



## DRAMA LEAGUE TO PRESENT U.S. PREMIERE OF THE SPIDER

In a historic first for The Drama League's international exchange programs, Executive Director **Gabriel Shanks** announced today the upcoming North American premiere of *The Spider*, the award-winning play written and directed by **Dimitar Dimitrov** and **Yordan Slaveykov**. *The Spider*, which will be performed by the Sofia, Bulgaria-based theater company B-Plius, will be presented by The Drama League, Art Office and The Present Company as part of the **17th New York International Fringe Festival**, with performances beginning August 9, 2013. More details will be released by the Fringe Festival next week; theater location, performance dates, and ticket information will be publicly available after July 8 at [dramaleague.org](http://dramaleague.org) and [fringenyc.org](http://fringenyc.org). Drama League members can also reserve preferred-seating tickets by calling Membership Services Manager **Tom Sime** at 212-244-9494, beginning July 8.

A critical and popular hit in Sofia, St. Petersburg, and Moscow, *The Spider* was the recipient of Best Theater Experiment and Best Actress awards at the 2012 St. Petersburg ArtOKraina International Festival, and was nominated for the prestigious A'Askeer Prize for Best New Play. The acclaimed Bulgarian cast will feature **Penko Stefanov Gospodinov** and **Anastassia Vladimirova Liutova**, with music by **Alexander Kalanov** and **Jordan Borisov**.

*The Spider* tells the story of conjoined twins – a brother and sister – celebrating their birthday together the night before undergoing an operation that will separate them forever. Both loving and hating their existence, they struggle as they face a life-changing, momentous decision: should they remain together, or separate? Should they escape into freedom as individuals, or hold to the reality they have always known?

"We are incredibly excited to bring this powerful, surprising Bulgarian production to American audiences," said Shanks. "With our partners at The Present Company and Art Office, as well as with funding made possible by The Trust For Mutual Understanding, we are privileged to present the first glimpse many New Yorkers will have into the dynamic, imaginative artistry of Bulgarian theater artists. It is unlike anything I've ever seen, and I think adventurous theatergoers will be thrilled by this exciting new play. Dimitar and Yordan's singular style is not to be missed."



ABOVE: **Penko Stefanov Gospodinov** and **Anastassia Vladimirova Liutova** debate their future in *The Spider*, co-presented next month as part of the New York International Fringe Festival as part of The Drama League's U.S./Bulgaria Stage Directors Exchange. MASTHEAD: The Ivan Vazov National Theater of Bulgaria, located in the central square of Sofia.

Established in 2009, The Drama League U.S./Bulgaria Stage Directors Exchange develops research, production, and collaboration opportunities for American and Bulgarian directors in both countries via international exchanges and residencies.

In 2012, The U.S./Bulgaria Stage Directors Exchange enjoyed its first collaborative production with the Bulgarian premiere of **John Kolvenbach's** *Love Song*, at the Nikolai Binev Youth Theatre, under the direction of **Andrew Volkoff**, an American-born director of Bulgarian descent and alumnus of The Drama League Directors Project. The program has also included visits to Bulgaria by artistic directors of American theaters (**Jim Nicola** of New York Theater Workshop, **Jesse Berger** of Red Bull Theater, **Kevin Moriarty** of Dallas Theatre Center, **Tony Simotes** of Shakespeare and Company, **Rachel Chavkin** of The TEAM, and **Cara Reichel** of Prospect Theatre Company), as well as visits to America by leading Bulgarian directors **Javor Gardev**, **Margarita Mladenova**, **Petar Kaukov**, **Nikolai Iordanov**, **Georgi Georgiev**, **Vesselin Dimov**, dramaturg **Asen Terziev** and arts leader **Kalina Wagenstein**, among many others.

For ticket reservations and further information, please call (212) 244-9494 or email [audienceproject@dramaleague.org](mailto:audienceproject@dramaleague.org). ■

# DRAMA LEAGUE WELCOMES NEW EVENTS PRODUCER BENJAMIN BROOKS

The Drama League is pleased to announce the appointment of **Benjamin Brooks** as its new Events Producer. Mr. Brooks joined the staff on June 24, after a lengthy search to fill the newly-created position.

Mr. Brooks, a native of Brooklyn, comes to The Drama League after working as Company Manager for some of the country's most acclaimed regional theaters, including Paper Mill Playhouse, Long Wharf Theater and George Street Playhouse. Previously, he was the Contracts Associate of Actors Equity Association, the national union for professional actors. In 2012, he served as the VIP Program Coordinator for the national tour of *How To Train Your Dragon: The Live Spectacular*. His background in events production includes planning panels, workshops and national conferences for Career and Community Leaders of America.

