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FORD'S THEATRE SOCIETY ANNOUNCES FULL CASTING FOR

Twelve Angry Men

by Reginald Rose; directed by Sheldon Epps
January 18 to February 17, 2019
Tickets Now On Sale

Washington, D.C. — Ford's Theatre Society announced casting for its new production of Reginald Rose's classic courtroom drama *Twelve Angry Men*, playing from **January 18 to February 17, 2019**. The production features **Erik King (*Dexter*)** as the dissenting Juror 8, **Bru Ajueyitsi, Christopher Bloch, Eric Hissom, Sean-Maurice Lynch, Brandon McCoy, Jason B. McIntosh, Lawrence Redmond, Michael Russotto, Bueka Uwemedimo, Craig Wallace, Elan Zafir and Paz López**. The play is directed by **Sheldon Epps**.

In *Twelve Angry Men*, tensions run high as a lone juror argues the innocence of a teenager accused of murder. In this provocatively resonant American drama, 12 jurors from different backgrounds revisit the evidence, debate the issue of reasonable doubt and confront each other's personal biases. Broadway director Sheldon Epps ignites a conversation about how prejudice obstructs the quest for justice.

"I've chosen to do the play with six black actors and six white actors. In truth, the play can and has been cast in any number of ways. But this casting choice most directly addresses the issues that I hope to explore," said *Twelve Angry Men* **director Sheldon Epps**.

"It is all about the judgements and biases that people bring into a room and the still rampant cultural divide that (deny it though we may) very often exists between races in our country. I hope that what we learn is that the only way to begin getting around all those issues is to acknowledge that they exist. Then we can move forward, just as the characters do in the play," **Epps continued**.

Tickets for *Twelve Angry Men* are now on sale and range from \$17-\$64. The play is recommended for ages 12 and older. The performance is 2 hours.

Twelve Angry Men is made possible by our 2018–2019 Season Sponsor: Chevron. This production is also made possible by Lead Underwriter: **Siemens Corporation** as well as the

following Underwriters: **ConocoPhillips, Fluor Corporation, The Home Depot, KMPG LLP** and **Lockheed Martin Corporation**

THE DIRECTOR

Sheldon Epps makes his Ford's Theatre directorial debut with *Twelve Angry Men*. Epps's Broadway credits include his Tony-nominated Duke Ellington musical *Play On!*, and the Tony-nominated productions of *Blues in the Night* and *Baby, It's You!* His regional directing credits include productions for Arena Stage (world premiere of *Blue*), Goodman Theatre, Seattle Rep., Guthrie, Roundabout, and many others. Previously, Epps had a 20-year tenure as artistic director of the Pasadena Playhouse. Additional directorial credits include episodes of notable television programs including "Girlfriends," "Frasier" and "Friends."

THE DESIGNERS

Scenic Designer **Stephanie Kerley Schwartz** creates the jury room by combining the concrete textures of Brutalism with the eye-lifting Greek columns characteristic of halls of justice. **Wade Laboissonniere's** costume designs feature classic shapes emphasizing the timeless setting of the play. The *Twelve Angry Men* design team also includes Lighting Design by **Dan Covey** and Sound Design by **John Gromada**.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

A **sign-interpreted** performance of *Twelve Angry Men* is February 7, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. The **audio-described** performances are January 29 at 7:30 p.m. and February 9 at 2:00 p.m. A **captioned performance** is February 16 at 2:00 p.m.

Free Tickets to First Preview: January 18, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

Ford's Theatre partners with TodayTix to give free tickets for the first preview of each mainstage production in our theatrical season. Six-hundred tickets are available via the TodayTix app, beginning January 11, for the January 18 7:30 p.m. performance of *Twelve Angry Men*. Visit www.fords.org/free for lottery entry details.

