



HUNTINGTON THEATRE COMPANY  
IN RESIDENCE AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## **SEXY, SEDUCTIVE *LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES* HEATS UP THE HUNTINGTON STAGE**

Acclaimed *Falsettos* director Daniel Goldstein helms a stylish take on love, lust, and cruel betrayal in 18<sup>th</sup> century Paris.

### AT A GLANCE

The Huntington Theatre Company presents *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*

by Christopher Hampton

Directed by Daniel Goldstein

January 6 to February 5, 2006

Boston University Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston

### EVENINGS

Tue.-Thu. at 7:30 pm (except Jan. 17)

Fri.-Sat. at 8 pm

Sun. at 7 pm (Jan. 8 and Jan. 22 only)

### MATINEES

Wed. at 2 pm (Jan. 18 and Feb 1 only)

Sat.-Sun. at 2 pm (except Jan. 7 and 8)

### TICKETS

\$15-\$70. Purchase online at [huntingtontheatre.org](http://huntingtontheatre.org) or [BostonTheatreScene.com](http://BostonTheatreScene.com), by phone at 617-266-0800, or in person at the Boston University Theatre Box Office, 264 Huntington Ave. or the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont St. Call for box office hours.

**(MEDIA ONLY:** Press Night is Jan. 11, 2006 at 7:30 pm. Log onto

[www.huntingtontheatre.org/news](http://www.huntingtontheatre.org/news) to make reservations.)

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BOSTON – Games of love and lust in 18<sup>th</sup> century Paris play out on a stunningly stylized, mirrored stage as the Huntington Theatre Company presents Christopher Hampton's award-winning play "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" from Jan. 6 to Feb. 5, 2006 at the Boston University (B.U.) Theatre, 264 Huntington Avenue, Boston.

In this seductive and fiercely witty drama, the beautiful and cunning La Marquise de Merteuil (played by Tasha Lawrence) enlists her partner-in-crime Le Vicomte de Valmont, (TV and movie

star Michael T. Weiss), to seduce her former lover's bride-to-be in this adaptation of the original novel by Choderlos de Laclos.

In addition to this play, Laclos' scandalous story inspired numerous Hollywood re-tellings. The films *Dangerous Liaisons* (1988, with John Malkovich and Glenn Close), *Valmont* (1989, with Colin Firth and Annette Benning), and *Cruel Intentions* (1999, with Reese Witherspoon and Ryan Phillippe), featured versions of the original story that snakes in and out of Parisian bedrooms and salons in the 1780s.

Director Daniel Goldstein has opted for **a stylish, non-classical** approach to what he calls “a massive production.” The multi-layered set, designed by Drama Desk Award-winner James Noone, is a dizzying array of mirrors, staircases, and spirals that Goldstein describes as “**a cyclone swirling around Valmont** that makes the play move like lightning.” Goldstein says the costumes, by newcomer Erin Chainani, are inspired by contemporary fashion “with the silhouette of period clothes, but not the traditional fabrics. **Some of Valmont's clothes in this show are inspired by Karl Lagerfeld's personal style.** And one of Madame de Volanges' gowns is **an 18<sup>th</sup> Century version of Hillary Clinton's inaugural dress.**” An original score, created by composer Loren Toolajian is inspired by a modern jazz harpsichord composition. “Loren broke the rules for period music...**the score has a pounding, pulsing feel** to it,” Goldstein says.

## **CASTING**

The cast of the Huntington's *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* includes:

**Jeff Barry** (Le Chevalier Danceny) – Barry has played a wide variety of roles in regional and university theatre productions including *Of Girl and Wolf* at the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis; *Savior* at The Jewel Box in Seattle; and *Hedda Gabler*, *King John*, and *The Merchant of Venice* at Yale School of Drama, and *Angels in America* (as Prior) at the National Theater Institute.

**James Bodge** (Major-Domo) – This Somerville, Mass.-based actor has appeared in fifteen Huntington productions, dating back to the Company's second season. He has also worked regionally with Merrimack Repertory Theatre, The Lyric Stage Company of Boston, North Shore Music Theatre, and many more.