At The Drama League, Mr. Brooks will produce more than 70 in-house events each season at The Drama League Theater Center in Tribeca, including member events, celebrity discussions, talkbacks, Directors Project functions, artists forums, critics panels, symposia, classes, interactive events and more. He will also supervise two major fundraising activities for the organization, September's Fall Online Auction and the Annual Benefit Gala Auction in February.

"To again be a part of the New York theatrical community is very exciting, and I'm thrilled to spearhead the new events and programs as The Drama League opens the new Theater Center," said Brooks.

Ben can be reached at [bbrooks@dramaleague.org](mailto:bbrooks@dramaleague.org). Please help us welcome Ben to The Drama League!

## DRAMA LEAGUE MEMBER EVENT

### COFFEE CLUB: MEET BEN BROOKS!

Join us for a very special afternoon Coffee Club at our state-of-the-art home in Tribeca, where members will meet the newest member of The Drama League family, Events Producer Benjamin Brooks, for the first time!

Ben will be joined by Member Services Manager Tom Sime, and together they'll offer a 'sneak peek' at the new Drama League season, sharing with Coffee Clubbers upcoming new Drama League events and series. It'll also be a great opportunity to offer your ideas for new experiences you'd like to have with The Drama League.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 3:30 PM**  
**DRAMA LEAGUE THEATER CENTER**  
**32 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS**

FREE ADMISSION | DRINKS PROVIDED  
RSVP BY USING THE ORDER FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE

## MEMBER EVENTS

### TWELFTH NIGHT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2013, 8 PM ~~\$137.00~~ **\$82.00**  
BELASCO THEATRE | 111 WEST 44TH ST  
ORCHESTRA SEATING

### RICHARD III

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2013, 8 PM ~~\$137.00~~ **\$82.00**  
BELASCO THEATRE | 111 WEST 44TH ST  
ORCHESTRA SEATING

Transferring from their smash runs in London and running in repertory, Shakespeare's two masterpieces will both star the great Tony-winning actor **Mark Rylance** (*Boeing-Boeing*, *Jerusalem*). In the gender-bending *Twelfth Night*, Rylance will play the lovestruck countess Olivia; in *Richard III*, he'll play the scheming title character. The plays are presented much as audiences in Shakespeare's time would have seen them, with live musical accompaniment and lighting created largely by dozens of candles. *Twelfth Night* also stars **Stephen Fry** (*Wilde*) in his Broadway debut.

### BIG FISH

NEIL SIMON THEATRE | 250 WEST 52ND ST  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2013, 2 PM ~~\$142.00~~ **\$92.00**  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2013, 8 PM ~~\$142.00~~ **\$82.00**  
ORCHESTRA SEATING

Tony-winning director/choreographer **Susan Stroman** (*The Producers*) helms this witty new musical, based on the **Tim Burton** film, about a teller of outrageous tall tales. Starring two-time Tony winner **Norbert Leo Butz** (*Catch Me If You Can*) and Tony nominees **Kate Baldwin** (*Finian's Rainbow*) and **Bobby Steggert** (*Ragtime*), *Big Fish* features music and lyrics by **Andrew Lippa** (*The Addams Family*).

### LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE

SECOND STAGE THEATRE | 307 WEST 43RD ST  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2013, 8 PM ~~\$85.00~~ **\$62.00**  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2013, 2 PM ~~\$85.00~~ **\$62.00**  
ORCHESTRA SEATING

Thanks to Tony-winning composer **William Finn** (*Falsettos*) and writer/director **James Lapine** (*Annie*), the beloved Oscar-winning 2006 film that took the Sundance Film Festival by storm is now a shimmering new musical! The boisterously troubled Hoover family embark on an unforgettable road trip to take youngest daughter Olive to her first pre-teen beauty pageant. **Stephanie J. Block** and **Will Chase** (both Tony nominees for *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*) star.

### KINKY BOOTS

HIRSCHFELD THEATRE, 302 WEST 45TH ST  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2013, 7 PM ~~\$137.00~~ **\$107.00**  
ORCHESTRA SEATING

If you haven't seen it, what are you waiting for? Now that it's won six Tony Awards -- including Best Musical, Best Original Score (**Cyndi Lauper**) and Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role (**Billy Porter**), tickets to *Kinky* aren't so easy to get...especially at a discount. Porter plays an unforgettable drag performer who comes to the rescue of a shoe manufacturer (**Stark Sands**) with an ingenious plan...to convert his struggling business into a one-of-a-kind fetish footwear factory.