Generation Abe (Under 35) Night: January 25, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

Patrons ages 35 and younger may use code UNDER3519 to purchase discounted tickets to Tuesday-Friday and Sunday evening performances of *Twelve Angry Men*. Following the evening performance on January 25, 2019, patrons join other young arts fans for a special event where they can enjoy a complimentary beverage courtesy of *On Tap Magazine*.

Meet and Mingle: February 2, 2019, following 7:30 p.m. performance

Patrons are invited to gather at local restaurant Asia Nine (915 E Street NW) following the 7:30 p.m. performance on February 2, 2019. Talk theatre with fellow patrons as well as members of the cast. A cash bar is available.

Teacher Workshops in Partnership with Challenging Racism

Ford's Theatre partners with Challenging Racism to present three workshops for local educators grades 6-12. The workshops help teachers incorporate *Twelve Angry Men* into their curriculum and provide them with language and resources for classroom discussions on race, prejudice and how students can make a positive difference. This program is made possible by a grant from the D.C. Commission on the Arts.

Ford's Theatre Society

Ford's Theatre Society was founded under the guidance of executive producer Frankie Hewitt, who, during her 35-year tenure, established Ford's as a living, working theatre producing performances that highlighted the diversity of the American experience. Since the arrival of Paul R. Tetreault as Director, critics and the theatregoing public have recognized Ford's for the superior quality of its artistic programming. With works from the Tony-nominated *Come From Away* and the nationally acclaimed *Big River*, to the world premieres of *Meet John Doe*, *The Heavens Are Hung In Black*, *Liberty Smith*, *Necessary Sacrifices*, *The Widow Lincoln* and *The Guard*, Ford's Theatre is making its mark on the American theatre landscape. In the past decade, the mission of Ford's Theatre Society expanded to include education as a central pillar. This expansion led to the creation and construction of the Center for Education and Leadership, which opened in February 2012. Under the current leadership of Board of Trustees Chairman Phebe N. Novakovic and through the lens of Lincoln's leadership and legacy, Ford's today endeavors to advance Lincoln's "unfinished work" with programs and performances that cultivate empathy, encourage dialogue and bridge divides in our American life.

For more information on Ford's Theatre and the Ford's Theatre Society, please visit www.fords.org.

#FordsTwelve

Twitter and Instagram: @fordstheatreFacebook.com/fords

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FACT SHEET: *Twelve Angry Men*
By Reginald Rose * Directed by Sheldon Epps

Behind closed doors, tensions run high as a lone juror argues the innocence of a teenager accused of murder. In this provocatively resonant American drama, 12 jurors from all strata of society revisit the evidence, debate the issue of reasonable doubt and confront each other's personal biases. Broadway director Sheldon Epps ignites a conversation about how prejudice obstructs the quest for justice.

DATES: Performances: January 18 to February 17, 2019
Private Donor/Media Performance: January 23, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Ford's Theatre is located at 511 10th Street NW, between E and F streets.

TIMES: Tuesdays through Sundays at 7:30 p.m. (except January 23; Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. (except January 19 and 20). Matinee at 11:00 a.m. January 31 and February 14. Noon matinee on January 7.

TICKETS: \$17-\$64. Only at www.fords.org or (888) 616-0270. Groups: (202) 638-2367

ACCESSIBILITY: Ford's Theatre is accessible to persons with disabilities, offering wheelchair accessible seating and restrooms, audio enhancement and large print and braille playbills.

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PARKING:

Paid parking is available at several independent neighborhood garages: the 24-hour QuickPark at the Grand Hyatt (entrance on 10th Street between G and H Streets NW), the Central Parking Garage (entrance on 11th Street between E and F Streets NW), and the Atlantic Garage below Ford's Theatre (at 511 10th Street, NW).

METRO:

Metro Center station is two- and one-half blocks north of the theatre from the Eleventh Street exit. Gallery Pl-Chinatown station is two- and one-half blocks north of the theatre from the G Street exit. For further information, call Metro at (202) 637-7000.