**Alice Duffy** (Madame de Rosemonde) – This Hingham, Mass. actress received the 2002 IRNE Best Supporting Actress Award for the Huntington's *A Month in the Country*. She also appeared in the Huntington's *Dead End* and *Heartbreak House*. Her other local credits include productions at New Repertory Theatre and Lyric Stage.

**Seth Fisher** (Azolan) – Fisher made his Broadway debut in the 2005 production of *Julius Caesar* with Denzel Washington. He has numerous Shakespearean theatre credits and has worked at New York Stage & Film, Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre, and Carnegie Mellon University.

**Jennie Israel** (Émilie) – The Boston-based Israel has appeared nationally at Lincoln Center Theater, Greenwich Street Theatre, and Ohio Theatre; regionally with Yale Repertory Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville and Shakespeare & Company; and locally with Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, New Repertory Theatre, and Súcán Theatre Company.

**Louisa Krause** (Cécile) – Krause makes her regional theatre debut here in the featured role of Cécile. Krause has appeared in the Ogunquit Playhouse production of *Aida*, and had lead roles in high school productions in Virginia. Also a dancer, Krause appeared in Washington Ballet productions including featured roles in *The Nutcracker* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

**Tasha Lawrence** (La Marquise de Merteuil) – Lawrence played Claire in the national tour of *Proof*, was seen on Broadway in *Wilder, Wilder, Wilder* (three one acts by Thornton Wilder), and appeared in numerous off Broadway productions. She starred in the films *Irma and Floyd* (1994) and *Zog's Place* (2001), and was featured in episodes of “Kevin Hill” and “Third Watch.”

**Ann Talman** (Madame de Volanges) – Talman was in the Broadway productions of *The Women* with Cynthia Nixon, *Some Americans Abroad* with Nathan Lane, and *The Little Foxes* with Elizabeth Taylor. Film and TV credits include *Wall Street*, *Bob Roberts*, “Seinfeld,” and “Ellen.”

**Michael T. Weiss** (Le Vicomte de Valmont) – Weiss last appeared with the Huntington in *Burn This*. His film credits include the hit *Jeffrey*, *Freeway* with Reese Witherspoon, and the soon-to-be-released film festival hits *Iowa* and *Marmalade*. Best known for the lead role of Jarod on the NBC hit “The Pretender,” Weiss is a playwright, artist, and environmental activist.

**Yvonne Woods** (La Présidente de Tourvel) – This Juilliard graduate's recent credits include *Fanny's Way* at Playwrights Horizons, *Henry Flamethrower* at Studio Dante, and *Slag Heap* at Cherry Lane Alternative. She toured in *Forbidden Christmas* with Mikhail Baryshnikov and appeared on “Law & Order.”

## **CREATIVE TEAM**

**Christopher Hampton's** plays include *The Talking Cure*, *White Chameleon*, *Tales From Hollywood*, and *Total Eclipse*. He has translated extensively from Chekhov, Ibsen, and Molière, as well as Odon von Horvath, and Yasmina Reza (*Art and Life* (x) 3). He wrote the books for the musicals *Dracula* and *Sunset Boulevard* and has won three Tony Awards, two Olivier Awards, and the New York Theatre Critics Circle Award. His screenplays include *The Quiet American*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, and *Imagining Argentina*, which he also directed. Hampton's film and television plaudits include an Academy Award, two BAFTAs, and Special Jury Prize at Cannes.

**Daniel Goldstein** (Director) directed last season's revival of *Falsettos* for the Huntington. Recently, he directed *Indoor/Outdoor*, to be produced Off Broadway in 2006, and the World Premiere musical *But I'm a Cheerleader* for the New York Musical Theatre Festival. His credits also include *The Song of Songs*, a musical he wrote with composer Michael Friedman based on the Sholem Aleichem story. He served as Associate Director for the Broadway musical *All Shook Up* and as Resident Director for the first national tour of *Mamma Mia!*

**Jim Noone** (Set Designer) has designed numerous shows for the Huntington including *Burn This*, *The Rose Tattoo*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, and *Dead End*. His extensive Broadway credits include *Match*, *Urban Cowboy*, *Judgment at Nuremberg*, and *A Class Act*. He won a New York Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Design of a Musical (*Jekyll and Hyde*).