# MEMBER EVENTS

## THE OLD FRIENDS

SIGNATURE THEATRE COMPANY | 480 WEST 42ND ST  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2013, 8pm **\$25.00**  
ORCHESTRA SEATING

The late, great Texan playwright **Horton Foote** (*The Trip to Bountiful*) completed one last new play before his recent passing, and its world premiere will feature Tony winner **Betty Buckley** (*Cats*) and Tony nominees **Lois Smith** (*Buried Child*) and **Hallie Foote** (*Dividing the Estate*). **Michael Wilson**, Mr. Foote's preeminent interpreter (*The Trip To Bountiful*, *Orphans Home Cycle*, *Dividing The Estate*), will direct the tale of two farm families who must come to terms with alarming news.

## LEAGUE DAYTRIP: LOOT

WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE | WESTPORT, CT  
**SUNDAY, JULY 21 | 11:30AM - 8PM**

\_\_\_\_\_ x **\$110.00** = \_\_\_\_\_ includes show, brunch and transportation by coach bus from 32 Avenue of the Americas to Westport, CT and back

\_\_\_\_\_ x **\$75.00** = \_\_\_\_\_ brunch and show only (meet us at The Red Barn, 292 Wilton Rd., at 1:30 pm)

After a deluxe coach ride to beautiful Westport, CT and a delicious brunch buffet in our own private dining room at the noted restaurant The Red Barn, we'll enjoy Joe Orton's wicked romp and then have a spirited conversation with Associate Artistic Director David Kennedy. NOTE: For those riding our deluxe coach to Westport, please meet at The Drama League Theater Center, 32 Avenue of the Americas, NYC, at 11:30am. Estimated return to NYC is 8pm.

### ITINERARY:

11:30 am: Meet at 32 Avenue of the Americas  
11:45 am: Depart for Westport. Bottled water and light snacks provided. Luxury motor coach features complimentary wi-fi, restroom, electrical outlets and high-back reclining seats.  
1:20 pm: Arrive at The Red Barn for brunch in our own private dining room, with cocktail/soft drink and champagne!  
2:30 pm: travel to Westport Country Playhouse  
3 pm: LOOT performance  
5:30 pm: After-show symposium with director David Kennedy  
6:15 pm: Depart Westport for New York  
8 pm: Arrive at 32 Avenue of the Americas

Check out the Red Barn Sunday Brunch Buffet menu here!  
<http://redbarnrestaurant.com/menu-sundaybrunch.htm>

## SOUL DOCTOR

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2013, 8PM ~~\$135.00~~ **\$71.00**  
CIRCLE IN THE SQUARE | 50TH ST B/W BROADWAY AND 8TH  
ORCHESTRA SEATING

This new Broadway musical is based on the life of **Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach**, who revitalized Jewish folk music during the free-love, rock-and-roll days of the 1960s...and who forged a remarkable and enduring friendship with singer **Nina Simone**. The beloved and controversial Carlebach came to be known as the "rockstar rabbi." Featuring Carlebach's own music, this premiere has both book and direction by **Daniel S. Wise**.

