



July 19, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Steven Padla / 203 432 1574 / steven.padla@yale.edu

**YALE REPERTORY THEATRE  
RECEIVES \$950,000 GIFT  
FROM THE ROBINA FOUNDATION  
TO SUPPORT THE YALE CENTER FOR NEW THEATRE**

**Yale Repertory Theatre** (**James Bundy**, Artistic Director; **Victoria Nolan**, Managing Director) announces a **\$950,000 gift** from the **Robina Foundation** in support of the **Yale Center for New Theatre**. This gift is an addition to the Foundation's 2008 gift of \$2.85 million, which established the Yale Center for New Theatre, and extends Robina's support of the Center's activities through June 2012.

The **Yale Center for New Theatre** is an integrated, artist-driven initiative to support the creation of new plays and musicals for the American stage through residencies, readings, workshops, and full productions. A key component of the Center's work is the support of productions of Yale-commissioned works at theatres other than Yale Rep—over the next four years, over \$600,000 will be committed to this project. The Yale Center for New Theatre also facilitates playwrights' and composers' residencies as lecturers at the School of Drama. The Center is overseen by Artistic Director **James Bundy** and Associate Artistic Director **Jennifer Kiger**, director of Yale Repertory Theatre's new play program.

The **Robina Foundation**, a Minnesota-based private grantmaking foundation, seeks to positively impact critical social issues by encouraging innovation and financially supporting transformative projects of its four institutional partners. These partners, selected by the Foundation's founder, James H. Binger, are Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis, MN; The Council on Foreign Relations, New York, NY; University of Minnesota Law School, Minneapolis, MN; and Yale University, New Haven, CT.

"The Robina Foundation is pleased to continue its support of the work of the Yale Center for New Theatre, which has demonstrated thoughtful, careful, and creative implementation of its initiatives," says **Penny A. Hunt**, **Executive Director of the Robina Foundation**. "Supporting the creation of new work for the theatre in a university environment offers a unique and especially creative venue for developing plays and for nurturing artists' talents and imagination."

**James Bundy**, **Dean of Yale School of Drama and Artistic Director of Yale Repertory Theatre** continues, "This generous additional investment by the Robina Foundation will enable the Center for New Theatre to provide additional opportunities and space for commissioned artists to do their creative work and enable additional development and production opportunities that

help them reach a wider audience. Those activities will have a direct impact on the training of professionals in training at the School of Drama and on the field at large.”

### **COMMISSIONS**

Since the **Yale Center for New Theatre** was established in 2008, it has supported the work of more than two dozen commissioned artists, including David Adjmi, Todd Almond, Hilary Bell, Adam Bock, Bill Camp, Lear deBessonnet, Will Eno, Marcus Gardley, Kirsten Greenidge, Danai Gurira, Ann Marie Healy, Amy Herzog, Naomi Iizuka, Dan LeFranc, Elizabeth Meriwether, Scott Murphy, Julie Marie Myatt, David Nugent, Lina Patel, Jay Reiss, Sarah Ruhl, Octavio Solis, Paula Vogel, Kathryn Walat, Anne Washburn, Marisa Wegrzyn, and Robert Woodruff.

### **PRODUCTION SUPPORT**

The **Yale Center for New Theatre** has supported or is currently supporting Yale Rep’s world premiere productions of:

Fyodor Dostoevsky’s ***Notes from Underground***

Adapted by Bill Camp and Robert Woodruff

Directed by Robert Woodruff

World Premiere, 2009

#### ***POP!***

Book and Lyrics by Maggie-Kate Coleman & Music by Anna K. Jacobs

Directed by Mark Brokaw

World Premiere, 2009

#### ***Compulsion***

By Rinne Groff

Directed by Oskar Eustis

A co-production with The Public Theater and Berkeley Repertory Theatre

World Premiere, 2010

#### ***We Have Always Lived in the Castle***

Book and Lyrics by Adam Bock & Music and Lyrics by Todd Almond

Directed by Anne Kauffman

World Premiere, upcoming, September 2010

#### ***Bossa Nova***

By Kirsten Greenidge

Directed by Evan Yionoulis

World Premiere, upcoming, November 2010

Additionally, the **Yale Center for New Theatre** administers a production fund as support provided to other not-for-profit theatres producing world premiere, second, or third productions of plays commissioned by Yale. Productions supported to date include:

#### ***On the Levee***

Play by Marcus Gardley  
Music and Lyrics by Todd Almond  
Conceived and Directed by Lear deBessonet  
World Premiere, Lincoln Center Theater's LCT3, 2010

Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Notes from Underground*  
Adapted by Bill Camp and Robert Woodruff  
Directed by Robert Woodruff  
West Coast Premiere, La Jolla Playhouse, upcoming, September 2010

On Tour, Theatre for a New Audience in Association with Baryshnikov Arts Center,  
upcoming, November 2010

### **ABOUT YALE REPERTORY THEATRE**

A champion of new work, Yale Repertory Theatre has produced well over 100 world, American, and regional premieres—including two Pulitzer Prize winners and four other nominated finalists—by emerging and established playwrights. Eleven Yale Rep productions have advanced to Broadway, garnering more than 40 Tony Award® nominations and eight Tony Awards, and Yale Rep itself is the recipient of the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

In its 42-year history, Yale Repertory Theatre has produced world premieres of plays by David Adjmi, Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, Lee Blessing, Bill Camp and Robert Woodruff, Maggie-Kate Coleman and Anna K. Jacobs, Christopher Durang, Jules Feiffer, Athol Fugard, Marcus Gardley, Kama Ginkas, Rinne Groff, John Guare, Albert Innuarato, Walton Jones, Adrienne Kennedy, Arthur Kopit, Sunil Thomas Kuruvilla, Wendy MacLeod, Julie McKee, Terrence McNally, Richard Nelson, Suzan-Lori Parks, David Rabe, Keith Reddin, José Rivera, Sarah Ruhl, Sam Shepard, William Styron, Derek Walcott, August Wilson, and Doug Wright, among many others.

Founded in 1966, Yale Repertory Theatre's resident artistic staff includes School of Drama faculty members David Budries (Sound Design Advisor), Liz Diamond (Resident Director), Ming Cho Lee (Set Design Advisor), Jane Greenwood (Costume Design Advisor), Jess Goldstein (Resident Costume Designer), Mary Hunter (Stage Management Advisor), Catherine Sheehy (Resident Dramaturg), Rick Sordelet (Fight Advisor), Stephen Strawbridge (Resident Lighting Designer), Jennifer Tipton (Lighting Design Advisor), Paula Vogel (Playwright-in-Residence), Walton Wilson (Voice and Speech Advisor), Michael Yeorgan (Resident Set Designer), and Evan Yionoulis (Resident Director).

####