**Erin Chainani** (Costume Designer) has credits that include *Miss Julie* at Yale Repertory Theatre, *A Servant of Two Masters* at Pittsburgh Public Theater, and *Parker* at Williamstown Theatre Festival. She received her B.A. from Harvard University and, recently, her M.F.A. from Yale School of Drama.

**Mark Stanley** (Lighting Designer) is associate professor of lighting at B.U. and serves as lighting director for the New York City Ballet. He previously was resident lighting designer for the New York City Opera and his designs have appeared Off Broadway and in regional companies.

**Loren Toolajian** (Composer) has credits including *Rapist James* for Next Stages in Boston; and Horton Foote's *Laura Dennis*, Sam Shepard's *Tooth of Crime*, and Arthur Miller's *The American Clock* for Signature Theatre Company. TV credits include "Sesame Street" and HBO's "Def Poetry Jam." Toolajian hosts a classical music show on Sirius Satellite Radio.

**Benjamin Emerson** (Sound Designer) is resident sound engineer for the Huntington and a B.U. instructor. His Huntington credits include *What the Butler Saw*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Ten Unknowns*, and *The Glass Menagerie*. Other local credits include productions for the Lyric Stage Company, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, and Sógán Theatre Company.

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## **CALENDAR NOTICE: RELATED EVENTS**

Jan. 10

### **SNEAK PREVIEW**

Presentation by a member of the Huntington's artistic staff, featuring contextual background and production-related information, 6:30 pm in the theatre. Free with ticket purchase; call 617-266-0800.

Jan. 12

### **NIGHT CLUB**

For theatregoers 35 and under to mingle with staff, artists, and each other. Pre-show reception at 6 pm and post-show backstage tour included. Free with ticket purchase; call 617-266-0800.

Jan. 19

### **COLLEGE NIGHT**

For college students to mingle with staff, artists and each other. Post-show party and backstage tour included. Free with ticket purchase; call 617-266-0800.

Jan. 22

### **HUMANITIES FORUM**

Humanities Forum is a lively discussion about the issues and ideas presented in the production, featuring M.I.T. professor and French historian Jeffrey Ravel. After 2 pm show. Free with ticket purchase; call 617-266-0800.

Jan. 25

**OUT & ABOUT CLUB**

For members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities to mingle with staff, artists and each other. Pre-show reception at 6 pm at Top of the Hub Restaurant and a post-show backstage tour included. Free with ticket purchase; call 617-266-0800.

Jan. 27

**ASL-INTERPRETED PERFORMANCE**

For audience members who are deaf, this 2pm performance will be interpreted in American Sign Language. Call TTY 617-424-0694.

Jan. 19 and Feb. 1

**ACTORS FORUM**

Participating members of the *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* cast will appear after the 2 pm performance to answer audience questions. Free with ticket purchase; call 617-266-0800.

**ABOUT THE HUNTINGTON**

The Huntington Theatre Company, in residence at Boston University, is Boston's largest professional theatre company. Now in its 24<sup>th</sup> season as one of the most respected regional theatres in the United States, and under the leadership of Nicholas Martin, the Norma Jean Calderwood Artistic Director, and Michael Maso, Managing Director, the Huntington presents an array of contemporary and classic plays and musicals. The Huntington's two main venues include the 890-seat Boston University Theatre and the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, which opened in 2004 as Boston's first new theatre building in 75 years. The Calderwood Pavilion at the BCA comprises the 370-seat Virginia Wimberly Theatre, where the Huntington produces new American plays, and the 200-seat Nancy and Edward Roberts Studio Theatre. The Huntington boasts 13,000 subscribers and more than 250,000 patrons each year.

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