# ORDER FORM

## TWELFTH NIGHT

FRI, OCT 25 | 8 PM \_\_\_\_\_ x ~~\$137.00~~ **\$82.00** = \_\_\_\_\_

## RICHARD III

WED, OCT 23 | 8 PM \_\_\_\_\_ x ~~\$137.00~~ **\$82.00** = \_\_\_\_\_

## BIG FISH

WED, SEPT 25 | 8PM \_\_\_\_\_ x ~~\$142.00~~ **\$82.00** = \_\_\_\_\_

SAT, SEPT 21 | 2PM \_\_\_\_\_ x ~~\$142.00~~ **\$92.00** = \_\_\_\_\_

## LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE

THUR, OCT 24 | 8 PM \_\_\_\_\_ x ~~\$85.00~~ **\$62.00** = \_\_\_\_\_

SUN, OCT 27 | 2 PM \_\_\_\_\_ x ~~\$85.00~~ **\$62.00** = \_\_\_\_\_

## KINKY BOOTS

THUR, AUG 20 | 7 PM \_\_\_\_\_ x ~~\$137.00~~ **\$107.00** = \_\_\_\_\_

## THE OLD FRIENDS

SAT, AUG 31 | 8 PM \_\_\_\_\_ x **\$25.00** = \_\_\_\_\_

## LEAGUE DAYTRIP: LOOT

SHOW ONLY | 1:30 PM \_\_\_\_\_ x **\$75.00** = \_\_\_\_\_

SHOW/TRAVEL | 11:30AM \_\_\_\_\_ x **\$110.00** = \_\_\_\_\_

## SOUL DOCTOR

WED, AUG 7 | 8 PM \_\_\_\_\_ x ~~\$135.00~~ **\$71.00** = \_\_\_\_\_

## COFFEE CLUB: BEN BROOKS

WED, JULY 10 | 3:30 PM \_\_\_\_\_ x FREE = \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Order Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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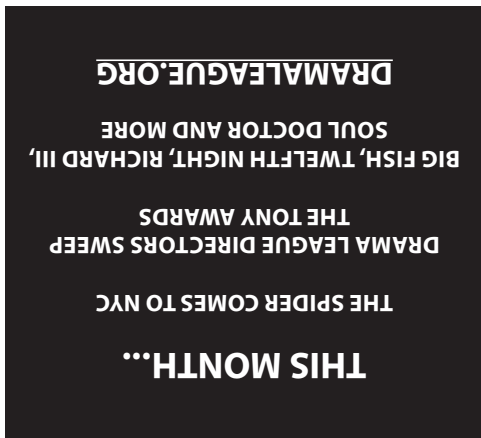
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**Members Area Password:**  
**summer2013**

**For the full list and to order tickets,**  
**call (212) 244-9494**  
**or visit [dramaleague.org/memberevents](http://dramaleague.org/memberevents)**

TO CONFIRM YOUR ORDER HAS ARRIVED IN OUR OFFICES, CALL (212) 244-9494. TICKETS ARE FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED. ALL TICKET SALES ARE FINAL. THERE ARE NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES. The placement and pricing of Orchestra Seats is determined by the theatre and producers and varies show to show. Seats are assigned according to membership level. Tickets will be mailed first-class to members.





## DIRECTORWATCH *Keeping up with The Drama League Directors Project*

The Tony Awards kicked off a tremendous summer for The Drama League...for the first time in history, alumni of The Directors Project swept the Tonys, winning both Best Director of a Play and Musical! The two extraordinarily talented women -- **Pam MacKinnon** and **Diane Paulus** -- join previous Drama League alums who have won Broadway's greatest honor, including **Michael Mayer** (*Spring Awakening*) and **John Rando** (*Urinetown*). Both of their shows earned Tonys as well, and although Pam's wonderful revival of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* closed earlier in the season, Diane's marvelous revival of *Pippin* is currently playing to cheering houses at the Music Box Theatre. If you haven't seen it, what are you waiting for? ([pippinthemusical.com](http://pippinthemusical.com))

Great new musicals are blooming everywhere this summer. *Nobody Loves You* follows a student who uses a reality TV dating show to try to win back his ex-girlfriend; director **Michelle Tattenbaum** directed an acclaimed tryout earlier this year at San Diego's Old Globe, and it's now taken up residency at Second Stage through August 11. ([2st.com](http://2st.com)) Director **Alex Timbers** has two musicals to enjoy this summer: the continuing extended run of *Here Lies Love* at the Public Theater, and at the Delacorte in Central Park beginning July 23, a new musical version of *Love's Labour's Lost*, which reunites much of the creative team behind the sensational *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*. And the best part, you can see it for free! ([publictheater.com](http://publictheater.com))

new musicals for almost 30 years. This summer, **Joe Calarco** will be directing the premiere of *LMNOP, A New Muzical*, about the fight for freedom of speech, described as "part romance, part clever word game and part adult fable." Performances run from July 25 to August 18. ([goodspeed.org](http://goodspeed.org))

Joe Orton, one of the best writers of the 60's, is too infrequently seen these days, so it's always an occasion when one of his plays returns. His madcap farce, *Loot*, is a wickedly funny look at the most unmannerly of people. It will run from July 16 – August 3 at Westport Country Playhouse under the direction of alum **David Kennedy**. ([westportplayhouse.org](http://westportplayhouse.org))

Looking for some off-beat fare? For 20 years, the New Ohio Theater's Ice Factory Festival has been presenting some of the most thought-provoking theatre to be found in NYC. This July, two Drama League alumnae will premiere exciting new projects there. First, **Lila Neugebauer** and the Drama Desk-nominated company, The Mad Ones, will unveil their new *Untitled Biopic Project*, July 10-13. Later in the month, alum **Sanaz Ghajarrahimi** and her company Built for Collapse will preview *Red Wednesday*, developed in a residency at The Drama League Theater Center. *Red Wednesday* is inspired by her late uncle, who was Iran's Foreign Minister during the 1979 hostage crisis. It will be presented by the Ice Factory July 24-27. ([www.newohiotheatre.org](http://www.newohiotheatre.org)) ■

Connecticut's Goodspeed Musicals has been the incubator of