, the **Outer Critics' Circle Award** and was hailed by *NY Magazine* as "one of the five best plays of the year."

The Syringa Tree's subtle warmth continues to attract audiences and critics. *The New York Times* called it "**Instantly engaging, exotic, complex, deeply shocking...**" In *The New Republic*, Robert Brustein called it "**uncommonly moving...a transcendent dramatic experience.**" *O (Oprah) Magazine* said, "**The Syringa Tree is a revelation! As huge and grand as an opera, but as intimate as a ballet,**" and the *Associated Press* raved, "**Astonishing... Affecting... [with] a dramatic and heartbreaking conclusion...A deceptive sweet simplicity haunts The Syringa Tree.**"

Seen first through the eyes of six-year-old Elizabeth Grace, *The Syringa Tree* traces the lives of her family, her nanny, her nanny's child, and their servants, friends and neighbors from the early years of apartheid in the 1960's to the contemporary post-apartheid nation. While life in her prosperous Johannesburg neighborhood appears calm, the political reality will eventually touch everyone in her life. In a story that *The New Yorker* called "emotionally powerful without being overtly political," **Pamela Gien** ultimately confronts the human effects of apartheid on a generation of South Africans, both black and white.

The Syringa Tree stars **Caroline Cave**, winner of the **2006 Jessie Award** (Vancouver) and a **2005 Dora Award** (Toronto); both for Outstanding Performance by a Female in a Lead Role for *The Syringa Tree*. Audiences will marvel at **Caroline Cave's** tour-de-force performance as she plays a cast of twenty-six characters (black, white, old, young, Xhosa, Afrikaaner, Zulu, English, and Jewish). Through her turn-on-a-dime transformations, she gradually reveals not just the complexities of the world they share to us - their dreams, struggles, laughter, and tragic losses - but also their shared humanity. When at the end both families are shown to have gained a hard won closure, in compassion and forgiveness, audiences have been left stunned.

Don't miss this mesmerizing drama directed by **Larry Moss**, acclaimed actor, director, teacher and acting coach to stars like Helen Hunt, Hilary Swank, Hank Azaria, Tobey Maguire, and Leonardo DiCaprio among others. **Moss** is founding director of the Edgemar Center for the Arts in Santa Monica and an award-winning Broadway and film director whose credits include *Runt of the Litter*, the short film *Dos Corazones*, *Who is Floyd Stearn?* *Beast on the Moon* and *RFK*. *The Syringa Tree* is produced by **Matt Salinger**, and the technical team includes Set designer **Kenneth Foy**, Lighting designer **Steven B. Mannhardt**, Sound designer **Tony Suraci**, Lighting Supervisor **Jared Hirsch** and Stage Manager **Rick Rinder**.

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MEDIA CALL for *The Syringa Tree* will take place on **Tuesday November 6 at 12:30 PM** at Centaur Theatre (453 St.François-Xavier)
Media Contact: Kika Armata, Director of Communications at kika@centaurtheatre.com or call (514) 288-1229 ext. 277

TICKETS:
514.288.3161 OR
WWW.CENTAURTHEATRE.COM

Previews: November 6 & 7
Opening: November 8
Closing: December 2
Evenings: Tuesday to Saturday at 8pm (except for Wednesday November 14)
Sunday 7pm - November 18
Matinees: Saturdays - 2pm; November 10, 17, 24, December 1
Sundays- 2pm November 11, 25, December 2
Wednesday-1pm November 14